

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO CONSIDER SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION IN THEIR DISCRETIONARY DECISIONS, DIRECTING STAFF TO INITIATE PROCESS FOR AMENDING THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS NECESSARY TO CONTEMPLATE THE ANTICIPATED IMPLICATIONS OF SEA LEVEL RISE, AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, AND GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, AND FUND SEA LEVEL RISE PREPAREDNESS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of Coral Gables is mindful that the anticipated effects of climate change, including sea level rise, pose a threat to the livelihood of coastal communities, with impacts as wide-ranging as increased flooding, reduced fresh water supply, public health impacts, environmental harm, and property and economic damage; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise is expected to impact public and private infrastructure, human health, and natural systems, and will create new costs for individuals, businesses, and governments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables has begun in recent years to take a proactive approach in planning for sea level rise, including signing on as a municipal partner to the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, developing LIDAR risk maps identifying critical infrastructure that could be most vulnerable to sea level rise, commissioning a professional vulnerability assessment of the City's infrastructure by engineering consultants Hazen & Sawyer, segregating capital funds for future stormwater system improvements, installing tidal and sediment elevation gauges in key areas of the City, and holding educational town hall meetings regarding sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of its efforts to prepare for the anticipated effects of sea level rise, the City of Coral Gables also commissioned the drafting of a white paper, titled *Legal Considerations Surrounding the City of Coral Gables' Adaptation to the Threat of Sea Level Rise*, which provides a comprehensive overview of various sea level rise adaptation policy options available to the City and details some key legal considerations and implications surrounding those various adaptation options; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned white paper was presented to, and formally accepted by the City Commission by Resolution No. 2016-223, on September 28, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables is committed to taking proactive steps that will mitigate the impact of sea level rise on present and future generations.

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 City Commission authorizes and encourages City staff to consider the City's goal of proactive sea level rise adaptation planning whenever staff is making discretionary decisions about a topic or matter that may be impacted by the anticipated effects of sea level rise.

SECTION 3. The City Commission directs City staff to perform a review of the City's Comprehensive Plan and to initiate the process for amending the Plan as necessary to incorporate goals, objectives, and policies that will promote responsible sea level rise adaptation measures, including potential revisions to the Plan's Future Land Use Element, Capital Improvement Element, Natural Resources Element, and Public Safety Element.

SECTION 4. The City Commission urges property developers, homeowners associations, and condominium associations within the City to develop, adopt, and fund sea level rise preparedness policies and programs.

SECTION 5. The City Commission urges universities and other educational institutions within the City to develop, adopt, and fund sea level rise preparedness policies and programs.

SECTION 6. The City Commission urges leaders of other nearby local governments, as well as the state and federal governments, to enact legislation, appropriate funds, and adopt policies and programs that will support sea level rise preparedness and adaptation.

SECTION 7. The City Commission directs the City Clerk's Office to send this Resolution to federal, state, and local governments and officials, as well as to local universities.

SECTION 8. That said Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF AUGUST, A.D., 2017

RAUL VALDES-FAULI
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY