

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE MIAMI SEAQUARIUM TO RETIRE LOLITA, THE ENDANGERED ORCA WHALE, AND RELOCATE HER TO A SANCTUARY THAT WILL REINTRODUCE LOLITA TO HER NATURAL HABITAT IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE MIAMI SEAQUARIUM, OWNED AND OPERATED BY PARQUES REUNIDOS SERVICIOS CENTRALES S.A., AND TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, orca whales have been classified as endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, orca whales are notable for their high intelligence, sentience, and complex social and emotional bonds and societies; and

WHEREAS, the orca whale "Lolita" was captured from Penn Cove, Puget Sound, Washington, on August 8, 1970, and sold to the Miami Seaquarium (now owned by Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.) for \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, Lolita is now 22-feet long and approximately 7,000 pounds and has lived for over four decades in an enclosure measuring only 80-feet by 35-feet with a depth of only 20-feet; and

WHEREAS, a 2017 audit of Lolita's enclosure by the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that Lolita's enclosure fails to comply with the space requirements defined by the agency's Animal Welfare Act regulations; and

1 WHEREAS, the USDA 2017 audit found that the design of Lolita's enclosure
2 denies her sufficient space for adequate freedom of movement; and

3 WHEREAS, a comprehensive transport, rehabilitation, and retirement plan has
4 been developed by Ken Balcomb of the Center for Whale Research and Howard Garrett
5 of the Orca Network, to bring Lolita safely to Eastsound, Orcas Island, in Washington
6 state for rehabilitation and reintroduction into her natural habitat; and

7 WHEREAS, the future health, safety, and welfare of the endangered orca whale,
8 Lolita, are matters of great concern to all who care about endangered species and their
9 humane treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
12 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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14 Section 1. That the Board of County Commissioners hereby urges Parques
15 Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A. to retire the endangered orca whale, Lolita, to relocate
16 her from a small tank in the Miami Seaquarium to the Pacific Northwest, and to
17 reintroduce her to her natural habitat as soon as possible.

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19 Section 2. The County Administrator is directed to transmit a copy of this
20 resolution to the Miami Seaquarium, owned and operated by Parques Reunidos Servicios
21 Centrales S.A., and to the Mayor of the City of Miami Beach, Florida.

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Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this day of , 2017.

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

By /s/ Daniel J. DiMatteo 11/08/17 PROPOSED
Daniel J. DiMatteo (date)
Assistant County Attorney

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11/08/17
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