

RESOLUTION NO. 18-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, URGING
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
TO RETAIN THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FISHERIES
HEADQUARTERS ON VIRGINIA KEY; PROVIDING FOR
TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) conducts atmospheric, marine, and fisheries-related scientific operations at two (2) NOAA facilities on Virginia Key; and

WHEREAS, NOAA’s operations address local environmental and weather threats, as well as enhance South Florida’s overall reputation and national profile; and

WHEREAS, since 1965, the fisheries facility on Virginia Key has represented years of collaboration between NOAA and the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science; and

WHEREAS, NOAA also works in tandem with Florida International University and other schools to educate the next generation of scientific leaders while supporting individuals interested in helping protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, the NOAA fisheries facility located on Virginia Key promotes economic and environmental sustainability for the South Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cutler Bay (the “Town”) is located adjacent to Biscayne Bay and environmentally protected wetlands, in which the Town enjoys having a major environmental research facility near; and

WHEREAS, the NOAA fisheries facility on Virginia Key is reportedly in need of capital improvements, which may incentivize NOAA to close the Virginia Key fisheries facility to relocate its operations to St. Petersburg, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Key Biscayne adopted a Resolution on February 13, 2018 urging NOAA to retain the fisheries facility on Virginia Key as a relocation would set back pending research involving critical local issues such as hurricane intensity, weather research, fish population sustainability, and coral reef health; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports the retention of the NOAA fisheries facility on Virginia Key and the future of South Florida as home to an educated citizenry with such excellent institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the adoption of this Resolution is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Recitals.** The above Recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. **Urging.** The Town Council hereby urges the United States Department of Commerce to retain the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Headquarters on Virginia Key.

Section 3. **Transmittal.** The Town Council hereby directs the Town Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the United States Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Miami-Dade County Congress Legislative Delegation, and the Village of Key Biscayne.

Section 4. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of March, 2018.

Attest:

PEGGY R. BELL
Mayor

DEBRA E. EASTMAN, MMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE
SOLE USE OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY:

WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN
COLE, & BIERMAN, P.L.
Town Attorney

Moved By: _____
Seconded By: _____

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Mayor Peggy R. Bell _____

Vice Mayor Sue Ellen Loyzelle _____

Council Member Mary Ann Mixon _____

Council Member Michael P. Callahan _____

Council Member Roger Coriat _____