

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, GRANTING RENEWAL OF A NONEXCLUSIVE, UNRESTRICTED PORT EVERGLADES STEAMSHIP AGENT FRANCHISE TO USA MARITIME ENTERPRISES, INC., FOR A NEW FIVE-YEAR TERM; PROVIDING FOR FRANCHISE TERMS AND CONDITIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 32, Part II, of the Broward County Administrative Code (“Administrative Code”) sets forth criteria for the granting of franchises to businesses to conduct certain operations at Port Everglades, including, but not limited to, steamship agent services;

WHEREAS, Section 32.15 of the Administrative Code authorizes Broward County (the “County”) to grant different types of franchises: exclusive or nonexclusive; and restricted or unrestricted;

WHEREAS, Section 32.22 of the Administrative Code provides that franchises shall be granted by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) by Resolution after public hearing;

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2020, by Resolution No. 2020-708, the Board granted USA Maritime Enterprises, Inc. (“USA Maritime Enterprises”), a renewal of a nonexclusive Port Everglades steamship agent franchise, with a five-year term commencing on January 3, 2021, and ending on January 2, 2026 (“Prior Franchise”);

22 WHEREAS, USA Maritime Enterprises recently submitted an application for
23 renewal of its Prior Franchise so that it may continue providing steamship agent services
24 at Port Everglades;

25 WHEREAS, the Board reviewed USA Maritime Enterprises' application pursuant
26 to the requirements of Chapter 32 of the Administrative Code, and is relying on the
27 representations made by USA Maritime Enterprises in that application;

28 WHEREAS, on December 9, 2025, a public hearing was held to consider USA
29 Maritime Enterprises' application; and

30 WHEREAS, based on the representations of USA Maritime Enterprises, and
31 information presented by Broward County staff and the public, the Board does hereby
32 determine and establish that USA Maritime Enterprises has met each of the factors set
33 forth in applicable provisions of Chapter 32 of the Administrative Code for the granting of
34 a renewal of USA Maritime Enterprises' Prior Franchise so that it may continue providing
35 steamship agent services at Port Everglades, NOW, THEREFORE,

36 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
37 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

38 Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are hereby ratified by
39 the Board.

Section 2. Renewal of Prior Franchise.

USA Maritime Enterprises is hereby granted renewal of its Prior Franchise so that it may continue to provide steamship agent services at Port Everglades (the "Franchise"), subject to the terms and conditions of this Resolution.

Section 3. Term.

The Franchise shall be for a period of five (5) years, commencing January 3, 2026, and ending January 2, 2031, unless sooner terminated in accordance with Section 32.29 of the Administrative Code.

Section 4. Franchise Conditions.

By its execution of the franchise renewal application, USA Maritime Enterprises agreed to be bound by and comply with all terms and conditions set forth in Sections 32.23 and 32.24 of the Administrative Code.

Section 5. Law, Jurisdiction, Venue, and Waiver of Jury Trial.

The Franchise shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Except as provided herein, the exclusive venue for any lawsuit arising from, related to, or in connection with the Franchise shall be in the state courts of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida. For matters that fall within the exclusive subject matter jurisdiction of the federal courts or those to which jurisdiction is confirmed by law upon the Federal Maritime Commission ("FMC"), the exclusive venue for any such lawsuit shall be in the United States District Court, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida, or the FMC, as applicable. USA Maritime Enterprises irrevocably subjects itself to the jurisdiction of said

courts. **EACH PARTY HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVES ANY RIGHTS IT MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY OF ANY CIVIL LITIGATION RELATED TO THE FRANCHISE.**

Section 6. Independent Auditor.

If requested by the Broward County Auditor, USA Maritime Enterprises shall appoint, at its sole cost, an independent auditor approved by the Broward County Auditor to (a) review USA Maritime Enterprises' ongoing compliance with the terms and conditions of the Franchise; and (b) issue a compliance report to Broward County within thirty (30) calendar days after the appointment of the independent auditor.

Section 7. Audit Rights and Retention of Records.

County shall have the right to audit the books, records, and accounts of USA Maritime Enterprises and all subcontractors that are related to this Franchise. USA Maritime Enterprises and all subcontractors shall keep such books, records, and accounts as may be necessary to record complete and correct entries related to this Franchise and performance under this Franchise. All such books, records, and accounts shall be kept in written form or in a form capable of conversion into written form within a reasonable time; upon request by County, USA Maritime Enterprises and all subcontractors shall make same available to County in written form at no cost to County and allow County to make copies. USA Maritime Enterprises shall provide County with reasonable access to USA Maritime Enterprises' facilities, and County shall be allowed to interview all employees to discuss matters pertinent to the performance of this Franchise.

USA Maritime Enterprises and all subcontractors shall preserve and make available, at reasonable times within Broward County, Florida, for examination and audit, all financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and any other documents

pertinent to this Franchise for at least three (3) years after expiration or termination of this Franchise or until resolution of any audit findings, whichever is longer. This section shall survive any dispute or litigation between County and USA Maritime Enterprises, and USA Maritime Enterprises expressly acknowledges and agrees to be bound by this article throughout the course of any dispute or litigation with County. Any audit or inspection pursuant to this section may be performed by any County representative (including any outside representative engaged by County). USA Maritime Enterprises hereby grants County the right to conduct such audit or review at USA Maritime Enterprises' place of business, if deemed appropriate by County, with seventy-two (72) hours' advance notice. USA Maritime Enterprises shall make all such records and documents available electronically, in common file formats, and/or via remote access, if and to the extent requested by County.

USA Maritime Enterprises shall pay to County any underpaid amount identified as a result of an audit, regardless of the amount of the underpayment. If an audit in accordance with this section reveals underpayments to County of any nature by USA Maritime Enterprises in excess of five percent (5%) of the applicable contract billings reviewed by County, in addition to making adjustments for the underpayments, USA Maritime Enterprises shall pay the reasonable cost of County's audit. Any adjustments or payments due as a result of such audit shall be made within thirty (30) days after presentation of County's findings to USA Maritime Enterprises.

USA Maritime Enterprises shall ensure that the requirements of this section are included in all agreements with all subcontractors.

Section 8. Notices.

In order for a notice to a party to be effective under the Franchise, notice must be sent via U.S. first-class mail, hand delivery, or commercial overnight delivery, each with a contemporaneous copy via email, to the addresses stated below and shall be effective upon mailing or hand delivery (provided the contemporaneous e-mail is also sent). A party may change its notice address by giving notice of such change in accordance with this section. Until any change is made, notices to USA Maritime Enterprises shall be delivered to the person identified in the franchise application as having authority to bind USA Maritime Enterprises, and notices to Broward County shall be delivered to the following:

Broward County, Port Everglades Department

ATTN: Chief Executive/Port Director

1850 Eller Drive

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

E-mail: jmmorris@broward.org

Section 9. Issuance of Certificate.

In accordance with Section 32.27 of the Administrative Code, the Port Everglades Department, Business Development Division, will issue a franchise certificate to USA Maritime Enterprises setting forth the terms and conditions of the Franchise.

Section 10. Severability.

If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such

133 | This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

By: /s/ Carlos Rodriguez-Cabarrocas 10/01/2025
 Carlos Rodriguez-Cabarrocas (date)
 Senior Assistant County Attorney