

C7 BC A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ESTIMATE THE COST TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF PORTABLE, GAS-POWERED FLOODLIGHTS IN LUMMUS PARK, PARTICULARLY DURING SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON EACH YEAR (APRIL 1 – OCTOBER 31), AND TO SUBSTITUTE WITH MORE SUITABLE LIGHTING ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS SHIELDED, LOW-MOUNTED AMBER, OR RED LED LIGHTS, IN ORDER TO PROTECT SEA TURTLES, ENHANCE OCEAN DRIVE AESTHETICS, AND MAINTAIN ADEQUATE ILLUMINATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THE COST FOR THIS PROJECT AS A POSSIBLE BUDGET ENHANCEMENT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PROCESS.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: June 25, 2025

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ESTIMATE THE COST TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF PORTABLE, GAS-POWERED FLOODLIGHTS IN LUMMUS PARK, PARTICULARLY DURING SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON EACH YEAR (APRIL 1 – OCTOBER 31), AND TO SUBSTITUTE WITH MORE SUITABLE LIGHTING ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS SHIELDED, LOW-MOUNTED AMBER, OR RED LED LIGHTS, IN ORDER TO PROTECT SEA TURTLES, ENHANCE OCEAN DRIVE AESTHETICS, AND MAINTAIN ADEQUATE ILLUMINATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THE COST FOR THIS PROJECT AS A POSSIBLE BUDGET ENHANCEMENT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PROCESS.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

The attached Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsor, Vice-Mayor David Suarez.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The sponsor of this item requests that the Administration be prepared to address the fiscal impact of this proposed measure and to identify funding in the FY 2026 budget process.

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-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

South Beach

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)

Vice-Mayor David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Remove Lummus Park Flood Lights to Protect Sea Turtles and Improve Ocean Drive Aesthetics. (Suarez) CA

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ESTIMATE THE COST TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF PORTABLE, GAS-POWERED FLOODLIGHTS IN LUMMUS PARK, PARTICULARLY DURING SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON EACH YEAR (APRIL 1 – OCTOBER 31), AND TO SUBSTITUTE WITH MORE SUITABLE LIGHTING ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS SHIELDED, LOW-MOUNTED AMBER, OR RED LED LIGHTS, IN ORDER TO PROTECT SEA TURTLES, ENHANCE OCEAN DRIVE AESTHETICS, AND MAINTAIN ADEQUATE ILLUMINATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THE COST FOR THIS PROJECT AS A POSSIBLE BUDGET ENHANCEMENT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PROCESS.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (“City”) is committed to preserving and protecting its unique coastal environment, including the critical habitat of nesting sea turtles along its beaches; and

WHEREAS, sea turtle nesting season in the City occurs annually from April 1 through October 31, during which artificial lighting can disorient hatchlings and nesting females, leading to injury or death and threatening the survival of protected species; and

WHEREAS, the portable, gas-powered floodlights currently used in Lummus Park emit intense, unshielded white light that can disrupt sea turtle nesting behavior and cause significant disorientation to hatchlings as they emerge and seek the ocean; and

WHEREAS, originally intended for short-term use during construction, maintenance, or emergency events, these portable, gas-powered floodlights have become frequent fixtures – left in place or redeployed on a near-continuous basis – in Lummus Park; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (“FWC”) and other environmental agencies recommend the use of turtle-friendly lighting, including shielded, low-mounted amber or red LED lights, to minimize light pollution and protect sea turtle populations; and

WHEREAS, the use, and continued overuse, of gas-powered floodlights also detracts from the aesthetic experience of Ocean Drive and contributes to noise and air pollution in an iconic and heavily visited area of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to balance environmental stewardship and public safety by transitioning to more sustainable and marine life-friendly lighting alternatives that provide adequate illumination for persons in Lummus Park, utilizing the Lummus Park Promenade, or to maintain public safety as the Police Department deems appropriate, during the evening and nighttime hours; and

WHEREAS, phasing out gas-powered floodlights in favor of shielded, turtle-safe lighting solutions reflects the City’s broader goals of sustainability, ecological responsibility, and enhancing the resident and visitor experience along Ocean Drive and adjacent public spaces.

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 of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, hereby direct the City Administration to estimate the cost to phase out the use of portable, gas-powered floodlights in Lummus Park, particularly during sea turtle nesting season each year (April 1 – October 31), and to substitute with more suitable lighting alternatives, such as shielded, low-mounted amber, or red led lights, in order to protect sea turtles, enhance Ocean Drive aesthetics, and maintain adequate illumination for public safety; and further, directing the City Administration to include the cost for this project as a possible budget enhancement during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget process.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor Steven Meiner

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Vice-Mayor David Suarez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

6/17/2025
Date