

Memorandum



Date: August 5, 2020

To: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A blue ink signature of Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County.

Subject: Report Related to the Appropriate Selection of Trees (Right Tree in the Right Place),
Directive No. 182858, and Related to Trees and Hurricane Readiness, Directive 180468

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(1)
August 31, 2020

On April 10, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Resolution No. R-362-18, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to review the County's regulations and policies on trees and hurricane readiness and prepare a report with recommendations, including recommendations, related to: County regulations; the County's own tree projects in County parks and rights-of-way; strategies to increase the tree canopy in Miami-Dade County, minimizing both the loss of trees and damage from falling trees and branches in the event of a future hurricane; an analysis of the County's tree plans, with recommendations on proper tree selection based on location and recommendations for tree pruning; and communication strategies on disseminating tree pruning information to the responsible parties.

On January 23, 2019, the Board approved Resolution No. R-82-19, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to prepare a tree report with recommendations for this Board related to: County regulations, as well as recommendations related to the County's own tree projects in County parks and rights-of-way; the appropriate selection of trees based on particular locations; recommendations on the avoidance of negative consequences such as tree-related damage to property; and recommendations on how to remove harmful or invasive exotic trees and replace them with native species, particularly in and near the public rights-of-way.

Resolution Nos. R-362-18 and 82-19 request very similar information related to trees, the responses to both Resolutions have been combined in this report. This report was prepared by staff of the Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources and the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS). Resolutions No. R-362-18 and No. R-82-19 are attached to this report as Attachments A and B, respectively.

County Regulations and Policies on Trees

County regulations that pertain to the minimum landscaping standards for incorporated and unincorporated Miami-Dade County are identified in Chapters 18A and 18B of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Landscape Code). It is the intent of these chapters to establish minimum landscape standards for Incorporated and Unincorporated Miami-Dade County that enhance, improve and maintain the quality of the landscape, and to:

- a) Promote Florida-Friendly landscaping principles through the use of drought-tolerant plant species, grouping of plant material by water requirements, the use of irrigation systems that conserve the use of potable and non-potable water supplies and restrictions on the amount of lawn areas.
- b) Use landscape material, specifically street trees, to visually define the hierarchy of roadways, and to provide shade and a visual edge along roadways.

- c) Prevent the destruction of the community's existing tree canopy and promote its expansion.
- d) Provide for the preservation of existing natural forest communities and specimen sized trees in conformance with Section 24-49 of the Code, as may be amended from time to time, and to re-establish native habitat where appropriate and encourage the appropriate use of native plant material in the landscape.
- e) Promote the use of trees and shrubs for energy conservation by encouraging cooling through the provision of shade and the channeling of breezes, thereby helping to offset global warming and local heat island effects through the added absorption of carbon dioxide and reduction of heat islands.
- f) Contribute to the processes of air movement, air purification, oxygen regeneration, ground water recharge, and stormwater runoff retention, while aiding in the abatement of noise, glare, heat, air pollution and dust generated by major roadways and intense use areas.
- g) Improve the aesthetic appearance of commercial, industrial and residential development through the use of plant material, thereby protecting and increasing property values within the community, and to protect designated historic landscapes.
- h) Reduce the negative impacts of exotic pest plant species and prohibit the use of noxious exotic plants, which invade native plant communities.
- i) Promote the use of trees to protect and buffer the effects of high winds on structures.
- j) Promote the concept of planting the right tree or plant in the right place to avoid problems such as clogged sewers, cracked sidewalk and power service interruptions.

In addition, private property owners are also required to obtain a permit from the Department of Transportation and Public Works prior to planting any shrubs, trees, or palms on a public right of way. The purpose for requiring a permit and associated covenant are to ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place, and that future owners of the property are aware of their responsibilities for the subject tree(s). Trees or palms that have the potential to cause safety issues through the reduction of visibility to pedestrians or vehicles would not be permitted nor will trees or palms that drop fruit or fronds.

