

**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 9TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021.**

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

Luis Gonzalez, Mayor

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

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:**

Steve Williams, City Attorney