

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CITY'S 2025 STATE AGENDA AS SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THIS RESOLUTION.**

**WHEREAS**, each year, the Mayor and City Commission adopt the City of Miami Beach's state agenda to identify funding and legislative priorities that will be pursued by the City's representatives in Tallahassee, Florida in the following Legislative Session; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical for the City's legislative consultants to receive clear direction regarding the City's priorities each year to enable them to work collaboratively with the City Commission in the pursuit of funding for City projects, to advocate effectively for legislative initiatives that are in the best interests of the City and to educate state agencies on issues that impact the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's 2025 State Agenda, attached as Exhibit 'A' to this Resolution, is presented to the Mayor and City Commission for approval; an

**WHEREAS**, the proposed 2025 State Agenda will continue to be developed and evolve as the legislative process unfolds and the City's priorities regarding projects, authorizations and policy evolve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and the City Commission may, by Resolution, identify additional priorities to be included in the City's 2025 State Agenda and provided to the City's state legislative consultants.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby approves the City's 2025 State Agenda as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of October 2024.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Meiner, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Grando, City Manager

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

10/21/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# MIAMI BEACH

## 2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

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This package outlines Miami Beach's legislative program for the 2025 legislative session. Although the priorities indicate where the City's advocacy efforts should be directed in Tallahassee, the list is not finite, as the Mayor and City Commission may need to respond to any future emerging issues or developments that will require action.

### QUALITY OF LIFE PRIORITIES

#### **Extended Stay/Short-term Rentals - Vacation Rentals**

The City supports legislation that allows local governments to regulate vacation and extended stay/short-term rental properties. The City strongly opposes any legislation that preempts the regulation of short-term rental laws to the state including, but not limited to, the inspection and licensing of vacation rentals. **Resolutions 2022-32001; 2021-3161**

#### **Casino Gambling**

The City opposes any Bills pertaining to casino gambling. It firmly reaffirms its longstanding policy against casino gambling and expresses its opposition to any expansion of casino gambling operations in Florida by the Legislature. This opposition includes any attempts to override the existing prohibitions on gambling and casino operations outlined in the City's land development regulations and Comprehensive Plan. The City also opposes authorizing the relocation of existing gambling or casino licenses and opening new facilities at different locations using existing licenses. The City does not support any compacts with tribal authorities that aim to gain approval for casinos on non-tribal lands. **Resolution 2024-32889**

#### **Safety along City Waterways**

The City urges the Florida Legislature and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to support the City Administration's initiative to protect all persons utilizing the City's waterways by collaboratively working to provide for the installation of appropriate speed, safety signage, anchoring limitation areas, and a regulated public mooring field along certain waterways within the City. The City urges the Legislature to expand anchoring limitation areas that restrict the overnight mooring near residential areas of Miami Beach that would complement and allow for the operation of a regulated mooring field. **Resolution 2021-31945**

#### **Anchoring Limitation Areas**

The City urges the Florida Legislature to directly establish an Anchoring Limitation Area (ALA) for the residential islands within Biscayne Bay, including Sunset Islands, Star Island, Palm Island, and Hibiscus Island prior to the commencement of the Mooring Field Project operations. The City also urges the Florida Legislature to restrict anchoring within 400 yards of any part of the shore of the City of Miami Beach for the entire municipal corporate limits and including the City's internal waterways and canals. **Resolution 2023-32646**

#### **Noise Pollution**

The City supports legislation that would allow local governments to establish mechanisms to reduce vehicle noise pollution. The City requests amending F.S. 316.293 related to noise abatement equipment modifications to allow law enforcement agencies to issue citations with fine and penalties based on noise cameras. **Resolutions 2022-32208; 2022-32439**

### **Sovereign Immunity**

The City opposes legislation that would waive the sovereign immunity of local governments for claims resulting in damages from the actions of local governments.

**Resolution 2022-32035; 2022-31966**

### **Derelict Vessels**

The City supports working with our legislators to formalize a long-term solution and investigating options that enable law enforcement agencies to remove derelict vessels or those classified as public nuisances. Additionally, the City is seeking funding from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) to facilitate the removal of derelict boats in Biscayne Bay.

### **Boating Safety**

The City supports legislation that would require all Florida boaters to carry proof of boater-safety training. The legislation should prescribe penalties for boaters under the influence.

