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**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2021-110**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA URGING THE MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TO DENY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN (COMP) AMENDMENT APPLICATION CDMP 20210003, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Southern Florida is home to the Everglades National Park, the Biscayne National Park and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, each a national and statewide environmental treasure with uniquely important and diverse natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, these unique resources contribute to an unparalleled ecosystem that is critical to South Florida's regional environment and regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal and state governments have authorized and appropriated significant public investment in the restoration and preservation of the Everglades and South Florida ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marathon, as all jurisdictions in the Florida Keys, share in the stewardship responsibilities of this unique ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marathon continues to invest in and to work on partnership with state and federal agencies to protect its existing public and private investments from sea level rise and to restore and protect the health and economic value of its marine environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the environment, economy, public safety, and community character of the Florida Keys can be substantially affected by land use decisions in southern Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade County Commission is currently considering an amendment to its Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) which would expand the Miami-Dade County Urban Development Boundary (UDB) to include 793-acres of farmland adjacent to the Homestead Air Reserve Base, and redesignate this area from agriculture to "special district" on the Future Land Use Map; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed expansion of the Urban Development Boundary in South Miami-Dade in Miami-Dade County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) Amendment Application CDMP 20210003, and its accompanying 793-acre industrial project is a

significant land use decision with potentially detrimental regional environmental, economic, and public safety impacts, including impacts for the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, it is yet unclear as to the environmental impacts of this land use decision, the City of Marathon is concerned that the proposed expansion of the Urban Development Boundary could negatively impact the sensitive Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and

**WHEREAS**, the area under consideration is in direct proximity to wellfields that are critical for the protection of Monroe County's water supply and is also within the project scope and boundary of the Biscayne Bay Southeast Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) which is currently under evaluation by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District for consideration of opportunities to deliver a greater amount of fresh water to Biscayne and Florida Bays; and

**WHEREAS**, development of this area could foreclose future opportunities for wetland rehydration or ecosystem restoration projects under BBSEER, reducing project viability and impeding water flow into Everglades National Park, Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; all of which are critical components for protecting the vital resources of Monroe County, the Florida Keys, and the City of Marathon; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued environmental and economic viability of Florida Keys depends on the preservation of those environmental resources and on the continued protection of the quality, tranquility and peace of our surrounding waters and airspace over those waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment within the Urban Development Boundary in South Miami-Dade may allow for future large-scale urban growth outside the current UDB, irrevocably altering future urban development, particularly for the adjacent Homestead Air Reserve Base; and

**WHEREAS**, the Homestead Air Reserve Base and its neighboring territory is subject the same threats and potential evacuation orders as the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, the density of potential development in this area of Miami-Dade County has direct impacts on critically important hurricane evacuation timing and routing and designated for all of the residents of Monroe County; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed expansion will add traffic congestion and could adversely impact the Florida Turnpike (a Strategic Intermodal System facility), other local roads, including reducing the operation of the transportation corridor and hurricane evacuation; and

**WHEREAS**, due to these concerns, the City of Marathon appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed comprehensive plan amendments and continues to encourage intergovernmental coordination and collaboration between the adjacent counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marathon encourages Miami-Dade County to continue to review and regulate land use in a manner that provides for adequate public infrastructure, does not result

in a reduction of the level-of-service requirements, protects key assets, and maximizes safety, economic benefit, environmental compatibility within the County and with the adjacent and regional local governments, State, and federal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marathon continues to support mechanisms to ensure that full consideration is given to the impacts of development allowed by the adjacent municipalities, adjacent counties of Miami-Dade, the region, the State and the federal governments, as well as the potential impacts of development allowed by Monroe County on those entities; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County staff noted major inconsistencies between this proposed project and have recommended that the County deny the CDMP Amendment application and the City of Marathon urges the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners to consider and uphold the determination of its planning staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marathon finds that denial of the CDMP Amendment Application CDMP 20210003 is in the best interest of the City of Marathon, its residents, and visitors,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated into this Resolution by reference.

**Section 2.** The City Council of the City of Marathon, Florida expresses strong concerns about the impacts of development and expansion of the Urban Development Boundary in Miami-Dade County on the Florida Keys and urges the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and the State of Florida to deny the proposed Development Master Plan (CDMP) Amendment Application CDMP 20210003; and

**Section 3.** The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit certified copies of the Resolution to the Mayor and Commissioners of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and to Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Secretary Dane Eagle.

**Section 4.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

**THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA**

  
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**Mayor John Bartus**

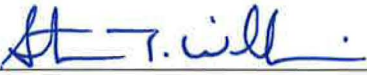
AYES: Bartus, Cook, Woofsey, Gonzalez, Zieg  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**ATTEST:**

  
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Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

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

  
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City Attorney, Steven T. Williams