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**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2021-15**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA  
URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT GOVERNOR  
RON DESANTIS'S STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET  
RECOMMENDATION TO CREATE THE "RESILIENT FLORIDA"  
PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, the climate is changing, manifesting in significant impacts to Florida, including increasing average temperatures, more intense storm events, and rising sea levels; and

**WHEREAS**, sea level rise, caused by the thermal expansion of warming ocean water and melting land ice as the earth warms, is one of the most evident impacts in the City of Marathon given the City's low-lying elevation and porous geology; and

**WHEREAS**, in the coming decades, rising temperatures are likely to increase damages from storms, harm coral reefs, and increase the frequency of unpleasantly hot days; and

**WHEREAS**, if the oceans and atmosphere continue to warm, sea level along the Florida coast is likely to rise one to four feet in the next century; and

**WHEREAS**, rising sea levels submerge wetlands and dry land, erodes beaches, and exacerbates coastal flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, tropical storms and hurricanes have become more intense over the past 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, cities, roads, critical infrastructure, and water supplies in Florida, and particularly in Monroe County, are highly vulnerable to the impacts of storms and sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, even if storm intensity does not increase, coastal homes and infrastructure will flood more often because storm surges will become higher as sea levels rise; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's coral reefs are susceptible to warming waters and ocean acidification, as rising water temperatures can harm the algae inside corals and provide food for them; and

**WHEREAS**, changing climate combined with sea level rise is likely to impact tourism if measures are not undertaken to combat the effects; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ron DeSantis recommended the formation of “Resilient Florida” in his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to tackle the challenges posed by sea level rise, intensifying storm events, and flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, if adopted, “Resilient Florida” would use revenues from the state’s documentary stamp tax to pay for the debt service on \$1 billion in bonds for projects carried out by local governments that address the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, “Resilient Florida” could provide funding for projects ranging from preserving land to elevating roads to addressing the impact of sea level rise on government structures or services; and

**WHEREAS**, “Resilient Florida” would also provide grants to coastal counties, coastal municipalities, and inland counties that have not completed vulnerability assessments related to the threat of sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, substantial resources are needed to address and implement steps to fight the impact of sea level rise on Florida in general, and South Florida in particular.

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

**Section 1.** Approves the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2.** Urges the Florida Legislature to adopt Governor Ron DeSantis’s state fiscal year 2021-2022 budget recommendation to create the “Resilient Florida” program.

**Section 3.** Directs the City Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Monroe County State Legislative Delegation, and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**Section 4.** Directs the City’s state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 2 above and authorizes and directs the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 State Legislative Package to include this item.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2021.**

**THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA**

  
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**Luis Gonzalez, Mayor**

AYES: Bartus, Cook, Senmartin, Zieg, Gonzalez  
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:**

  
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Steve Williams, City Attorney