

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

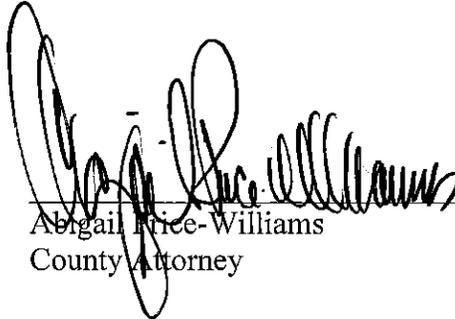
TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 7, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Governor and Legislature to:
(1) study the causes of the algae blooms that have impacted certain Florida counties, identify solutions, and develop plans to prevent such algae blooms from reoccurring in the future; and
(2) develop a marketing strategy to ensure presence of the algae blooms does not adversely affect tourism in counties not directly affected, but that may see negative impacts based on perception

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 7, 2016

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County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

Veto _____

9-7-16

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO: (1) STUDY THE CAUSES OF THE ALGAE BLOOMS THAT HAVE IMPACTED CERTAIN FLORIDA COUNTIES, IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS, AND DEVELOP PLANS TO PREVENT SUCH ALGAE BLOOMS FROM REOCCURRING IN THE FUTURE; AND (2) DEVELOP A MARKETING STRATEGY TO ENSURE PRESENCE OF THE ALGAE BLOOMS DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT TOURISM IN COUNTIES NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTED, BUT THAT MAY SEE NEGATIVE IMPACTS BASED ON PERCEPTION

WHEREAS, in May 2016, large algae blooms began to plague certain Florida communities in and around the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries, into which polluted water from Lake Okeechobee is discharged; and

WHEREAS, Lake Okeechobee, which is Florida’s largest freshwater lake, serves as a catchall for runoff from surrounding farms and neighborhoods, with nutrients from septic system discharges, manure, and fertilizer likely impacting the Lake as a matter of course; and

WHEREAS, as fertilizer runs off of farms and enters a body of water such as Lake Okeechobee, it creates an overabundance of nutrients in the water, including nitrogen and phosphorus, that can lead to the growth of algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, to reduce stress on the Herbert Hoover Dike, an aging structure surrounding Lake Okeechobee, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers carefully controls water levels by periodically discharging water from the Lake; and

WHEREAS, when rainfalls are especially heavy, as occurred in January 2016, water is dumped in large quantities from the polluted Lake into the surrounding rivers, estuaries, and waterways; and

WHEREAS, although exposure to saltwater has helped to keep the current algae blooms in check, when large amounts of freshwater and nutrient pollution continue to be discharged from the Lake, there is sufficient freshwater and nutrients for the algae blooms to survive, thrive, and grow; and

WHEREAS, the resulting algae blooms can produce toxins that are harmful to humans, as well as to marine wildlife and plants; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2016, Governor Scott issued Executive Order 16-155, declaring a state of emergency in Martin and St. Lucie Counties following the presence of harmful algae blooms in local waterways; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2016, the Governor issued Executive Order 16-156, expanding the state of emergency to include Lee and Palm Beach Counties as well; and

WHEREAS, while the recent algae blooms have not similarly occurred in Miami-Dade County, the effects on human health, the environment, and the economy may be far-reaching; and

WHEREAS, in addition, there is concern that such algae blooms could impact Miami-Dade County in the future if the problem is not dealt with promptly and responsibly; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the residents, visitors, environment, and local economy of Miami-Dade County are protected, the Florida Governor and Legislature should study the causes of the algae blooms, identify potential solutions, and develop plans to prevent such algae blooms from reoccurring in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Governor and Legislature should also develop a marketing strategy designed to make certain that tourism in areas of the state not directly impacted by the algae blooms does not suffer due to negative perception,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Governor and Legislature to study the causes of the algae blooms that have impacted certain Florida counties, identify potential solutions, and develop plans to prevent such algae blooms from reoccurring in the future.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Governor and Legislature to develop a marketing strategy to ensure that the algae blooms do not adversely affect tourism in counties not directly affected, but that may see negative impacts based on perception.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Governing Board and Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2017 State Legislative Package when it is presented the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Dennis C. Moss

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Juan C. Zapata

Daniella Levine Cava

Audrey M. Edmonson

Barbara J. Jordan

Rebeca Sosa

Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of September, 2016. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



James Eddie Kirtley