

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(21)

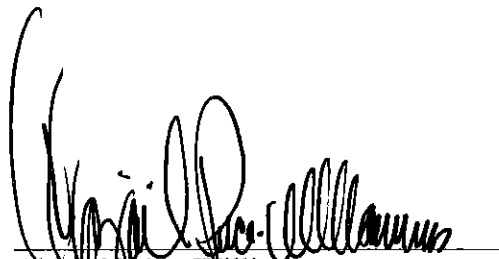
TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 7, 2017

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact Senate Bill 232, House Bill 53 or similar legislation that would create the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area and authorize the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to partner with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Plan; and further urging the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to monitor the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area

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/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(21)

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)(21)

Veto _____

11-7-17

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SENATE BILL 232, HOUSE BILL 53 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AREA AND AUTHORIZE THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO PARTNER WITH THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND FURTHER URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO MONITOR THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AREA

WHEREAS, coral reefs are centers of high biodiversity that provide coastal protection and create specialized habitats that provide shelter, food, and breeding sites for numerous plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Reef Tract is the world’s third-largest barrier reef; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Reef Tract is vital to Florida’s economy, supporting over 71,000 jobs and contributing over \$6 billion to Florida’s economy annually; and

WHEREAS, this economically and ecologically critical habitat is suffering from an unknown blight, as twenty-one coral species in the Florida Reef Tract are suffering from multiple diseases and seven of these species are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Florida Reef Tract comprises the northern portion of the only coral reef in the continental United States, extending from Miami-Dade to Martin Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (“FDEP”) Coral Reef Conservation Program (“CRCP”) confirmed significant coral disease spread to multiple sites across Miami-Dade County from fall 2014 to summer 2016; and

WHEREAS, within those two years, coral disease spread to reefs as far north as Palm Beach County and as far south as the Upper Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, while disease outbreaks are not unprecedented along the Florida Reef Tract, this disease event within the Southeast Florida Reef Tract is especially concerning as it has quickly spread and includes multiple diseases which have impacted over 21 species of coral including several listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act and the State Imperiled Species Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) reports that diseases and diminishing health condition among corals in the Southeast Florida Reef Tract have dramatically increased in frequency and severity during the past episode; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has partnered with Martin, Palm Beach, and Broward Counties through the Southeast Florida Coastal Oceans Forum to address issues of coral reef management; and

WHEREAS, the member counties have joined together to urge the state to identify the causes of the coral reef disease epidemic, implement effective management plans and mitigate damages to Florida’s coral populations through legislation that would create the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area and authorize the FDEP and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (“FWC”) to develop a Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2017, Representative Kristin Diane Jacobs (D – Coconut Creek) filed House Bill (HB) 53 for consideration in the 2018 Florida Legislature’s regular session, which would establish the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2017, Senator Lauren Book (D – Plantation), along with co-introducer Senator Gary Farmer (D – Fort Lauderdale), filed Senate Bill (SB) 232 for consideration in the 2018 Florida Legislature’s regular session, which would establish the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2017, this Board passed Resolution No. R-63-17, which urged the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would create the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area and authorize the FDEP to partner with the FWC to develop a Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund for the Coral Reef Disease Water Quality Monitoring Program; and

WHEREAS, this Board has long championed protection of the Southeast Florida Reef Tract,

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 enact Senate Bill 232, House Bill 53 or similar legislation that would create the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to authorize the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to partner with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Plan.

Section 3. Urges the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to monitor the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wild life Conservation Commission.

Section 5. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in Sections 1-3 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.

JMM FR

Laura Wade