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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updated Statement Regarding the World OutGames Cancellations

Miami Beach, FL – The City of Miami Beach is deeply concerned to hear that the World OutGames has decided to cancel their Opening and Closing Ceremonies and sports programming, with the exception of soccer, aquatics and country western dance. The Human Rights Conference and cultural programming are still planned to take place.

City staff has worked consistently for the past several months to assist the event producers with special events planning and permitting; fundraising efforts; relocating events to low or no cost venues; assisting with local partners to provide support and access; and providing financial support to cover police staffing costs. As a lead sponsor of the event, the City also waived all related special event and permitting fees for this event and provided cash sponsorship to the OutGames.

Due to the potential misappropriation of funds, the Miami Beach Police Department and the State Attorney's Office have conferred and are jointly opening a fraud investigation.

We remain very committed to our LGBTQ community, and the City of Miami Beach will do everything within our power to ascertain where the failures within the event organization occurred.

We are grateful to the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau who will have a representative at the National Hotel, the World OutGames headquarter hotel, for the duration of the events to liaise with participants on possible alternative activities during their stay, including discounted offers and local attractions.

We welcome the athletes, families, and visitors in attendance for the events still scheduled, and remain honored to be chosen as a host city known for our unwavering commitment to the LGBTQ community.

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