

R7 I A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA SENATORS ASHLEY MOODY AND RICK SCOTT, AS WELL AS HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR, TO ADVOCATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE REVIEW, REEVALUATION, AND REINSTATEMENT OF THE LAID-OFF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) SCIENTISTS AND STAFF TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF FLORIDIANS WHO DEPEND ON NOAA'S WORLD-CLASS HURRICANE TRACKING AND WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEMS.

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 MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA SENATORS ASHLEY MOODY AND RICK SCOTT, AS WELL AS HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR, TO ADVOCATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE REVIEW, REEVALUATION, AND REINSTATEMENT OF THE LAID-OFF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) SCIENTISTS AND STAFF TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF FLORIDIANS WHO DEPEND ON NOAA'S WORLD-CLASS HURRICANE TRACKING AND WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEMS.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

The attached Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsor, Vice-Mayor Tanya K. Bhatt.

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)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Urge Florida Senators/House Rep. to Advocate for NOAA Workforce. (Bhatt) CA

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)

Not reached on 3/19/2025 - C7 Q

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA SENATORS ASHLEY MOODY AND RICK SCOTT, AS WELL AS HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR, TO ADVOCATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE REVIEW, REEVALUATION, AND REINSTATEMENT OF THE LAID-OFF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) SCIENTISTS AND STAFF TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF FLORIDIANS WHO DEPEND ON NOAA'S WORLD-CLASS HURRICANE TRACKING AND WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plays a critical role in safeguarding lives and property by providing accurate weather forecasts, severe weather alerts, and emergency information;

WHEREAS, recent workforce reductions have led to the termination of approximately 880 NOAA employees, including 375 probationary National Weather Service (NWS) staff members, representing about 10% of NOAA's workforce;

WHEREAS, these layoffs have raised concerns among meteorologists and experts regarding NOAA's capacity to deliver essential services, particularly during severe weather events; and

WHEREAS, many of those affected by these layoffs are dedicated public servants and scientists who specialize in hurricane research and forecasting, potentially compromising the accuracy of future hurricane predictions; and

WHEREAS, probationary classification may apply to employees with substantial experience who were placed on probation after transferring between agencies or assuming new senior positions, resulting in the dismissal of highly skilled and committed professionals; and

WHEREAS, the loss of scientific personnel may hinder NOAA's ability to study and respond to the rapid intensification of hurricanes, a phenomenon that poses significant threats to coastal communities such as the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida is highly susceptible to hurricanes and other severe weather phenomena, and relies heavily on NOAA's expertise for timely and accurate information to protect its residents; and

WHEREAS, the integrity of NOAA's data collection and modeling efforts is essential for effective emergency preparedness and response strategies; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has acknowledged the valuable contributions of NOAA forecasters, especially during recent hurricanes Helene and Milton; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that thorough steps be taken to reexamine the layoffs at NOAA, ensuring that vital personnel are not unjustly dismissed and that national weather forecasting capabilities remain robust and fully functional; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the urgency of restoring NOAA's full operational capacity and is committed to assisting in any way possible to facilitate the reinstatement of these vital employees, whether through legislative advocacy, or collaboration with state and federal officials; and

WHEREAS, thus, the Mayor and City Commission wish to urge Florida Senators Ashley Moody and Rick Scott, as well as House Representative Maria Elvira Salazar, to advocate for the immediate review, reevaluation, and reinstatement of the laid-off NOAA scientists and staff to ensure the continued safety and well-being of millions of Floridians and residents of other coastal states who depend on NOAA's world-class hurricane tracking and weather forecasting systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA that the Mayor and the City hereby urge Florida Senators Ashley Moody and Rick Scott, as well as House Representative Maria Elvira Salazar, to advocate for the immediate review, reevaluation, and reinstatement of the laid-off National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists and staff to ensure the continued safety and well-being of millions of Floridians who depend on NOAA's world-class hurricane tracking and weather forecasting systems.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.


ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Tanya K. Bhatt)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

3/12/2025

Date