

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

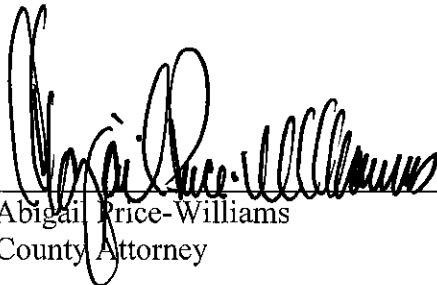
TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 7, 2017

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to provide funding
for the Deering Estate Cultural
and Ecological Field Station
Research Center and expressing
support for such budget request

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/lmp

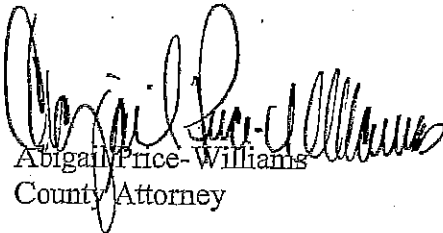


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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County Attorney

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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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

11-7-17

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE DEERING ESTATE
CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL FIELD STATION
RESEARCH CENTER AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
SUCH BUDGET REQUEST

WHEREAS, located along the edge of Biscayne Bay, the 444-acre Deering Estate is an environmental, archaeological and historic preserve that offers unique opportunities to experience Florida's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Deering Estate is managed by Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, on behalf of the State of Florida, which owns the property; and

WHEREAS, the Deering Estate Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the Deering Estate; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Deering Estate Foundation received an 8.75-acre property located adjacent to the Deering Estate, appraised at \$4,900,000.00, from local philanthropist Marta S. Weeks, for the purpose of preserving the land in perpetuity and to support the ongoing development of the Estate's cultural and environmental education programs; and

WHEREAS, the donated property includes a 10,700-sq. ft. energy efficient facility originally built in 1982; and

WHEREAS, the Deering Estate Foundation has submitted a non-recurring funding request to the Florida Legislature for Fiscal Year 2017-18 for \$1,250,000.00 to develop the donated property into the Deering Estate Cultural & Ecological Field Station Research Center, which represents 20 percent of the total funding required for this project; and

WHEREAS, the remainder of the funding required for this project has been received in full from private donations; and

WHEREAS, funds are requested to support the improvements required to bring the donated facility up to code providing for public access and to support repurposing the facility to serve as a public research center to access an archival library and to provide for temporary living quarters for up to 14 researchers at any one given time conducting research on site or in the region; and

WHEREAS, through a series of public meetings with neighbors and the Village of Palmetto Bay, the donated property has since been successfully rezoned for its intended use; and

WHEREAS, architectural drawings have been completed and the project is shovel-ready; and

WHEREAS, repurposing the property to serve as the Deering Estate Cultural & Ecological Field Station Research Center (“Research Center”) has been adopted via resolution as a 2017-18 legislative priority for the Village of Palmetto Bay; and

WHEREAS, this project is supported by a Memorandum of Understanding with Florida International University’s School of Environment, Arts and Society; and

WHEREAS, letters in support of this project have been received from: U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, Florida International University – Office of the President, Florida Attractions Association, Office of the Mayor - Village of Pinecrest, Office of the Mayor - Village of Palmetto Bay, Office of the Mayor – Cutler Bay, Miami-Dade Public Schools – Dist. 9 – Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces, and Greater Miami Visitors & Convention Bureau; and

WHEREAS, bringing the Research Center online for public use will enable the Deering

Estate to:

- pursue collaborations with universities, researchers, and conservation organizations to improve research and data collection that engenders public support for preserving and protecting the Estate's natural and cultural resources;
- support regional and statewide partnerships with universities and investments in industry readiness for STEM related careers;
- continue to develop, enhance and promote use of the site as a center for research to better understand site resources and improve site management practices through adaptive management techniques; and
- drive new local, national and international audiences to the Deering Estate generating new programs further driving general gate revenue essential to sustaining this state-own heritage site; and

WHEREAS, local businesses will benefit from the economic impact of related residencies, visiting academia, faculty and conservationists; and

WHEREAS, universities will benefit by leveraging the Deering Estate as a resource for advanced studies; and

WHEREAS, the broader public, as well as K-12 students and educators, participating in existing experiential learning programs, will benefit from having access to these high-level research students and professionals; and

WHEREAS, publications on the outcomes of the research being conducted on the Estate will greatly expand public awareness of the Deering Estate and its unique resources, driving more visitors and even broader audiences to the Estate; and

WHEREAS, the Research Center will provide for the expansion of the Deering Estate's environmental education programs embracing the field study needs of public universities in STEM related curriculums as well as targeted professional research, while also providing enrichment opportunities for the Estate's existing K-12 experiential learning programs; and

WHEREAS, the project will help to expand collaborative opportunities across institutional and professional platforms pertaining to environmental conservation, natural areas and resource management, historic preservation and archeology, ecological monitoring and best land management by providing expanded access to the diversity of the Deering Estate's unique resources, research outcomes and data library,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to provide funding for the Deering Estate Cultural and Biological Field Station Research Center and expresses support for such budget request.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez, Representative Michael Bileca and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the funding indicated in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2018 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman | |
| Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman | |
| Bruno A. Barreiro | Daniella Levine Cava |
| Jose "Pepe" Diaz | Sally A. Heyman |
| Barbara J. Jordan | Joe A. Martinez |
| Jean Monestime | Dennis C. Moss |
| Rebeca Sosa | Sen. Javier D. Souto |
| Xavier L. Suarez | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of November, 2017. 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.



Sabrina Levin