

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2018-66**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA URGING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ("NOAA") AND THE COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC STUDIES ("CIMAS") TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO RETAIN THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FISHERIES HEADQUARTERS ON VIRGINIA KEY; AND, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION TO NOAA, CIMAS, THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL OF MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE ("RSMAS"), FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY ("FIU"); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") conducts atmospheric, marine, and fisheries-related scientific operations at two NOAA facilities headquartered on Virginia Key; and

WHEREAS, one of NOAA's Virginia Key facilities, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center ("SEFSC"), is responsible for scientific research on living marine resources that occupy marine and estuarine habitats in the continental southeastern United States, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, SEFSC is one of the six national marine fishery science centers responsible for federal marine fishery research programs and is the primary provider of research on fisheries and habitats for Biscayne National Park and the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the annual total budget for the SEFSC Miami lab ranges between \$15,000,000 to \$17,000,000, the bulk of which supports salaries for about 170 masters and Ph.D. level scientists; and

WHEREAS, the coral reefs in South Florida that the SEFSC Miami lab works to protect have an estimated asset value of over \$4.4 billion and are directly associated with over 70,000 part-time and full-time jobs in Southeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, NOAA operations on Virginia Key are performed in concert with research and teaching functions at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science ("RSMAS"), which is located directly adjacent to the SEFSC Miami lab; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (“CIMAS”) funds and coordinates scientific partnerships with NOAA, RSMAS, Florida International University (“FIU”), and other University programs in South Florida to educate the next generation of scientific leaders and it collaboratively works on pragmatic problems of societal importance; and

WHEREAS, leveraging their shared mission and physical proximity, for decades scientists and staff personnel involved in NOAA's operations on Virginia Key have served as adjunct faculty, research assistants, and other venture partners with RSMAS faculty and students, supporting and expanding on RSMAS' educational mission and engendering extensive working collaborations between NOAA and RSMAS, thus catalyzing significant research and knowledge, and the advancement of opportunities that relate directly to our sub-tropical marine environment; and

WHEREAS, reports provided by the University of Miami indicate that NOAA's SEFSC facility on Virginia Key may be outdated and in need of capital improvements, and that NOAA may be incentivized to close this facility on Virginia Key and relocate that operation to St. Petersburg, Florida; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City urges NOAA, CIMAS, RSMAS, FIU, Palm Beach County, Broward County, Miami-Dade County, Monroe County, and all municipalities within Miami-Dade County to advocate for and take affirmative steps to promptly address the needs of NOAA facilities and to encourage NOAA and CIMAS to maintain their full presence and mission on Virginia Key.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 10th DAY OF JULY, 2018.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



Michelle Coldiron, Mayor

AYES: Bartus, Cook, Senmartin, Zieg, Coldiron
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

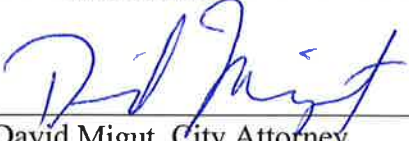
ATTEST:



Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**



David Migut, City Attorney