

RESOLUTION NO. 21-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, CREATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE; PROVIDING FOR THE SELECTION OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR A TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cutler Bay (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, Biscayne Bay is Miami-Dade County’s most vital quality of life asset and the mainstay of our economy; and

WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world’s leading scientists that global climate change is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions and major contributors to climate change and pollution; and

WHEREAS, local and regional tide data show a trend of rising sea levels and more recent data and factors suggest this trend may accelerate in the future; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Florida is widely considered one of the most vulnerable areas in the United States with respect to the consequences of climate change and sea level rise due to our topography, extensive coastline, and porous limestone bedrock; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to be proactive and address such issues by implementing policies or programs that promote efficient, cost effective building and infrastructure improvements and policies that protect and mitigate any damage to the Town’s buildings, infrastructure, and environment; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to build a more resilient community capable of mitigating the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, the Town desires to create an Environmental Task Force (the “Task Force”); and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will advise the Town Council on sustainability and resiliency policies and programs, and develop a plan that identifies projects that will make the Town more sustainable and resilient; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

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

Section 2. Creation of Environmental Task Force. The Town Council hereby creates a citizens task force, to be known as the “Environmental Task Force,” which shall be charged with: (1) identifying, studying, and recommending policies and programs that strengthen the Town’s sustainability and resiliency; and (2) developing a task force report that identifies a short-term, medium-term, and long-term project that will make the Town a more sustainable and resilient municipality, prioritizing natural and/or structural improvements within the Town (the “Task Force Report”). Four months after its creation, the Task Force shall present to the Town Council a status update on the development of the Task Force Report.

Section 3. Composition of the Task Force. The Task Force shall consist of five members and a Town Council Liaison. The Task Force shall be composed of three members with experience, training, or knowledge in environmental science; one member with service experience in the education system; and one member that is an active business member in the community. The Task Force members shall be appointed by the Town Council in accordance with Section 2-269 of the Town Code of Ordinances.

Section 4. Meetings of the Task Force. The Task Force shall have regular meetings in which to conduct business once a month, on such a regular date and time of each month as may be designated by a majority of the Task Force members. Regular meetings shall be conducted within a two (2) hour period of time, unless extended by a majority of Task Force members. Special meetings may be proposed by any Task Force member during a regular meeting and must be approved by a super majority vote of those Task Force members present. The Town Council Liaison of the Task Force shall be charged with the responsibility of notifying the Town Clerk of the requested special meeting. After receiving such a request, the Town Clerk shall ascertain if a majority of the Task Force members are available for a special meeting. If a majority of the Task Force members are available for the special meeting, the Town Clerk shall notify the Task Force of the date and time of such meeting. Notice for any special meeting shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the desired date of the meeting, unless emergency or other exigent circumstances require shorter notice, in which case reasonable notice shall be given. The notice shall state the purpose of the special meeting, and only business enumerated in the notice of special meeting shall be discussed at such meeting. If a majority of Task Force members are unavailable for a special meeting, it shall not be held.

Section 5. Dissolution of the Task Force. The Task Force shall remain in existence until such time as the Town Council, by affirmative action, deems the Task Force’s work to be complete, or nine months after delivery of the Task Force Report, whichever occurs first.

Section 6. Appointment of Task Force Liaison. The Town Council hereby appoints Council Member Roger Coriat as the Council Liaison to the Task Force.


Section 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 17th day of February, 2021.



TIM MEERBOTT
Mayor

Attest:



DEBRA E. EASTMAN, MMC
Town Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE
SOLE USE OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY:



WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN
COLE & BIERMAN, P.L.
Town Attorney

Moved By: Council Member Coriat
Seconded By: Council Member Duncan

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Mayor Tim Meerbott	YES
Vice Mayor Michael P. Callahan	YES
Council Member Robert "BJ" Duncan	YES
Council Member Suzy Lord	YES
Council Member Roger Coriat	YES