

RESOLUTION NO.2025-3438

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA; EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH'S NEAR SHORE REEF PROJECT; EXPRESSING DESIRE TO COORDINATE WITH THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH AND VILLAGE OF BAL HARBOUR TO EXTEND THE NEAR SHORE REEF PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the shoreline just beyond the swimming buoys and extending for up to 1600 feet from the Town's shore is home to nurse sharks, endangered green sea turtles, endangered queen conch, seahorses, endless schools of tropical fish, and an impressive mix of hard coral, some of which is endangered; and

WHEREAS, a front-page story dedicated to this little-known ecosystem in Miami Beach was recently featured in The Miami Herald. The article can be accessed at <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/underwater-jewel-lies-just-off-093000365.html>; and

WHEREAS, this rare and fragile component of the Town's natural resources could become a valuable asset if protected with adequate safeguards and could attract residents and desirable ecotourists who could provide an economic boost as they stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, and charter dive shops in the area; and

WHEREAS, advertising billboard vessels as well as recreational boaters often traverse the area where this nascent reef and ecosystem exist, sometimes dragging anchors and sometimes endangering snorkelers and divers that the Town wishes to encourage to visit and enjoy the reef; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is currently exploring designating approximately 500 feet of near shore reef within its boundaries as a Marine Park to protect its reef ("Near Shore Reef Project");

WHEREAS, the Town Commission desires to express its support for the City of Miami's Near Shore Reef Project; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission seeks to coordinate with the City of Miami Beach and Village of Bal Harbour and explore the possibility of extending the Near Shore Reef Project to protect the Town's shore reef and ecosystem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA,

Section 1. Recitals. The above-stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Declaration. The Town Commission expresses its support for the City of Miami's Near Shore Reef Project and seeks to coordinate with the City of Miami Beach and Village of Bal Harbour to explore the possibility of extending the Near Shore Reef Project to protect the Town's shore reef and ecosystem.

Section 3. Implementation. The Town Commission hereby directs the Town Administration to coordinate with the City of Miami Beach and Village of Bal Harbour regarding the possibility of extending the Near Shore Reef Project in order to protect the Town's shore reef and ecosystem, and to prepare a Letter to Commission on or before December 30, 2025, describing the necessary regulatory approvals and feasibility of creating a Surfside Marine Park or Marine Park Conservation Area from 88 Street to Ninety-Six Street.

Section 4. Transmittals. The Town Clerk is hereby directed and authorized to send a certified copy of this Resolution to City of Miami Beach Officials: Mayor Steven Meiner, and Commissioners Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, Laura Dominguez, Alex J. Fernandez, Tanya K. Bhatt, David Suarez and Joseph Magazine.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of September, 2025.

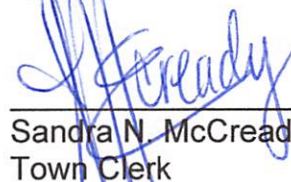
Motion By: Commissioner Velasquez

Second By: Commissioner Vildostegui


FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Ruben A. Coto	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velasquez	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Charles W. Burkett	<u>Yes</u>


Attest:


Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk




Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:


Thais Hernandez, Town Attorney