

Date: January 19, 2017

To: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Report on Additional Alternative Revenue Sources to Supplant Park Fees – Directive 160013

March 7, 2017
Agenda Item No. 2B6

At the April 12, 2016 Unincorporated Municipal Service Area Committee meeting, Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava asked the administration to provide a report identifying additional alternative revenue sources that could be used to supplant existing park fees and include a review of measures undertaken by other jurisdictions to support their respective park systems.

During the same time period, I began meeting with park advocates, led by the Miami Foundation and the Parks Foundation, regarding funding for Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department's (PROS) unmet needs, deferred maintenance, security, programs, and the build-out, operation, and maintenance of Miami-Dade County's Parks and Open Space Master Plan (OSMP). Those meetings resulted in the release of my September 20, 2016 memorandum titled "Future Parks and Open Spaces System" (attached), which outlines a series of meetings between senior management (Office of Management and Budget, Finance, PROS), the Miami Foundation, the Parks Foundation, and key stakeholders.

The relevant parties held their first meeting on November 28, 2016. Given the synergy among Commissioner Levine Cava's request, the Board's interest in funding alternatives for Parks, and my administration's ongoing conversations with the Miami Foundation and the Parks Foundation, we will incorporate the alternative funding question into our ongoing initiative to identify funding solutions for park maintenance, operations and programs, and the OSMP and provide the Board with quarterly reports. All parties will have the opportunity to discuss the topic of funding in the context of the County's vision, as codified in the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP).

If additional information is needed, please contact George Navarrete, Director Designee, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department at (305)755-7877.

Attachment

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Michael Spring, Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces
George Navarrete, Director Designee, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces
Neil R. Singh, Interim Commission Auditor
Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board

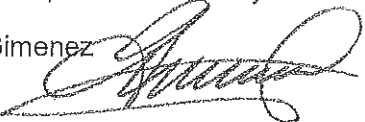
ATTACHMENT

Memorandum



Date: September 20, 2016

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

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Future Parks and Open Spaces System

At the first budget hearing, I remarked about the importance of funding for parks and open spaces: for maintenance, for programming, for new development. We find ourselves at a unique juncture to make decisions about our community's green spaces and parks and the legacy we want to leave for future generations. We are within \$1 million of fully expending the highly successful Safe Neighborhood Parks program, a \$230 million bond program that funded more than 250 parks and other projects throughout our community. Within three years we will pay off our Criminal Justice Bonds, freeing up capacity in our voted debt millage rate. Finally, we have a strategic plan already unanimously adopted in 2008 by our Board of County Commissioners and subsequently by all of our 34 municipalities and the School Board – the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan (the Master Plan) – that calls for great parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, streets, greenways, blueways, and trails to form the framework for a more sustainable community. This is the time for us – as a community – to decide our future parks system.

Implementation of the Master Plan must be considered as a vital element of a healthy and prosperous Miami-Dade County. Existing regional and municipal parks require continued support and the Master Plan addresses both the needs of these assets with a visionary approach to integrating improved and expanded parks, public spaces and the programs that make people happy and keep children active and safe, into the overall fabric of the community. We want to be a place where residents want to live, employers want to do business, and tourists want to visit.

At the same time we are developing a plan for implementation for the Master Plan, we must also develop a strategy to provide the resources needed to support not only capital development, but also operations and programming, as well as long-term maintenance needs. As noted above, at least on the part of the voted-debt millage, flexibility will be available in the near future. Decisions must be made weighing the priority of parks and green spaces against other financial policies and priorities.

We have momentum and we cannot let that slip away. I have tasked my Senior Management in the areas of parks and recreation and finance and budget to work with the Parks Foundation, the Miami Foundation and key stakeholders and continue this effort with vigor. Developing a reasonable schedule for implementation, resource options, and a system for oversight and monitoring that takes into account lessons learned from previous public programs will take some time and care. We will report to the Board of County Commissioners' committee of jurisdiction on a quarterly basis on the progress of our working group, beginning in December 2016, when we will identify our initial schedule of activities, goals and milestones.

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and Members Board of County Commissioners
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The great cities in our country have found that investing in great parks and public spaces pays handsome dividends – every great community has a great park system. I look forward to working with you in developing this important legacy for our community. Please feel free to provide your input to my staff or to me personally. Only with community-wide involvement can we hope to create a comprehensive plan of which we can all be proud.

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Jennifer Moon, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces
Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board
Neil R. Singh, Interim Commission Auditor

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