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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tomorrow: Citywide Polystyrene Ban Begins on Miami Beach — *First City in Florida to Enact a Citywide Ban* —

Miami Beach, FL – Get ready to say goodbye to Styrofoam on Miami Beach as a citywide ban goes into effect tomorrow that prohibits restaurants and stores from using or selling expanded polystyrene. This ordinance carries fines ranging from \$50 for a first offense to \$500 for third and subsequent offenses.

“Our ordinance is geared toward eliminating the presence of this pollutant in the city’s waterways, parks and streets,” said Miami Beach Director of Environment & Sustainability Elizabeth Wheaton. “We are proud to be first city in Florida to enact such a comprehensive prohibition and urge others to follow suit.”

The phase-out process was comprised of adopting of four different ordinances that included the city’s beaches, parks, public facilities, special event permittees, as well as marinas, piers, docks and boat ramps owned, operated, leased, or managed by the city. The fourth and latest ordinance outlined that no food service provider or store should sell, use, offer for sale or use, or provide food in expanded polystyrene food service articles throughout the city. The enforcement and penalties of this ordinance will take effect on **September 16, 2016**. As of this date, food service providers or stores not complying with the ordinance will receive fines.

Furthermore, the City of Miami Beach began enforcing this fourth ordinance in segments. For the first segment, the city began a widespread public outreach process, educating residents and businesses about the provisions of the ordinance and alternatives to expanded polystyrene food service materials. The city then publicized the ordinance for six months through letters, social media and through the city’s Code Compliance Department. The second segment included written warnings that took place over the course of an additional six months, concluding on September 15, 2016.

“Code Compliance Officers have been working diligently to educate local businesses and issue

written warnings for any expanded polystyrene violations,” added Miami Beach Code Compliance Director Hernan Cardeno.

The last segment takes effect on **September 16, 2016** in which fines will be distributed to businesses in violation of the ordinance.

For more information on how Miami Beach is going foam free, visit www.mbrisingabove.com.

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