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PRESS RELEASE

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Miami Beach Receives Mayors' Climate Protection Award at the U.S. Conference of Mayors

— *Recognized for Sustainability and Resiliency Ordinance* —

Miami Beach, FL: The City of Miami Beach has been honored with the Small City Honorable Mention award at the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Awards ceremony for their adopted Sustainability and Resiliency Ordinance into its Land Development Regulations that establishes the highest standards for sustainable development in Florida.

"Since the City of Miami Beach is one of the most vulnerable places to the impacts of sea level rise and climate change, the Sustainability and Resiliency Ordinance establishes one of the most stringent green building ordinances in the nation in order to minimize the city's carbon footprint," said Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine.

Initiated and sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg, and unanimously approved by the Miami Beach City Commission, this ordinance requires that new development over 7,000 square feet or additions of 10,000 square feet to existing buildings be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certified or International Living Future Institute Petals, Net Zero Energy, or Living Building Challenge certified.

If the building has not achieved the required certification by the time an application for a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) is submitted, the applicant must pay a Sustainability Fee or post a bond in the amount of five percent of the construction cost. The fee is based on the average estimated cost of achieving LEED Gold certification. The applicant then has a year from the time in which a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or Certificate of Completion is obtained, with the possibility of a one-year extension, to get a full or partial refund of the fee.

If the applicant achieves a level LEED certification that is lower than Gold, then a partial refund of the fee can be issued pursuant to the level of certification achieved. Any money not refunded is deposited into the Sustainability and Resiliency Fund. The city can utilize this revenue to undertake improvements that increase the resiliency of the city, including environmental restoration projects, environmental remediation projects, environmental monitoring, green infrastructure, enhanced storm water quality and quantity improvements, and sustainability planning efforts.

In 2015, the city completed its first Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. The built environment represented 65 percent of the community's emissions. Through this ordinance, the city will design, build, and operate a new generation of efficient, environmentally responsible, healthy and resilient buildings and it will reduce the city's GHG emissions by increasing energy efficiency in buildings, encouraging water and resource conservation, reducing waste generated by construction projects, reducing long-term building operating and maintenance costs, improving indoor air quality and occupant health, contributing to reaching state and local commitments on reducing GHG emissions, and encouraging sound urban planning principles

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