

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION AND MIAMI BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT (“MBFD”) TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY MISSION OR PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTARY DEPLOYMENT OF THE CITY’S FIREFIGHTERS OR PARAMEDICS TO RETURN TO ISRAEL TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO (1) ACCEPT DONATIONS OF FUNDS AND IN-KIND SERVICES TO PAY FOR THE MISSION AND (2) ALLOW THE MBFD TO TREAT PERSONNEL WHO VOLUNTEER FOR, AND ULTIMATELY SERVE IN, ISRAEL, AS ON-DUTY MBFD EMPLOYEES, TO ENSURE THAT ANY POTENTIAL INCIDENTS INVOLVING MBFD PERSONNEL WHILE ON THIS MISSION WOULD RESULT IN THE SAME BENEFITS TO THE PERSONNEL AND/OR THEIR BENEFICIARIES AS IF THEY WERE RESPONDING TO AN ON-DUTY EMERGENCY ASSIGNMENT IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.

WHEREAS, the October 7, 2023 terrorist attacks by terrorist organization Hamas targeted the people of Israel on Shabbat and during the Jewish Holidays, resulting in the loss of approximately 1,200 lives and 250 individuals taken as hostages; and

WHEREAS, presently, over one (1) year later, the war continues on and has proven to be the most significant military engagement for Israel in the region since the Yom Kippur War in 1973; and

WHEREAS, the City condemns all acts of terrorism and violence targeting innocent civilians, and acknowledges the resilience and courage of the people of Israel in the face of these threats from Hamas, Hezbollah, and other Iranian proxies; and

WHEREAS, South Florida, and the City of Miami Beach are home to a sizeable Jewish population, and in 2013, the City became Sister Cities with Nahariya and Ramat Gan, Israel, and

WHEREAS, the City and Israel have developed strong ties with Israel through cultural, economic, educational, and diplomatic exchanges that have mutually benefited both communities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 2023-32832, which was unanimously adopted by the Mayor and City Commission, the City previously deployed eight (8) volunteer Miami Beach Fire Department (“MBFD”) personnel to provide emergency services in Israel; and

WHEREAS, MBFD routinely deploys personnel to assist other jurisdictions with emergency services, whether it is in the context of hurricane disaster recovery efforts or humanitarian relief, such as a prior mission undertaken in Haiti following a devastating earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Fire Department is seeking to again deploy MBFD personnel, on a voluntary basis, to provide aid and assistance in Israel; and

WHEREAS, the deployment of MBFD personnel to Israel will be privately funded, with the timing of deployment to be determined once all necessary arrangements have been finalized; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission find that the foregoing serves a municipal purpose in view of the City's long-standing commitment to peace, and humanitarian principles by helping the innocent victims of violence and contributing to the reconstruction and recovery of affected communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, that the Mayor and the City hereby approve and authorize the Administration and Miami Beach Fire Department ("MBFD") to participate in any mission or program for voluntary deployment of the City's firefighters or paramedics to return to Israel to provide emergency services; and further authorize the City Manager to (1) accept donations of funds and in-kind services to pay for the mission and (2) allow the MBFD to treat personnel who volunteer for, and ultimately serve in, Israel, as on-duty MBFD employees, to ensure that any potential incidents involving MBFD personnel while on this mission would result in the same benefits to the personnel and/or their beneficiaries as if they were responding to an on-duty emergency assignment in the City of Miami Beach.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

MAF

11/13/2024

Date