Chapter 24 of the Code (Environmental Code) contains County regulations that pertain to the preservation and removal of trees. Through the authority granted in Section 24-49 of the Code, DERM requires permits for the removal/relocation of trees throughout the County, works to protect and preserve tree canopy, requires mitigation for tree canopy lost through permitting and enforcement, preserves natural forest communities including associated understory, which are the trees and shrubs growing between the forest floor and canopy, and protects specimen-size trees and environmentally-sensitive tree resources. Section 24-49 also prohibits impacts to tree resources such as excessive pruning, known as topping or hat-racking, or damage to the tree's trunk or root system. In addition, Miami-Dade County regulates prohibited plant species identified in Section 24-49.9 of the Code. Prohibited plants are invasive exotic species that are known to alter native plant communities by displacing native species, change tree resources community structures or ecological functions, or hybridize with natives. A Miami-Dade County tree permit is not required for the removal of these prohibited plants, however, if present on a development site, they shall be removed prior to development, and their sale, propagation, planting, importation or transportation is prohibited.

Analysis of the County's Tree Plans and Tree Selection

Planting the wrong tree in the wrong place is one of the principal causes of trees being prematurely removed or over pruned, falling during storms, and eventually causing property damage. Several factors discussed below can be attributed to an unsustainable and less than resilient urban tree canopy including poor species selection, lack of tree species diversity, poor nursery stock, inappropriate planting site, improper planting techniques, and improper tree pruning and care.

Poor Species Selection

The wrong tree in the wrong place can be frequently seen throughout the County and inevitably results in loss of tree canopy. The canopy loss is due to the frequent removal of these trees because of the damage they are causing or because the tree's canopy has to be continuously cut back when it encroaches into power lines, structures or creates other visibility and safety issues. In addition, tree species that have brittle wood or naturally weak branch development do not fare well during storms. Trees that attain a large size at maturity such as any of the ficus species, live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*), black olive (*Bucida buceras*), and royal poinciana (*Delonix regia*) should not be planted or allowed to be planted on narrow rights-of-way or medians, in close proximity to any structures and infrastructure or near power lines. Fast growing, non-native flowering trees such as copperpod (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*), glaucous cassia (*Senna surattensis*), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and yellow tabebuia (*Tabebuia caraiba*) are heavily planted in the County due to their aesthetics, but none of these species fare well during storms. Copperpod trees, also known as yellow poinciana trees, are especially susceptible to storm damage as shown by the numerous uprooted and damaged trees after Hurricane Irma along corridors such as Coral Way, Bird Road, Miller Drive and Sunset Drive.

Lack of Tree Species Diversity

Large populations of the same species of tree, also known as monocultures, result when the wrong trees are planted in the wrong spaces. Monocultures are susceptible to newly-introduced plant pathogens, pests, or diseases. Our subtropical climate is ideal for the establishment and spread of plant pathogens, pests and diseases on an annual basis. Laurel wilt disease has already resulted in the mortality and removal of thousands of native red bay (*Persea borbonia*) and swamp bay (*Persea palustris*) trees, as well as decimated avocado (*Persea americana*) groves throughout Miami-Dade County. Promoting the planting of less commonly used tree species, specifically native tree species, will result in a more resilient, diverse and healthier urban forest.

Poor Nursery Stock

Poor nursery stock trees have structural deficiencies in their root system, branch structure or both. Poor quality trees primarily fail due to their poor root system. Young trees with circling or girdling root systems were uprooted throughout the County by Hurricane Irma. In addition, trees with deficiencies in their branch structure can break apart during strong wind events. Planting poor nursery stock leads to additional costs of maintenance and the eventual removal and replacement of the tree.

