

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO.____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES URGING GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST TO CONVENE A TASKFORCE TO EXPLORE EFFECTIVE MEANS TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS DESIGNATED HEREIN.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami passed and adopted Resolution No. 09-00062a at its meeting of February 12, 2009 and is requesting support from other municipalities in Miami-Dade County,

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables seeks to protect members of our community from sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, an encampment of individuals convicted of sexual offenses has arisen under the Julia Tuttle Causeway bridge and in other outdoor locations in Miami-Dade County ("County") due to the inability of such offenders to find permissible housing under residence restriction ordinances promulgated by the County, the City of Miami ("City"), other municipalities in the County and the State of Florida ("State"); and

WHEREAS, the homelessness of sexual offenders and predators threatens the safety of the public by leading some offenders to abscond, thereby obstructing the ability of law enforcement to track those offenders still under supervision; and

WHEREAS, homelessness and the resulting instability can exacerbate the potential for re-offense and interfere with both community reentry and treatment programs in which offenders are enrolled; and

WHEREAS, various sexual offenders have been living intermittently, and possibly continuously, under the Julia Tuttle Causeway bridge since at least April, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the number of offenders living under the bridge has increased dramatically during that time, in part because many have been directed to reside there by their probation officers who cannot find permissible housing for these offenders anywhere in the County; and

WHEREAS, the public safety crisis created by the housing situation is not unique to the City, to other municipalities in the County, or to the County as-a-whole, but exists in other areas of the State as well; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of local residence restrictions in other counties and municipalities makes cooperation among various counties and municipalities necessary in order to address the issue; and

WHEREAS, the involvement of the Department of Corrections, local and state law enforcement agencies, and other government entities in tracking offenders who are still under supervision and protecting the public makes cooperation among various state and local agencies necessary in order to address this public safety crisis;

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

Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. The City of Coral Gables urges Governor Charlie Crist to convene a Statewide Taskforce to examine effective means to protect our communities from sexual violence.

Section 3. The Statewide Taskforce should identify public safety concerns arising from the inability of many sexual offenders and predators to find permissible housing under the patchwork of State, County, and City residence restrictions.

Section 4. The Statewide Taskforce should include representation from law enforcement, probation, corrections, experts in the treatment and management of persons convicted of sex offenses, researchers, victim advocates, human rights advocates, and State and local policymakers.

Section 5. The Statewide Taskforce should work collaboratively to seek solutions that remedy this counter-productive public safety and housing crisis in a way that will better protect the public from sexual violence by minimizing offender instability that can lead to recidivism and facilitating the effective monitoring and supervision of offenders still under supervision.

Section 6. The Statewide Taskforce shall be convened for its first meeting within 120 days after this Resolution's adoption and signature of the Mayor.

Section 7. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Charlie Crist, Senate President Jeff Atwater, House Speaker Larry Cretul and the members of the Florida Legislature.

Section 8. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption herein.

APPROVED BY:

DONALD D. SLESNICK, II
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK