

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 2355

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH A FUND TO FINANCIALLY ASSIST AND SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SUCH AS THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS TO SEA LEVEL RISE AND RELATED IMPACTS; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO EACH MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, EACH MEMBER OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION AND EACH MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida has approximately 1,350 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than any other state besides Alaska; and

WHEREAS, because of Florida's vast coastline and geographic location, state and local governments in Florida should be leaders in developing innovative strategies on how to be resilient to sea level rise, particularly as impacts of sea level rise are expected to increase in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Florida has been identified by both the United Nations and the United States Climate Assessment as "ground zero" for sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside, Florida has taken action to collaborate with coastal communities within Miami-Dade County, and with Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County and Monroe County through the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact on various issues related to sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, pursuant to Resolution 13-2152, the Town Commission and Town Manager were authorized to take all necessary steps to consider integrating the Regional Climate Action Plan framework in whole or part for the Town of Surfside; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside Commission subsequently adopted multiple resolutions in order to implement the recommendations of the Regional Climate Action Plan, including but not limited to Resolution No. 15 – 2313 Supporting the Creating of the South Florida Mayor's Beach Alliance, Resolution No. 15 – 2280, Supporting the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force Recommendations, Resolution No. 14 – 2222

Supporting the Central Everglades Planning Project; and Resolution No. 13 – 2152 Endorsing the Mayor’s Climate Action Pledge, and

WHEREAS, if the Federal government provides financial assistance to local governments such as the Town of Surfside for purposes of developing and implementing solutions to sea level rise, together with appropriate matching funds from state and local funding sources, the result would be a tremendous, value-added investment; and

WHEREAS, such Federal assistance would accelerate the development of success models which could be replicated and used by scores of similarly situated communities elsewhere, thus multiplying the utility and effect of Federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, such Federal assistance and the resulting Town of Surfside and Miami-Dade County projects and solutions would create new jobs and potentially attract new companies and industry, all of which would substantially enhance our economy at all levels; and

WHEREAS, such Federal assistance could also help local governments, such as the Town of Surfside and Miami-Dade County, to find solutions to potential property damage due to impacts of sea level rise and could ultimately result in a far-reaching damage prevention initiative that may reduce financial pressure on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its after-the-fact damage compensation fund, thus saving the Federal government money in the long run; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission now wishes to call upon the Federal government to provide appropriate financial assistance and support to establish a fund, which would be used to partner with local governments that are on the forefront of developing adaptive solutions to the potentially devastating impacts of sea level rise and to provide such local governments with financial assistance and support for such sea level rise related initiatives and to further carry out the recommendations of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Urging by the Town of Surfside Town Commission for the Federal Government to Fund Sea level Rise Initiatives for Local Governments The Town of Surfside Commission urges the U.S. Congress to establish a fund that would be used to partner with local governments, such as the Town of Surfside and Miami-Dade County, to provide financial assistance and support for sea level rise related initiatives and projects.

Section 3. Authorization and Implementation. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary to implement this Resolution.

Section 4. Direction to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Florida Congressional Delegation, each member of the Miami-Dade County Commission and each Mayor of the municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of March, 2016.

Motion by Commissioner Karukin.


Second by Commissioner Olchyk.

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

Commissioner Barry Cohen	yes
Commissioner Michael Karukin	yes
Commissioner Marta Olchyk	yes
Vice Mayor Eli Tourgeman	yes
Mayor Daniel Dietch	yes



Daniel Dietch, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Sandra Novoa, MMC, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:



Linda Miller, Town Attorney