Inappropriate Planting Site

Trees that grow to a large size at maturity should never be planted in narrow planting sites and in areas with shallow soils and compacted fill. Trees uprooted on rights-of-way and medians during storms in many instances revealed very shallow root systems. Inspection of planting sites often

revealed densely compacted limerock substrate beneath very shallow soils. The planting sites were often narrow with limited and shallow soil volume. Trees planted in these inappropriate sites cannot find soils deep enough to anchor themselves properly or to develop adequate root systems to support the tree. Such plantings often develop large surface roots that have a greater potential of damaging nearby sidewalks, driveways, and roads. In addition, tree species that have the potential to grow taller than the height of the existing power lines should never be planted underneath or in close proximity to power lines or power poles. Branches near power lines often cause power outages, and large trees near power lines or power poles may result in significant damage to the utility if the trees are damaged or fail during a storm event.

Improper Planting Techniques

Improper planting techniques such as planting in an undersized hole can result in limited tree growth and an improperly developed root system, which can cause the tree to fail during a storm. Planting a tree deeper than its root flare can lead to higher mortality. Not staking newly planted trees properly can lead to uprooting during even minor wind events.

Improper Pruning

Even high-quality nursery stock trees require maintenance after they are planted. Structural pruning to correct any deficiencies that the tree develops during the first few years will result in a tree that is more resilient during a storm. Allowing the deficiency to go uncorrected as the tree grows larger could lead to increased damage to trees or nearby structures. Attempting to correct the structural defect of a mature tree is often not practical. Trees throughout the County are significantly damaged during storms through the loss of major limbs or the tree splitting in half. The damage that the tree sustains is usually uncorrectable and may lead to the remainder of the tree requiring removal. These deficiencies can be prevented through structural pruning when the tree is young. Native trees such as mahogany, gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), and green buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*) are especially susceptible to splitting or loss of major limbs. Planting high-quality trees and correcting any defects through structural pruning will result in more resilient trees.

Improper pruning practices exacerbate the likelihood of a tree failing or sustaining significant branch damage during a storm. One common example is the excessive removal of limbs to greatly reduce the overall size and height of a tree's canopy. The tree responds to such severe pruning by producing extensive new growth called water sprouts, which are weakly attached to the tree. These water sprouts develop into large branches that can easily separate from the tree during even minor wind events. Another example of improper pruning is the removal of all lower branches, also known as lifting. Lifting is often done to larger trees to increase visibility and remove branches close to structures and roadways. Lifting makes a tree top heavy, which can increase the potential for uprooting, especially if the planting location and root system are inadequate for the tree's size. In addition, newly planted trees frequently face issues related to improper tree care such as lack of adequate irrigation, trunk girdling when straps or bracing are not removed, toppling over due to inadequate bracing, and damage by landscaping equipment such as weed whackers. All of this leads to the trees' decline, and eventual mortality and removal.

Tree-Initiatives in Progress

1. PROS and RER-DERM staff are working with the Communications Department to maintain a “Tree Portal” (<https://www.miamidade.gov/global/economy/trees.page>) on the County web page to provide all pertinent tree/landscape information in a centralized, user-friendly location
2. PROS, RER, Neat Streets are working with the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension to update the IFAS Extension’s *Low-Maintenance Landscape Plants for South Florida* (<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/miami-dade/landscapes--gardening/low-maintenance-landscape-plants-for-south-florida/>) to reflect their findings from the 2017 storm season, and continue to provide educational programs (outreach) to homeowners, governmental employees and professional companies about urban tree benefits, selection, planting, mulching and pruning.
3. Neat Streets Miami, RER-DERM and PROS are updating *The Landscape Manual* (<https://www.miamidade.gov/zoning/library/studies/landscape-manual-adopted-2005.pdf>) and the *Street Tree Master Plan*.
4. Neat Streets Miami is currently seeking grant funding to hire a consultant to assist with an update to the *Street Tree Master Plan*.

