

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

A RESOLUTION OF THE WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE CITY COMMISSION TO STRONGLY ADVOCATE FOR A HIGHER CLEARANCE FROM MIAMI-DADE'S UNDERLINE PROJECT'S UPDATED BRIDGE CLEARANCE OF 11.1 FEET TO MAINTAIN SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE WATERWAY NAVIGATION; AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT SURVEY TO VERIFY CLEARANCES, BOTH UNDER THE PROPOSED BRIDGE AND UNDER US-1, BEFORE ANY FINAL APPROVALS ARE GRANTED.

WHEREAS, at the March 5, 2025 Waterway Advisory Board (WAB) meeting, Miami-Dade County staff discussed and answered questions regarding the updated bridge clearance being proposed related to the Underline Project; and

WHEREAS, the WAB has had several discussions with County and Underline officials in an effort to increase the clearance on the proposed pedestrian bridge, as the WAB believes greater clearance is essential for maintaining safe and accessible waterway navigation; and

WHEREAS, the latest proposed bridge clearance is set at 11.1 feet above mean high tide, however the WAB emphasizes that this clearance must not be based on an assumption that the clearance under US-1 at mean high tide is 7.5 feet without verified data. Observations from tide markers at US-1 indicate that the actual clearance is approximately 5.5 feet at high tide and even less during King Tide events; and

WHEREAS, the WAB feels, the County is relying on data using median numbers dating back 19 years, may no longer be accurate; and

WHEREAS, the WAB urges the City Commission to evaluate all alternative bridge designs that may allow for increased height clearance while maintaining safety and structural integrity, including the use of elevators and the existing 7-foot sidewalk on Ponce de Leon; and

WHEREAS, if a design solution exists that can achieve greater clearance without compromising feasibility, the WAB believes it should be fully explored before proceeding.

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

SECTION 1. 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. The Waterway Advisory Board recommends that the City Commission strongly advocate for a higher clearance from Miami-Dade’s underline project’s updated bridge clearance of 11.1 feet to maintain safe and accessible waterway navigation; and to direct staff to conduct an independent survey to verify clearances, both under the proposed bridge and under US-1, before any final approvals are granted.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS FIFTH DAY OF MARCH A.D., 2025.