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PRESS RELEASE

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Miami Beach Fervently Continues its Green Efforts

-- New Green Building Certification Ordinance and Environment & Sustainability Department --

Miami Beach, FL: Last year, the Miami Beach Mayor and City Commission passed a resolution to make Miami Beach the greenest city in America. Since then, Miami Beach has catapulted initiatives such as installing Big Belly dual recycling bins in high pedestrian traffic areas, enhancing the dune system to provide natural habitat that protects the city's waterfront and passing a tree ordinance that promotes the enhancement of their urban forest.

Following the green charge, the Miami Beach City Commission unanimously passed an ordinance today that requires green building certification for new construction or payment into a sustainability and resiliency fund in lieu of certification.

The goal of the ordinance is to improve the city's building inventory by reducing energy demand, greenhouse gases emissions, encourage sustainable development, and enhance public health, safety and welfare. The sustainability and resiliency fund will be earmarked for improvements that increase the community's ability to respond to the changing climate, including environmental remediation, green public infrastructure and habitat restoration.

The Commission also unanimously approved the creation of a new Environment and Sustainability Department, appointing Elizabeth Wheaton at its helm. Wheaton previously served as an assistant building director overseeing the environment and sustainably division. She has been instrumental in the development implementation of the city's sea level rise and climate change initiatives, including the Dune Management Plan that focuses on an ecosystem based approach

"The natural environment has an important role in our adaptation efforts, it is encouraging to work for a city whose leadership supports policies that incorporate natural infrastructure and holistic planning," said Wheaton.

The Environment and Sustainability Department has committed to making Miami Beach more sustainable and to enhance the natural environment.

"We will work to improve the lives of our residents, and attract quality tourism. Together we will continue to rise above the challenges ahead and help build a city that celebrates our heritage, while creating a community of tomorrow," added Wheaton.

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