Education and Outreach on Proper Tree Practices

Developing a robust education and outreach program for residents of Miami-Dade County could result in more resilient tree canopy coverage and a sustainable urban forest. These recommendations can increase canopy coverage and are meant to improve the resiliency of trees during tropical storms up to Category 2 hurricanes.

1. Develop an outreach program to better educate the public on the benefit of trees, proper tree and planting site selection, the value of species diversity, and how to properly prune trees. Through DERM regulatory programs and tree giveaways, County staff currently educates the public on the value of tree resources in Miami-Dade County, the proper pruning techniques throughout the year, and the importance of planting the right tree in the right place. However, a more formalized program could provide a greater reach into the community on a more consistent basis.
2. Educate residents and landscape company employees on the structural pruning of young trees and maintenance pruning of mature trees to promote the health of these trees and make them much more resilient during storms. Making sure that trees do not develop structural deficiencies when young and maintaining the canopy of mature trees is crucial to resisting strong winds. Many trees experience significant damage during storms because they had structural defects that could have easily been corrected when the trees were young. Trees such as royal poinciana (*Delonix regia*), mango (*Mangifera indica*) and avocado (*Persea americana*) were uprooted or sustained significant branch damage because their canopies were allowed to get too large and dense. Maintenance pruning through proper reduction cuts and branch thinning would make the trees much more resilient during storms.

Recommendations on Miami-Dade County Tree Policies and Practices

1. Limit the planting of trees that have proven fragile during storms such as copperpod (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*), glaucous cassia (*Senna surattensis*), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), verawood

(*Bulnesia arborea*), yellow tabebuia (*Tabebuia caraiba*), and non-native ficus species, which would result in reduced storm damage and recovery time.

2. Enact policies to minimize inappropriate planting sites that contribute to the uprooting of trees during a storm and damage to property. Providing increased soil volume through wider and deeper planting sites is crucial in achieving a strong root system and wind resistant trees. Requiring larger green spaces would allow trees to mature and live longer, which would result in a more sustainable urban forest. These larger green spaces can also support larger tree species which would contribute to reaching our tree canopy goals.
3. Require that native trees that grow to a small or medium size at maturity be selected for planting within restricted planting spaces such as rights-of-way, medians, near structures, and underneath power lines. Live oaks trees are an excellent native shade tree that grows to a large size at maturity and are very resilient during storms, however, they should only be planted in appropriate sites and locations to accommodate their size. Selecting appropriate species of trees is crucial to achieving a resilient and sustainable tree canopy.
4. Promote the planting of underutilized tree species that would not only be appropriate for smaller restricted planting spaces but would be more resilient during storms. Increasing the diversity of tree species planted, specifically the planting of a wide variety of tree species native to south Florida, would result in an overall healthier urban tree forest that would be less susceptible to plant pathogens, pests, or diseases. The following table provides a list of small to medium size native trees that could be used.

Miami-Dade County Small to Medium Native Plant List

Species Name	Common Name	Size When Mature
<i>Leucothrinax morrisii</i>	Florida Thatch Palm	Small palm
<i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	Buccaneer Palm	Small palm
<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	Thatch Palm	Small palm
<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	Marlberry	Small tree
<i>Byrsonima lucida</i>	Locust Berry	Small tree
<i>Calypttranthes pallens</i>	Spicewood	Small tree
<i>Canella winterana</i>	Wild Cinnamon	Small tree
<i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	Jamaica caper	Small tree
<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	White Stopper	Small tree
<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	Spanish Stopper	Small tree
<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	Lignum Vitae	Small tree
<i>Guapira discolor</i>	Blolly	Small tree
<i>Eugenia confuse</i>	Redberry Stopper	Small to medium tree
<i>Gymnanthes lucida</i>	Crabwood	Small to medium tree
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	Dahoon Holly	Small to medium tree
<i>Krugiodendron ferreum</i>	Black Ironwood	Small to medium tree
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweet bay magnolia	Small to medium tree
<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	Simpson Stopper	Small to medium tree

