

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



Meeting Date: August 9, 2022
To: Honorable Mayor and Council Members
From: George Garrett, City Manager

Agenda Item: Resolution 2022-94, Of The City Council Of The City Of Marathon, Florida Requesting That The United States Congress Support Robust Funding For Sanctuaries And Marine Protected Areas Within The National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration; And Providing For An Effective Date.

BACKGROUND

A unique opportunity exists this year to support a significantly larger draft budget than the National Ocean Service and the National Marine Sanctuaries has seen in the past decade or more. This Resolution requests that Congress, through the City’s legislative delegation, support the Presidents draft budget for the marine sanctuaries program.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No
1. Comprehensive Plan	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
2. Other – 2010 Sewer Mandate	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

FISCAL NOTE:

NA

APPROVED BY FINANCE DIRECTOR:

NA

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

Sponsored by: Garrett

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2022-94**

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS SUPPORT ROBUST FUNDING FOR SANCTUARIES AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon, Florida is a duly constituted municipality having such power and authority conferred upon it by the Florida Constitution and Chapter 166, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas within the National Marine Sanctuary System comprise an essential network of more than 600,000 square miles of protected waters held in trust for all people, conserving some of the United States' most critical natural, historic, and cultural resources and promoting access for exploration and world-class outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, Sanctuaries and marine protected areas are vital to maintaining a healthy ocean, addressing climate change and sea level rise, and sustaining valuable coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, Sanctuaries generate \$8 billion annually in local economies and support numerous jobs and businesses in the fishing, tourism, recreation, and scientific research sectors; and

WHEREAS, increased investments in Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas are necessary to safeguard and enhance the ecosystem services and economic values these protected areas provide to our communities; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary harbors unique and valuable tropical marine ecosystems, including the only barrier coral reef in the continental United States, mangroves forests, seagrass meadows, numerous threatened and endangered species, and commercially and recreationally important species; and

WHEREAS, the coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangroves of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary buffer Florida Keys and South Florida communities from the impacts of hurricanes and storm surge, with coral reefs providing flood protection benefits of \$675 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act in 1990 to protect the resources of the area, to educate and interpret for the public regarding the Florida Keys marine environment, and to manage human uses of the Sanctuary consistent with the Act; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and surrounding waters support diverse and interconnected habitats that are vital to the multi-billion dollar fishing and tourism industry of the Florida Keys and South Florida, including commercial and recreational fishing, snorkeling, diving, boat and equipment rentals, other tourism related business, and taxable property values in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary supports more than 43,000 jobs in the Florida Keys, and contributes \$4.4 billion annually to Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress is currently developing its fiscal year 2023 budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas; and

WHEREAS, significantly increased funding is necessary to meet the goal of advancing conservation and restoration in Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, including the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon, Florida hereby wishes to convey its support for the robust funding request of \$87 million for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas to ensure the continued viability and success of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

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 are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The City Council hereby urges the United States Congress to support robust funding for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the fiscal year 2023 budget to ensure sustained support for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the signature of both parties.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to transmit this Resolution to the City's Washington, D.C. lobbyist, to the City's Congressional Delegation, to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Marathon, Florida, this 9th day of August, 2022.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

John Bartus, 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