

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 2832

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SISTER BAYS PROGRAM AND URGING COASTAL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM; ENCOURAGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO DEVELOP A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SISTER BAYS PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside (the “Town”), a coastal community located adjacent to the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, is diligent in its efforts to preserve the environment, including our ocean, waterways, wetlands, and land in between; and

WHEREAS, the Town is committed to environmental conscientiousness and leadership and has taken proactive measures to improve the environment, such as prohibiting the sale, distribution, and use of plastic straws and styrofoam, and encouraging green initiatives to become a more sustainable and resilient municipality; and

WHEREAS, Biscayne Bay has been suffering from detrimental amounts of pollution; and

WHEREAS, the problems facing Biscayne Bay are serious and complex: most will require financial investments and a unified and collaborative approach to restoration and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the process of restoring and recovering Biscayne Bay’s resources and continuing to work to ensure the Bay is visually and physically accessible for all people is in service of environmental justice, and, in doing so, is in service to the people and natural resources of Miami-Dade County (the “County”); and

WHEREAS, the Town has partnered with community stakeholders for the purpose of studying and providing methods to improve Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, the City of Niterói, which is located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is seeking to create a broad-based, long-term partnership between “bay communities” in different municipalities, counties, states, and countries that share similar geographic and sector challenges through its Sister Bays Program; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote the Sister Bays Program, a Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) with Sister Bay Partners, like the County and coastal municipalities within the County, should be developed in order to work together to improve the water quality and overall health of their respective bays; and

WHEREAS, the Town encourages the County Board of County Commissioners (“BCC”) to develop an MOU for the Sister Bays Program; and

WHEREAS, by developing an MOU for the Sister Bays Program and working with other bay communities, the Town believes there will be additional resources available to protect Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to extend support for the Sister Bays Program and seeks to lend its available resources to the Sister Bays Program in order to continue its efforts to protect the environment and Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Town urges coastal communities throughout the County to support the Sister Bays Program; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the Town and its residents.

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

Section 1. Recitals. Each of the above-stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Support. The Town Commission supports the Sister Bays Program and urges coastal communities throughout the County to similarly support the Sister Bays Program.

Section 3. Urging the County. The Town Commission hereby urges the County Mayor and the County BCC to develop a MOU for the Sister Bays Program.

Section 4. Transmittal. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the County Mayor, members of the County BCC, the County Chief Bay Officer, the County League of Cities, and coastal communities throughout the County.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of November, 2021.

Motion By: Commissioner Velasquez
Second By: Commissioner Kesl

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Charles Kesl	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Eliana R. Salzhauer	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velasquez	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Charles W. Burkett	<u>Yes</u>



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra McCready, MMC
Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND BENEFIT OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:**



Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Town Attorney