<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	Satinleaf	Medium tree
<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	Pigeon plum	Medium tree
<i>Exothea paniculata</i>	Inkwood	Medium tree
<i>Ilex krugiana</i>	Krug's holly	Medium tree
<i>Ocotea coriacea</i>	Lancewood	Medium tree
<i>Prunus myrtifolia</i>	West Indian Cherry	Medium tree
<i>Sideroxylon salicifolium</i>	Willow Busic	Medium tree

5. Require that trees that are Florida Grade #1 or better be planted whenever possible. Trees should be assessed by a landscape inspector prior to purchasing to ensure they are Florida Grade #1 or better. Lower quality trees should be rejected and not be planted. Additional inspections should also be performed when planting to ensure appropriate planting techniques such as depth and staking.
6. Require that trees that are uprooted during a storm not be replanted unless the reason for the failure is identified and can be corrected. Replanting a tree with a poor root system that has been uprooted will only lead to the tree failing during a future wind event when the tree is likely larger, costlier to remove, and has the potential to do more damage to property. Deficiencies in the root system such as girdling or circling roots may be corrected through root pruning prior to the tree being properly replanted. If unable to correct the root system deficiencies, then the tree should be removed and replaced.
7. Utilize appropriately trained professional staff as landscape inspectors that can assess the quality of trees being planted in new developments and assure that the right species and quality of trees are being planted in the right spaces. Trees that are not Florida Grade #1 or better in quality, or that have not been planted appropriately, should be rejected. Accepting poor quality trees and trees that have not been appropriately planted would exacerbate the loss of tree canopy and result in the continued acceptance of poor nursery stock in Miami-Dade County.
8. Adequately train County staff and contractors that are responsible for landscaping maintenance on proper tree care and maintenance. This would result in reduced damage and mortality of newly planted trees by landscaping equipment, and improved care and maintenance of established and mature trees.

Recommended Modifications to the Miami-Dade County Code

Evaluate Chapters 18A and 18B of the Code of Miami-Dade County to ensure that these Code Sections encourage and support the planting of the right tree in the right place. Tree species that get to a large size at maturity should not be planted in restricted spaces, near structures, or near power lines. Chapter 18A and 18B should restrict the planting of large shade trees unless the appropriate spaces are being provided. Large shade trees such as live oak, mahogany, black olive, and royal poinciana should only be planted in spaces that can support these species of trees when mature. Achieving the County's canopy percentage goal will require the planting of large shade trees; however, this cannot be

accomplished unless these trees are planted in appropriate planting sites, and can remain in place throughout their mature lifespan without the need for removal or excessive over-trimming.

Planting the right tree in the right place will help Miami-Dade County achieve a healthy and sustainable urban forest. In addition, the right tree in the right place would reduce the amount of tree maintenance required and would significantly reduce the damage to property caused when the wrong species of tree is planted in the wrong area.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

If additional information is needed, please contact either Lee N. Hefty, RER Assistant Director, Division of Environmental Resources Management at hefty1@miamidade.gov, or Maria I. Nardi, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, at mnardi@miamidade.gov.

Attachment A – Miami-Dade County Resolution No. R-362-18

Attachment B - Miami-Dade County Resolution No. R-82-19

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, First Assistant County Attorney
Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor/Director, Regulatory and Economic Resources
Michael Spring, Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Maria I. Nardi, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces
Alice Bravo, Director, Transportation and Public Works
Lourdes M. Gomez, Deputy Director, Regulatory and Economic Resources
Yinka Majekodunmi, CPA, Commission Auditor
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator
Melissa Adames, Acting Director, Clerk of the Board

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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