**Resolution 2024-32891**

### **Request the Staffing of the State Condominium Ombudsman**

The City request that solutions be explored to fill the vacancy of the State Condominium Ombudsman. Given the recent legislation affecting condominium governance in Florida, this position would provide vital support to condominium owners and residents, enhance oversight of condominium associations, and ensure a commitment to accountability and transparency.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITIES**

### **Secondary Baker Act Options**

The City urges the Florida Legislature to promulgate legislation requiring a more comprehensive assessment and evaluation period for persons who have repeatedly met the established criteria and been taken for involuntary examination pursuant to Florida's Baker Act, in order to provide hospitals and other receiving facilities the opportunity to conduct a more detailed and thorough examination to assess whether such persons require further treatment or commitment at an appropriate mental health facility. **Resolution 2023-32584**

### **Uniform Traffic Citations**

The City supports exploring solutions to modify the information that's currently reported on uniform traffic citation forms. This would enable law enforcement to better track and gather data on crashes, specifically those involving pedestrians and micro-mobility transportation. This initiative aims to improve safety and accountability across shared-use facilities in Miami Beach.

## **TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES**

### **Bus Express Rapid Transit Network**

The City supports the efforts of Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization to create a Bus Express Rapid Transit network, a key component of the Miami-Dade County Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit Plan, which would connect Miami and Miami Beach via three express bus routes along the I-395/MacArthur Causeway and the I-195/Julia Tuttle Causeway.

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### **I-95 Express Lane Access Ramp**

The City supports the long-term efforts of FDOT to design and build new access ramps from the existing I-95 Express lanes to I-195/Julia Tuttle Causeway. This improvement will not only establish direct connectivity between two limited access facilities on the federal interstate system but will also alleviate traffic congestion on I-395/MacArthur Causeway.

### **Shared-Used Viaduct for Pedestrians and Cyclists**

The City supports the efforts of FDOT to create a safe and protected shared-use viaduct for pedestrians and cyclists along I-195/Julia Tuttle Causeway and I-395/MacArthur Causeway. Including a bi-directional shared-use viaduct connecting the baywalks in Miami and Miami Beach. **Resolution 2022-32364.**

### **Waterborne Transportation Service**

The City urges the FDOT to provide financial assistance for the operation of cross-by commuter waterborne transportation (i.e. water taxi/ferry) service connecting Miami Beach and downtown Miami to reduce traffic congestion along I-395/MacArthur Causeway.

### **Collins Ave Multimodal Corridor Planning Study**

The City supports the recommended alternative in the FDOT Collins Avenue Multimodal Corridor Planning Study from 41 Street to 63 Street and urges FDOT to fully fund the design and construction phases of the project in the FDOT 5-Year Work Program. **Resolution 2023-32579**

### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements**

The City supports legislation that provides opportunities for funding sources for pedestrian safety improvements. In particular, the City urges the FDOT to allow the painting of green bike lanes on state roads to enhance bicycle safety, improve bike lane visibility, and raise driver awareness. Currently, FDOT allows green paint to be applied only at bicycle-vehicle conflict points along bike lanes and not throughout the entire bike lane.

### **Safety along City Waterways**

The City urges the Florida Legislature and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to support the City Administration's initiative to protect all persons utilizing the City's waterways by collaboratively working to provide for the installation of appropriate speed and safety signage along certain waterways within the City.

### **Residents-Only Entry Lane**

The City requests that the Florida Legislature provide the FDOT with the regulatory authority to establish an MOT that prioritizes Miami Beach residents via a residents-only lane during any State of Emergency of High Impact Period, along the I-395/MacArthur Causeway and the I-195/Julia Tuttle Causeway. **Resolution 2023-32709**

### **Block the Box Camera Systems**

The City seeks state-level legislation that would allow counties and municipalities to implement "Block the Box" camera systems. These systems aim to enhance pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow by discouraging drivers from obstructing intersections and crosswalks when traffic signals turn red.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES**

#### **Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands**

The City joins Miami-Dade County in urging the State of Florida and the federal government for a coordinated and united commitment and funding to restore and protect Biscayne Bay.

#### **Mitigation of Coral Reef Diseases**

The City urges the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") to develop a Management Plan for mitigating coral reef diseases and further urging the FDEP and the South Florida Water Management District ("SFWMD") to implement additional strategies to greatly reduce nutrient loading from all human sources and pathways as a matter of urgency.

