

R7 H A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING LIVING ARTS TRUST, INC. D/B/A O CINEMA TO STRIVE TO SHOWCASE FILMS THAT HIGHLIGHT A FAIR AND BALANCED VIEWPOINT OF THE CURRENT WAR BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE GROUPS HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWPOINT OF JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS FULLY AND ACCURATELY PRESENTED.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: April 23, 2025

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING LIVING ARTS TRUST, INC. D/B/A O CINEMA TO STRIVE TO SHOWCASE FILMS THAT HIGHLIGHT A FAIR AND BALANCED VIEWPOINT OF THE CURRENT WAR BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE GROUPS HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWPOINT OF JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS FULLY AND ACCURATELY PRESENTED.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

The attached Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsor, Mayor Steven Meiner.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

City Attorney

Sponsor(s)

Mayor Steven Meiner

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Encourage O Cinema to Showcase Films that Highlight Fair and Balanced Viewpoints. (Meiner)
CA

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)

Deferred on 3/19/2025 - R7 G

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING LIVING ARTS TRUST, INC. D/B/A O CINEMA TO STRIVE TO SHOWCASE FILMS THAT HIGHLIGHT A FAIR AND BALANCED VIEWPOINT OF THE CURRENT WAR BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE GROUPS HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWPOINT OF JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS FULLY AND ACCURATELY PRESENTED.

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Israel, including many civilians—women, children, and even infants—were attacked and slaughtered on October 7, 2023, by the terrorist group Hamas, operating and attacking from Gaza, directly precipitating the current war between Israel, and Hamas and Hezbollah, who attacked Israel shortly after the Hamas attack and massacre; and

WHEREAS, multiple artistic works exist in various media that highlight different perspectives on the October 7th attack, the Israeli response, and the suffering endured by both Israelis and Palestinians as a result of the attack and ensuing war, including several high-quality documentaries that present an honest, balanced and unvarnished account of the conflict offering audiences an opportunity to understand firsthand the horrific impact on Israel caused by these terrorist attacks, as well as Israel's actions to protect itself; and

WHEREAS, despite the availability of diverse viewpoints on the Israel-Hamas/Hezbollah conflict, Living Arts Trust, Inc d/b/a O Cinema ("O Cinema") has thus far only presented the film "No Other Land", which provides an incomplete portrayal of an area designated as a military training ground by Israel in the early 1980s and has been decried as blatantly antisemitic by government officials and various sources all over the world, including by Claudia Roth, Germany's federal commissioner for culture and media, who called the film "shockingly one-sided and characterized by deep hatred of Israel" and the Berlin city website, Berlin.de, similarly describing "No Other Land" as "exhibiting antisemitic tendencies"; and

WHEREAS, any thoughtful and informed opinion about the actions of the combatants in the ongoing Israel-Hamas/Hezbollah war must include films that accurately depict the suffering of the Israeli people resulting from the October 7th attack, as well as the moral stance of Israel in defending itself against this and future threats; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission encourage O Cinema to prioritize films that present the suffering and moral position of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, so as to ensure a comprehensive, fair and accurate portrayal of those affected by the war (and the attack provoking it), to enable audiences to form a thoughtful and well-informed understanding of the conflict.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby encourage Living Arts Trust, Inc. d/b/a O Cinema to strive to showcase films that highlight a fair and balanced viewpoint of the current war between the State of Israel and the groups Hamas and Hezbollah to ensure that the viewpoint of the Jewish people and the State of Israel is fully and accurately presented.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 2025.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *RR* 3/18/2025
Date