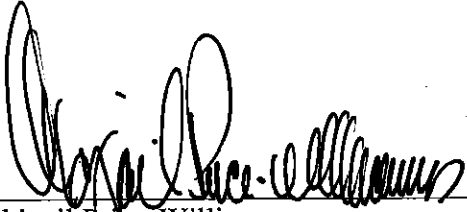
DATE: April 10, 2018

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the
Mayor to prepare a report with
recommendations for this Board
related to trees and hurricane
readiness, with recommendations
on how to minimize the loss of
trees and damage from falling
trees in the event of a future
hurricane

Resolution No. R-362-18

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



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/lmp

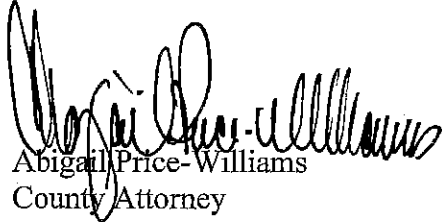


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 10, 2018

FROM: 
Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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)(13)
4-10-18

RESOLUTION NO. R-362-18

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S
DESIGNEE TO PREPARE A REPORT WITH
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS BOARD RELATED TO
TREES AND HURRICANE READINESS, WITH
RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO MINIMIZE THE LOSS
OF TREES AND DAMAGE FROM FALLING TREES IN THE
EVENT OF A FUTURE HURRICANE

WHEREAS, in September 2017, Hurricane Irma caused a great deal of damage in Miami-Dade County, and much of that damage was due to fallen trees or tree branches; and

WHEREAS, during the hurricane, trees fell on power lines, fallen trees blocked streets and access to neighborhoods, and in some instances, trees even fell on residents' homes; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Irma also resulted in an overall loss of trees and tree canopy in Miami-Dade County that may take years to recover; and

WHEREAS, trees and overall tree canopy are important in Miami-Dade County for both quality of life reasons such as shade and beauty, as well as broader environmental and resiliency considerations; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County currently has regulations that relate to trees, such as in the County's landscape regulations in Chapter 18A and in the County's environmental regulations in Chapter 24; and

WHEREAS, various County departments and divisions are involved with trees, and the County deals with trees both as a regulator and in the County's proprietary capacity for County parks and County owned rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to review the County's regulations and policies related to trees, in order to improve the hurricane readiness of Miami-Dade County and potentially limit the damage from trees from future hurricanes; and

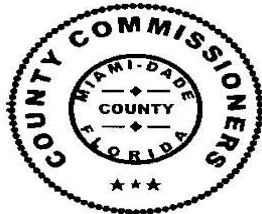
WHEREAS, such a review of regulations and policies related to trees is also intended to have positive impact on the County's overall tree canopy, with the goals of encouraging the planting of appropriate trees and reducing the loss of trees from future hurricanes, thus preserving tree beauty and shade for residents, along with important environmental and resiliency benefits from trees in Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to review the County's regulations and policies on trees and hurricane readiness and prepare a report with recommendations for this Board. This report shall include recommendations related to County regulations as well as recommendations related to the County's own tree projects in County parks and rights-of-way, and this report shall address ways to increase the tree canopy in Miami-Dade County, while at the same time minimizing both the loss of trees and damage from falling trees and branches in the event of a future hurricane. For example, this report shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the County's tree plans, recommendations on proper tree selection based on location, and recommendations for tree pruning and how to best communicate information on tree pruning to the responsible parties. The Mayor or Mayor's designee shall place the completed report with recommendations, on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65 within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman	aye
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	aye
Daniella Levine Cava	aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	absent
Sally A. Heyman	aye
Barbara J. Jordan	aye
Joe A. Martinez	aye
Jean Monestime	aye
Dennis C. Moss	aye
Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye
Xavier L. Suarez	aye
District 5	vacant

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 10th day of April, 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

Christopher Agrippa

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "ASR", enclosed within a hand-drawn circle.