**Resolution 2019-30888**

#### **Sargassum Seaweed Removal**

The City joins Miami-Dade County and urges the Governor and Legislature to continue to appropriate funds for seaweed removal on beaches located in Miami-Dade County, to determine any possible solutions as well as alternative removal methods to minimize its impact on the beaches of Miami-Dade County and the City. The City seeks to ensure that marine habitat and wildlife continue to be protected.

#### **Expanded Polystyrene or Single-Use Plastic Bags**

The City urges the Florida Legislature to repeal Sections 403.708, 403.7033, and 500.90 of the Florida Statutes, and reject any other statutes that inhibit a Local Government's ability to regulate expanded polystyrene single-use plastics, or single-use plastic bags. The City opposes any legislation that seeks to preempt local government regulations of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene. **Resolution 2019-30888**

#### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction**

The City strongly opposes any legislation which would prevent the state from adopting or participating in greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs without explicit legislative authorization. **Resolution 2021-31622**

#### **Energy Infrastructure**

The City strongly opposes any legislation which seeks to preempt local government regulation of energy infrastructure. **Resolution 2021-31623**

#### **Tree Pruning Notices**

The City strongly supports any legislation which seeks to repeal section 163.045, Florida Statutes, which currently preempts local governments from requiring a notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property.

**Resolution 2021-31662**

#### **Fertilizer**

The City urges the Florida Legislature to grandfather or preserve any local ordinances that were enacted before the passing of any statute that inhibits local government's ability to protect Biscayne Bay by regulating fertilizer management.

#### **Federal Funding Opportunities**

The City urges the State of Florida to apply for and accept federal funds being offered for energy efficiency, electric vehicle infrastructure, resilience, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

### **RESILIENCY PRIORITIES**

#### **Property Insurance**

The cost of wind and flood insurance continues to increase, impacting Miami Beach residents and businesses. The City supports all efforts to increase the accessibility of insurance and keep prices affordable. The City opposes all efforts by Citizens Property Insurance to “force out” policyholders requiring them to seek coverage from private insurance. The City opposes all requirements to purchase additional flood insurance.

#### **Living Shorelines**

Julia Tuttle Causeway Alton Road South location was identified as an optimal location for a living shoreline. A living or hybrid shoreline would help protect the roadway from high tides, sea level rise and storm surge, as well as improve the health of Biscayne Bay through enhancing the marine habitat and providing water quality benefits.

#### **Financing for Energy Conservation and Efficiency**

The City urges the Florida legislature to provide funding to local governments financing to create programs for residents and businesses that provide financing for energy conservation and efficiency (e.g., energy-efficient heating, cooling, or ventilation systems), renewable energy (e.g., solar panels), wind resistance (e.g., impact resistant windows), and other hardening improvements.

#### **Sea Level Rise/Coastal Flooding**

The City of Miami Beach is extremely vulnerable to rising sea level and climate change and supports continued Resilient Florida funding. Increased storm events and higher tides result in tidal and storm-induced flooding. It is essential that the state recognize the urgency and severity brought on by these conditions. The City urges the Florida legislature to provide funding for infrastructure improvements to reduce the City’s risks of flooding. [Resolution 2022-31997](#)

#### **Preserve and Enhance Dunes, Beaches/Beach Renourishment**

The City supports legislation that provides additional funding to preserve, restore and enhance the state’s beaches and dune system that provide significant recreational, environmental benefits, and help protect the City from storm surge flooding.

#### **Resilient Adaptation of Public Assets and Private Property**

The City supports legislation that provides additional funding and incentives to reduce the impact of flooding by adapting existing buildings, including private homes, residences, and commercial properties, through strategies including floodproofing, green infrastructure, and structural elevation.

### **PREEMPTION PRIORITIES**

#### **Local Authority and Unfunded Mandates**

The City opposes legislation that would impact home rule powers of local governments or in any way reduce local control and authority, as well as any efforts to pass additional costs from the

state down to the City. The City supports all efforts made to identify and reduce the number of unfunded mandates imposed on local government. **Resolution 2021-31608**

### **Local Government Preemption**

The City strongly opposes any State legislation that would preempt local rulemaking and weaken local governments' home rule powers and any other bill that would impair the city's ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. **Resolution 2021-31654**

### **Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation**

The City opposes any amendment to the Live Local Act or any other bill that would further preempt or otherwise limit the City's authority to engage in comprehensive planning and/or land development regulation. The City seeks to promote development that is consistent with the scale and character of our community, including our historic districts, and limit impacts to hurricane evacuation routes.

