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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2018

### **Urban Land Institute Releases Final Report for Miami Beach**

*— Applauding and Accelerating the City's Resiliency Strategy —*

**Miami Beach, FL** – Miami Beach's efforts to address sea level rise were buoyed by release this week of a comprehensive report from experts assembled by the Urban Land Institute (ULI). Following a review of the City's efforts and an intensive three-day visit this past April, the objective advisory panel issued its final report this week – marking the last phase in the organization's effort to enhance and refine the City's climate adaptation strategy and stormwater management.

"These are generational challenges so it's vital we inform our approach with the best available knowledge," said Mayor Dan Gelber. "I'm heartened that these experts believe we're on the right track, but also mindful that we need to incorporate their suggestions into our efforts."

The City was recognized for its innovative approach in engineering and prioritization of its stormwater pumps, carefully crafted communications materials, ability to raise funds through utility fees and collaboration with regional partnerships including the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities.

"Our experience with the expert panel has already influenced our approach to interdepartmental planning and community engagement," added Chief Resiliency Officer Susanne Torriente. "I look forward to the progress our recently created Miami Beach READY (Resilience Enhancement Action Design for You) team will make in operationalizing the recommendations put forth in the report."

Helping to guide the City's judgement and identify new directions to discover or continue to pursue, the panel also presented opportunities for improvement, including tasking the tropical metropolis with developing a more comprehensive vision for living with water. More specifically, their findings encouraged the City to utilize more greenspace as retention areas, enhance its urban landscape and create a more balanced harmony of green, blue and gray infrastructure.

"Given the flooding risks - king tides, stormwater and rising seas - Miami Beach's future seemed uncertain," expressed Panel Chair Joyce Coffee emphasizing the City's unique challenges. "The

Advisory Services Panel found a City working to stay ahead of these climate change risks. Miami Beach has raised funds to pay for significant adaptation measures, started to build resilience into their policy and infrastructure systems and continues to seek outside expertise to refine their approach. The next steps will not be free or easy. However, the City has the opportunity to build off of their early work to enhance safety and quality of life - leading the pack of coastal tourist hot spots with a more integrated approach.”

The complete report will be presented at the upcoming Wednesday, September 12 Commission meeting. More information on ULI’s findings can be found by [clicking here](#).

*This review is possible thanks to the generous support of the 100 Resilient Cities (RC) Network, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. 100 RC is dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Miami Beach joined the 100 RC network in 2018 in partnership with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County.*

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