Abbie Schwaderer Raurell

ATTACHMENT B

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

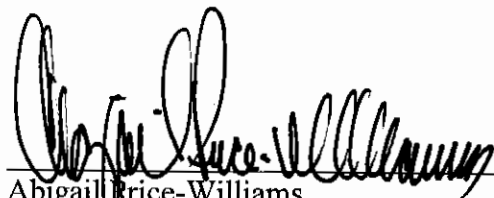
DATE: January 23, 2019

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County
Mayor to prepare a report with
recommendations for this Board
related to trees, including but not
limited to appropriate selection
of trees based on particular
locations

Resolution No. R-82-19

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 Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 23, 2019

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

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

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 ____, CDM 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDM 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDM 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____) 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)(11)
1-23-19

RESOLUTION NO. R-82-19

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PREPARE A REPORT
WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS BOARD RELATED
TO TREES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
APPROPRIATE SELECTION OF TREES BASED ON
PARTICULAR LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, trees and overall tree canopy are important in Miami-Dade County for both quality of life reasons such as shade and beauty, as well as broader environmental and resiliency considerations; and

WHEREAS, although trees can provide such significant benefits in Miami-Dade County, choosing the appropriate tree species and appropriate locations of such tree species is of the utmost importance; indeed, if the wrong tree is placed in the wrong place, that tree placement could result in significant damage to sidewalks, streets, structures, or infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County currently has regulations that relate to trees, such as in the County's landscape regulations in Chapter 18A (the "Landscape Code") and in the County's environmental regulations in Chapter 24; and

WHEREAS, for example, the Landscape Code includes tree height and caliper requirements, along with required percentages of native and drought-tolerant trees for sites, and the Landscape Code also provides that 80 percent of plant material should come from plants on customized lists developed for Miami-Dade County, including from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) and the Street Tree Master Plan developed by Miami-Dade County's Neat Streets in consultation with County staff from the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources; and

WHEREAS, various County departments and divisions are involved with trees, and the County deals with trees both as a regulator and in the County's proprietary capacity for County parks and County owned rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the County has encouraged people to consider which species of trees would be appropriate in particular locations, based on a variety of tree characteristics such as the expected size at maturity of a particular tree species and the way a particular tree's roots grow; and

WHEREAS, the planting of appropriate trees in the right locations can have a positive impact on the County's overall tree canopy, creating beauty and shade for residents, along with important environmental and resiliency benefits; and

WHEREAS, the selection of native trees may be particularly beneficial, particularly as compared with harmful or invasive exotic tree species; and

WHEREAS, the planting of appropriate trees based on particular locations can result in trees that grow and thrive for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the planting of appropriate trees in the right locations may also protect the dollar investments of the person or governmental entity that is planting the trees, because if a particular tree is planted in a location that is too small or cramped for that tree species, that tree will likely die or need to be removed or drastically pruned within a few short years; and

WHEREAS, conversely, the planting of trees without considering the appropriateness of a particular tree species and the planting location can result in negative consequences, including the inefficient use of funds, as well as, over time, the potential for significant damage to property, such as sidewalks, homes, streets, and other public places; and

WHEREAS, because of these types of consequences, the County may wish to revise its own policies related to tree planting on County property, and in addition, the residents of Miami-Dade County may wish to have greater guidance for or regulation of appropriate tree selection and tree placement for private properties; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to review the County's existing regulations and policies on trees, and specifically those which may be related to the appropriate selection of trees based on particular locations, and to make recommendations to this Board,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to review the County's regulations and policies on trees and prepare a report with recommendations for this Board. This report shall include recommendations related to County regulations as well as recommendations related to the County's own tree projects in County parks and rights-of-way, and this report shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations related to the appropriate selection of trees based on particular locations, recommendations on the avoidance of negative consequences such as tree-related damage to property, and recommendations on how to remove harmful or invasive exotic trees and replace them with native species, particularly in and near the public rights-of-way. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall place the completed report with recommendations, on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65 within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution.

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

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 23rd day of January, 2019. 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

Linda L. Cave

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ASR", enclosed within a hand-drawn circle.

Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell