

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-27812

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO REJECT ANY AND ALL EXPANSIONS OF GAMBLING, INCLUDING LEGISLATION TO LEGALIZE "DESTINATION CASINOS" IN FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature is currently considering various measures that would substantially expand gambling in the State, and

WHEREAS, the legislation being considered would allow for casino operations that rival in size and scope the gambling operations existing in Las Vegas and Atlantic City; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the assurances of gambling promoters, historically, large scale casino operations cannibalize non-gambling businesses and have caused, for instance, the shuttering of forty percent of all restaurants and one-third of all retail businesses in Atlantic City; and

WHEREAS, our community will bear the severe and painful economic and social costs that always accompany expansive gambling, including the misery of individuals and families touched by problem gambling as they are at higher risk of divorce, bankruptcy, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, and suicide, and

WHEREAS, expanded gambling promotes corruption of the governmental process as immensely wealthy gambling companies from all over the world seek to receive benefits from state governmental entities that regulate their existence and profits, and

WHEREAS, if gambling interests are allowed to obtain major casino expansion, full scale casino and gambling operations will become commonplace throughout our community and our State, and

WHEREAS, inward facing mega-developments will privatize public streets, destroy the pedestrian experience of downtown neighborhoods, exacerbate traffic, and denigrate the quality of life in our community; and

WHEREAS, the false promises of increased revenue and jobs, like the broken promises that accompanied the lottery and other gambling expansions, are intended to convince Floridians to make a fool's gamble with their future, and

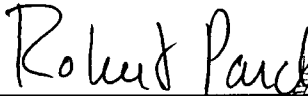
WHEREAS, based upon the foregoing concerns, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, hereby urge the Florida Legislature to reject any and all expansions of gambling in the State of Florida, including any legislation which would legalize so called "destination casinos "

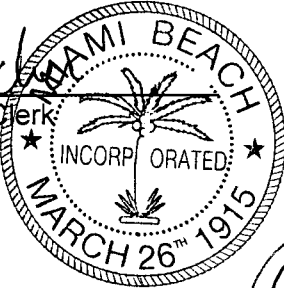
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Florida Legislature is hereby urged to reject any and all expansions of gambling, including legislation to legalize so called "destination casinos" in Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of December, 2011


ATTEST:


Matti Herrera Bower
Mayor


Robert Parcher, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION


CITY ATTORNEY

12/5/11
DATE



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

FROM: Matti Herrera Bower, Mayor *RW for MHB*

DATE: December 5, 2011

SUBJECT: R9 Item: Discussion Regarding a Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Gambling in the State of Florida

Please place on the Dec 14, 2011 Commission meeting agenda a discussion regarding a resolution opposing the expansion of gambling, including "destination resorts", in the State of Florida. The resolution is attached.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Wakefield at extension 6157.

Thank you.

MHB/rw