

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PRIORITIZE THE ALLOCATION OF \$250,000 IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PROCESS FOR THE DESIGN, PERMITTING, AND INITIAL CONSTRUCTION PLANNING OF A PROPOSED MARINE PARK OR MARINE CONSERVATION AREA IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF SOUTH BEACH, FROM SOUTH POINTE PIER TO 16TH STREET.

WHEREAS, at the June 26, 2024 City Commission Meeting, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-33137 (Item C7 BE), sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez and co-sponsored by Commissioners Tanya K. Bhatt, Joseph Magazine, and David Suarez, directing the Administration to explore the feasibility of establishing a Miami Beach Marine Park or Marine Conservation Area spanning from South Pointe Pier to Sixteenth Street, and to identify the necessary regulatory approvals for such a project; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, the City Administration issued Letter to Commission (LTC) No. 419-2024 outlining the environmental regulatory requirements and approvals associated with the creation of a marine park or conservation area in South Beach; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2024, the Mayor and City Commission approved Item C4 AI, a referral to the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC), to discuss feasibility, safety considerations, and funding needs associated with the proposed marine park; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2024, the PSNQLC issued a favorable recommendation to transmit the item to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) for further discussion on next steps, including potential funding sources and budget prioritization for the marine park initiative; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is committed to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of its natural coastal resources, including critical marine habitats and diverse aquatic species found in the waters off its coast; and

WHEREAS, community stakeholders and environmental advocates have expressed broad support for the establishment of a marine park or conservation area to protect this valuable ecosystem and promote environmental education, public safety, and sustainable recreation; and

WHEREAS, in order to proceed with the regulatory permitting process, environmental agencies require a comprehensive and professionally designed marine park plan, necessitating the engagement of a qualified marine and coastal engineering consultant; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to complete the design and permitting phase for the proposed marine park or conservation area is approximately \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, the proposed marine park area is currently frequented by boaters and other watercraft users, necessitating the development of a management plan including enforcement strategies, operational procedures, additional staff resources, and public education campaigns to ensure the safety, sustainability, and long-term success of the initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission desire to prioritize the allocation of funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget process to support the advancement of this project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby direct the City Administration to prioritize the allocation of \$250,000 in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget process for the design, permitting, and initial construction planning of a proposed marine park or marine conservation area in the coastal waters of South Beach, from South Pointe Pier to 16th Street.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez;
Co-sponsored by Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt,
Commissioner Joseph Magazine and
Commissioner David Suarez.)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

4/15/2025

Date