

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 302, RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCY AND AQUATIC PRESERVES, SPONSORED BY SENATOR ILEANA GARCIA AND CO-INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BRYAN ÁVILA AND SENATOR BARBARA SHARIEF; AND SENATE BILL 1422, RELATING TO CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND THE DESIGNATION OF CORAL REEFS AS CRITICAL NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, SPONSORED BY SENATOR ILEANA GARCIA AND CO-SPONSORED BY SENATOR SHEVRIN JONES; AFFIRMING THAT SUCH LEGISLATION IS CONSISTENT WITH AND INCORPORATED INTO THE CITY'S 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES; AUTHORIZING ADVOCACY FOR PASSAGE DURING THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 302, relating to Coastal Resiliency and Aquatic Preserves, is sponsored by Senator Ileana Garcia and co-introduced by Senator Bryan Ávila and Senator Barbara Sharief; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1422, relating to Coral Reef Protection and the designation of coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure, is sponsored by Senator Ileana Garcia and co-sponsored by Senator Shevrin Jones; and

WHEREAS, protection of the environment and the advancement of sustainable initiatives are fundamental priorities of the City of Coral Gables and central to the City's long-term resiliency, economic stability, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City's adopted 2026 Legislative Priorities include the protection of the environment, the preservation and restoration of Biscayne Bay, the enhancement of coastal resiliency infrastructure, and support for policies that improve water quality and safeguard marine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables encompasses more than 32 miles of waterways and is directly connected to Biscayne Bay, making water quality, shoreline stabilization, and marine habitat protection essential to public safety, property protection, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that healthy marine ecosystems, including coral reefs and associated hardbottom habitats, serve as natural infrastructure that attenuates wave energy, reduces coastal flooding, mitigates storm surge impacts, and protects both public and private property; and

WHEREAS, investment in nature-based solutions and coastal resiliency measures can reduce long-term disaster recovery costs, strengthen insurability and property value stability, and enhance access to state and federal hazard mitigation funding; and

WHEREAS, legislative recognition of coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure strengthens eligibility for funding opportunities administered through the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) and other federal and state resiliency programs, enabling municipalities to leverage additional financial resources for adaptation and risk-reduction projects; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that Senate Bill 302 and Senate Bill 1422 advance science-based, fiscally responsible resiliency strategies that align with the City's infrastructure investments and environmental stewardship goals and are therefore consistent with, and hereby incorporated into, the City of Coral Gables' 2026 Legislative Priorities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables, as a coastal municipality, is directly impacted by sea level rise, tidal flooding, storm surge, and water quality challenges affecting Biscayne Bay, and recognizes the urgent need for coordinated state and local action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1.

That the foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon the adoption hereof.

SECTION 2.

That the City Commission hereby expresses its formal support for Senate Bill 302, relating to Coastal Resiliency and Aquatic Preserves.

SECTION 3.

That the City Commission hereby expresses its formal support for Senate Bill 1422, relating to Coral Reef Protection and the designation of coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure.

SECTION 4.

That support for Senate Bill 302 and Senate Bill 1422 is incorporated into the City's adopted 2026 Legislative Priorities.

SECTION 5.

That the City Commission authorizes and directs the City Manager, Director of Government Affairs, and the City's state legislative consultants to advocate in favor of Senate Bill 302 and Senate Bill 1422 during the 2026 Legislative Session.

SECTION 6.

That the City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, members of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, and the bill sponsors and co-sponsors.

SECTION 7.

That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ___ DAY OF _____, 2026.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO

MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND

CITY CLERK, BILLY URQUIA

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CITY ATTORNEY, CRISTINA SUAREZ