

## **RESOLUTION 2026-**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING AN INITIAL FUNDING COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE UNDERLINE WITHIN THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES IN THE PRORATED AMOUNT OF \$180,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNDERLINE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION, INC. D/B/A THE UNDERLINE CONSERVANCY REGARDING THE FUNDING, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND PROGRAMMING OF THE UNDERLINE WITHIN THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables is a municipality within Miami-Dade County that borders The Underline, an approximately 120-acre linear park and multimodal corridor adjacent to and below the existing Metrorail guideway extending from the Miami River to Dadeland South Metrorail Station; and

**WHEREAS**, The Underline is being developed in multiple phases to transform the land adjacent to and below the Metrorail into a first-class multimodal urban trail and park area enhancing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, public transportation access, recreational opportunities, and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables previously contributed approximately \$7 million toward capital improvements associated with the construction of The Underline within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion, approximately three (3) miles and six (6) distinct destination areas of The Underline will be located within the City of Coral Gables; and

**WHEREAS**, Segment 5 of The Underline within the City of Coral Gables is currently open to the public, and Segments 6 and 7 are anticipated to open by Fall 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, The Underline Management Organization, Inc. d/b/a The Underline Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (the "Conservancy"), with a public-private board composed of appointees from Friends of The Underline, Inc. and publicly appointed county officials, manages all Underline maintenance and management of programs and art, and when fully completed, will manage over 120 acres of mobility and park spaces along the 10-mile corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, as the organization responsible for the operations, maintenance, management, programming, and stewardship of The Underline corridor and its associated amenities, the Conservancy has developed a pro forma expense and funding plan dependent upon contributions from both the private and public sectors, to be funded by Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, City of South Miami, City of Coral Gables, and Friends of The Underline, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) non-profit); and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy has requested municipal participation in funding the ongoing operations and maintenance costs associated with the portions of The Underline located within the City of Coral Gables; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission recognizes that The Underline serves as a significant regional public amenity, multimodal corridor, and economic development asset benefiting multiple municipalities, Miami-Dade County residents, visitors, and transit users throughout the region, and therefore desires that any future long-term operational and maintenance funding structure appropriately balance regional benefits with localized municipal funding obligations and responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission desires to provide an initial prorated funding commitment in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000) for Fiscal Year 2026 to support the operations and maintenance of the portions of The Underline located within the City of Coral Gables; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission further desires to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with The Underline Conservancy addressing the City’s participation in future funding, operations, maintenance, management, programming, reporting requirements, performance standards, and other terms deemed necessary and appropriate by the City.

**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 adoption hereof.

**SECTION 2.** That the City Commission hereby authorizes an initial prorated funding commitment in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000) for Fiscal Year 2026 to support the operations and maintenance of approximately three (3) miles and six (6) destination areas of The Underline located within the City of Coral Gables, subject to budgetary appropriation and the execution of an approved Memorandum of Understanding.

**SECTION 3.** That the City Commission hereby authorizes the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding with the

Conservancy, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney, regarding the funding, operations, maintenance, management, programming, reporting obligations, and related responsibilities associated with The Underline within the City of Coral Gables, with any final agreement subject to future City Commission approval. In negotiating the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the City Manager and City Attorney shall evaluate and address, among other matters, the following considerations previously discussed by the City Commission and The Underline representatives:

- (a) the need for a detailed line-item operating and maintenance budget identifying proposed expenditures and funding allocations;
- (b) the establishment of clearly defined service levels, operational standards, maintenance responsibilities, and measurable performance metrics;
- (c) the identification and avoidance of potential duplication of services already funded or provided by City taxpayers;
- (d) provisions related to financial transparency, audit rights, governance participation, operational oversight, reporting requirements, and accountability measures associated with any public funds provided by the city;
- (e) transparency regarding maintenance, operational, and funding obligations between Miami-Dade County, the participating municipalities, and The Underline Conservancy.

**SECTION 4.** That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ day of June, A.D., 2026.

(Moved: )

(Yeas:

(Majority : Vote:)

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ  
CITY ATTORNEY