

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 17, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
Successor County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to adopt Governor
Ron DeSantis's state fiscal
year 2021-2022 budget
recommendation to create the
"Resilient Florida" program

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
Successor County Attorney

GBK/smm




MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 17, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
Successor County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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 present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 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)(8)
2-17-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
ADOPT GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS'S STATE FISCAL
YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION TO CREATE
THE "RESILIENT FLORIDA" PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the climate is changing, manifesting in significant impacts to Florida, including increasing average temperatures, more intense storm events, and rising sea levels; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise, caused by the thermal expansion of warming ocean water and melting land ice as the earth warms, is one of the most evident impacts in Miami-Dade County given the County's low-lying elevation and porous geology; and

WHEREAS, in the coming decades, rising temperatures are likely to increase damages from storms, harm coral reefs, and increase the frequency of unpleasantly hot days; and

WHEREAS, if the oceans and atmosphere continue to warm, sea level along the Florida coast is likely to rise one to four feet in the next century; and

WHEREAS, rising sea levels submerge wetlands and dry land, erodes beaches, and exacerbates coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS, tropical storms and hurricanes have become more intense over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, cities, roads, railways, ports, and water supplies in Florida, and particularly in Miami-Dade County, are vulnerable to the impacts of storms and sea level rises; and

WHEREAS, even if storm intensity does not increase, coastal homes and infrastructure will flood more often because storm surges will become higher as sea levels rise; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise also represents a challenge to Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park resource managers, because, for example, as sea levels rise, coastal freshwater habitats could be inundated by rising sea water; and

WHEREAS, Florida's coral reefs are susceptible to warming waters and ocean acidification, as rising water temperatures can harm the algae inside corals and provide food for them; and

WHEREAS, changing climate combined with sea level rise is likely to impact soil salinization and agricultural production, resulting in diminished food and water security; and

WHEREAS, warmer air can also increase the formation of ground-level ozone, a key component of smog, which can aggravate lung diseases like asthma and increase the risk of premature death from heart or lung disease; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis recommended the formation of "Resilient Florida" in his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to tackle the challenges posed by sea level rise, intensifying storm events, and flooding; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, "Resilient Florida" would use revenues from the state's documentary stamp tax to pay for the debt service on \$1 billion in bonds for projects carried out by local governments that address the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, "Resilient Florida" could provide funding for projects ranging from preserving land to building sea walls to addressing the impact of sea level rise on government structures or services; and

WHEREAS, "Resilient Florida" would also provide grants to coastal counties, coastal municipalities, and inland counties that have not completed vulnerability assessments related to the threat of sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, substantial resources are needed to address and implement steps to fight the impact of sea level rise on Florida in general, and South Florida in particular,

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

Section 1. Approves the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to adopt Governor Ron DeSantis’s state fiscal year 2021-2022 budget recommendation to create the “Resilient Florida” program.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation, and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 4. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. 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:

Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	
Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Joe A. Martinez
Kionne L. McGhee	Jean Monestime
Raquel A. Regalado	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	


The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 17th day of February, 2021. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AB', written over a horizontal line.

Angela F. Benjamin