

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

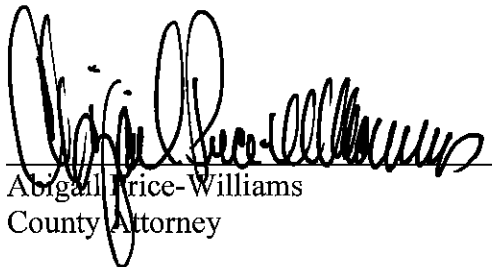
TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 23, 2018

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to include in the report required by Resolution No. R-910-16 any additional information and proactive measures that may be taken to safeguard water sources and water bodies in Miami-Dade County against algae blooms, in light of the recent recurrence of such algae blooms, as well as the red tide impacting certain Florida counties, in order to protect the County's residents, visitors, environment, and local economy

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



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

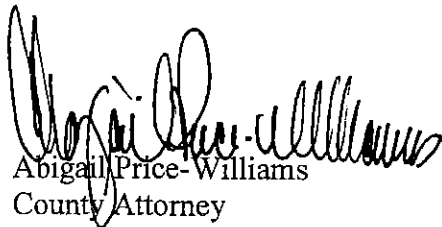


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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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)(5)

10-23-18

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO INCLUDE IN THE REPORT REQUIRED BY RESOLUTION NO. R-910-16 ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PROACTIVE MEASURES THAT MAY BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD WATER SOURCES AND WATER BODIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AGAINST ALGAE BLOOMS, IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH ALGAE BLOOMS, AS WELL AS THE RED TIDE IMPACTING CERTAIN FLORIDA COUNTIES, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE COUNTY'S RESIDENTS, VISITORS, ENVIRONMENT, AND LOCAL ECONOMY

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

WHEREAS, for example, the toxins produced by the algae blooms can cause a variety of health problems for people exposed to the algae, including skin rashes, respiratory issues, and infections if the toxins enter through an open wound; and

WHEREAS, some experts believe the toxins may lead to nausea, vomiting, headaches, seizures, and long-term liver disease if ingested in drinking water; and

WHEREAS, fish, manatees, and other marine wildlife, as well as seagrass and other plants, are also impacted by the algae blooms, which can alter the food chain and deplete oxygen, leading to very large dead zones; and

WHEREAS, algae blooms and the toxins they create can lead to seagrass die-offs and fish kills, with economy-damaging consequences; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2016, in response to this troubling issue, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-910-16, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to prepare a report addressing any proactive measures that may be taken to safeguard water bodies in Miami-Dade County against algae blooms in order to protect the County's residents, visitors, environment, and local economy; and

WHEREAS, currently, County staff is diligently working to prepare that report to ensure it is thorough, accurate, complete, and reflective of the best science; and

WHEREAS, nearly two years later, the toxic algae blooms have recurred and continue to be a problem for communities along Florida's east coast; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, a devastatingly severe toxic red tide of algae is simultaneously plaguing Florida's gulf coast, killing large amounts of marine life and causing respiratory trouble for humans, and has recently been detected along Florida's east coast, including within waters of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, while toxic blue-green algae and the algae responsible for red tide may not be the result of a singular cause, algal blooms generally can be triggered or fueled by excessive nutrient levels and blooms of both algal types may have been exacerbated by last year's active wind storm season and, particularly, by Hurricane Irma; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the causes, the effects of both algae phenomena on human health, freshwater and marine life, the environment, and the economy may be far-reaching; and

WHEREAS, County staff has been coordinating with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on the red tide algae bloom and is directed to continue this coordination with the State to strategize on future courses of action; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, in light of recent events, County staff should include in its report any additional information and proactive measures necessary to safeguard against future algae blooms in our local water bodies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to include in the report required by Resolution No. R-910-16 any additional proactive measures that may be taken to safeguard water sources and water bodies in Miami-Dade County against algae blooms, as well as the red tide impacting certain Florida counties, in order to protect the County's residents, visitors, environment, and local economy. The report required by Resolution No. R-910-16, as supplemented by this item, shall be provided to this Board within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution, and shall be placed on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. 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	
Daniella Levine Cava	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Eileen Higgins
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 23rd day of October, 2018. 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