### **Historic Preservation**

The City opposes any legislation that would preempt the City's authority to enforce provisions of our historic preservation designations and ordinances.

### **Authority to Declare Preemptive Emergencies During High-Impact Events**

The City requests exploring solutions at the State Legislature which would allow the City to declare a pre-emptive emergency during a high-impact event, subject to The City providing a rationale for the declaration (prior year large attendance or expected large attendance)

### **Re-establish Municipal Courts in Miami Beach**

The City requests an amendment to the state constitution by re-establishing municipal courts, which were abolished on January 3, 1977, by the Florida Constitution, Article V, § 20(d)(4).

## **HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES**

### **Support of Human Rights Legislation**

The City strongly supports any legislation that would prohibit discrimination in Florida based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodations. The City strongly opposes any legislation that seeks to invalidate local ordinances that protect LGBTQ+ employees and legalize the controversial and harmful practice of conversion therapies.

**Resolution 2020-31170; 2021-31639; 2022-32033; 2022-32049**

### **Gender Identity and Employment Practices**

The City strongly opposes legislation that would place restrictions on private and public employers, employees, and contractors from using personal pronouns and ban any nonprofit organization from requiring training on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

**Resolution 2023-32854**

### **Marriage Between Persons of the Same Sex**

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The City supports legislation that seeks to repeal the State Constitution's outdated definition of a legal union of marriage and would remove the prohibition on same-sex marriages.

**Resolution 2024-32893**

### HOUSING PRIORITIES

#### **Senior Programming and Housing**

The City strongly supports any legislation that creates additional funding for subsidized housing and programming for seniors 65 and older.

#### **Affordable Housing**

The City strongly supports legislation seeking to increase affordable and workforce housing development, renovation, and preservation in Miami Beach. Affordable housing inventory focused on service and essential workers supporting the hotel, restaurant, and entertainment industries will increase household stability, support small businesses, and reduce traffic congestion.

#### **Eligibility for Homestead Exemption**

The City supports legislation that would create a verification of eligibility for the Homestead Exemption for certain disabled veterans. **Resolution 2023-32855**

### GENERAL PRIORITIES

#### **Growth Management**

The City strongly opposes any legislation that would make changes to the Bert J. Harris, Jr., Private Property Rights Protection Act. **Resolution 2020-31174**

#### **Rehabilitation Facilities for Homeless Persons**

The City strongly supports legislation that creates funding for rehabilitation facilities to assist homeless persons' physical, medical, and/or mental healthcare needs on both a short-term and long-term basis.

#### **Public Records Request**

The City supports legislation that prohibits anonymous public record requests to ensure the responsible use of public information and enhance the records request process.

#### **Handicapped Placard Abuse**

The City supports legislation to establish stronger regulations and penalties to deter the abuse of handicapped parking placards, to preserve accessible parking spaces.

#### **Acceptance of Cash Payments by Businesses**

The City supports legislation which requires certain businesses to accept cash as a valid form of payment. **Resolution 2024-32892**

#### **Arts and Culture**

The City supports the restoration of \$492,676.56 in state grant funding to art and cultural

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institutions through the Cultural and Museum Grant Program.

### **LEGISLATION TO BE MONITORED**

Legislation regarding the following issues will be monitored:

- Alternative and Renewable Energy including Wind and Solar Energy
- Protect condominium owners
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program
- Enterprise Zones
- Medical/Recreational Marijuana
- Telecommunications/Wireless Communications
- Tourism-related Issues
- LGBTQ Issues, including gender identity
- Body Cameras
- Senior Programs
- Waterways and Water Regulations/Mooring Issues including Mooring Zones
- Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA) Legislation
- Beach Re-nourishment/Erosion Protection
- Resiliency and Environmental Sustainability
- Flood Protection
- Public Private Partnerships
- Red light cameras
- License Plate Readers
- Single Use Plastics/Plastic Bags
- Workforce & Affordable Housing Programs
- Affordable Workspace
- Florida Workers' Compensation Reform

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Additional funding opportunities is sought for the following projects/programs:

- Seawalls and Dunes
- Adaptive Park and Recreation Center
- Schools and Police school security
- Education Programs
- Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Projects
- Economic Development
- State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) Funding
- Workforce and Affordable Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Planning for Resiliency/Mitigation
- Security Cameras
- Transportation