

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 18, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor To design and implement a Park Zones pilot program on roads adjacent to or in close proximity to certain parks in Miami-Dade County; and requiring reports

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


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp

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MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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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 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)(1)
4-18-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A PARK ZONES PILOT PROGRAM ON ROADS ADJACENT TO OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO CERTAIN PARKS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AND REQUIRING REPORTS

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to enhancing the quality of life of residents and visitors to Miami-Dade County through the promotion of healthy activities such as playing sports, walking, running, and cycling; and

WHEREAS, within the County, there are over 285 County parks, in addition to many more state and municipal parks; and

WHEREAS, the existence of such parks positively impacts the quality of life of the County's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, many parks are bordered by, or exist in close proximity to state, county, and municipal roads; and

WHEREAS, pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users and Florida has consistently ranked among the highest of all states nationally in rates of pedestrian deaths; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent study conducted by Florida's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, titled "Pedestrian Safety Near Parks in Miami-Dade County," from 2015 to 2019, Miami-Dade County had 5,429 crashes involving 5,740 injured pedestrians and almost 55 percent of crashes resulting in injured pedestrians occurred in a park buffer compared to outside of it; and

WHEREAS, the study indicated that the County’s large number of parks and recreational areas, as well as its high population density, may have contributed to the high number of pedestrian crashes near parks; and

WHEREAS, according to the report, speed is one of the most important factors in the likelihood and severity of pedestrian-involved crashes, and pedestrian-heavy areas, such as parks, may be more likely to experience pedestrian crashes; and

WHEREAS, the report also suggests that traffic operations on roads near parks, including speed limits, may have an effect on the overall safety of persons wishing to access parks in the County; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, on average three children were killed, and an estimated 502 children were injured, every day in traffic crashes in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission, which is charged with advising the Board and the County Mayor on matters affecting the youth and teen population in the County, has actively advocated for the creation of reduced-speed zones around parks, or “park zones,” to ensure the safety of park and recreation users; and

WHEREAS, similar initiatives have been implemented around the country, such as the State of Illinois establishing “Safe Park Zones” in 2006 in order to lower the speed limits in sections of roadway near parks; and

WHEREAS, the Board is empowered under section 316.189, Florida Statutes, to set custom speed zones on County-maintained roads “after investigation determines such a change is reasonable and in conformity to criteria promulgated by the Department of Transportation, except that no such speed zone shall permit a speed of more than 60 miles per hour[]”; and

WHEREAS, Florida law provides a mechanism for the establishment and enforcement of certain speed limits around schools, known as “school zones”; and

WHEREAS, having a uniform approach to traffic management, including through the implementation of “park zones,” similar to existing “school zones,” on roads adjacent to or in close proximity to parks in the County, could be in best interest of the County; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to design a pilot program implementing park zones around certain parks in Miami-Dade County,

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

Section 1. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to design and implement a Park Zones pilot program on County-maintained roads at five County-owned parks located in Miami-Dade County, excluding parks already encompassed in school zones. At a minimum, the pilot program should: (1) be designed with the consideration of which parks are adjacent to County roads with the highest number of pedestrian traffic accidents; (2) examine whether speed reductions on County-maintained roads adjacent to County parks, or other engineering changes and traffic calming measures (such as improved lighting on park perimeters or textured pavement), can positively impact the safety of park visitors, including children, pedestrians, and cyclists; (3) identify any partnerships with the state or municipalities required to implement any such speed reductions or other engineering changes; (4) design and conduct an educational campaign to improve pedestrian and motorist awareness of traffic rules; and (5) identify and use legally available funding sources from within the fiscal year 2022-2023 County budget and include funding for this purpose in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to provide a report to the Board within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution describing the design of the pilot program, its implementation, results of the pilot program, and recommendations as to expanding the program County-wide. Alternatively, if the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee is unable to identify legally available funds for the purposes set forth in this resolution, the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee shall provide a written report to the Board within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution setting forth any reasons why funds have not been identified or cannot be used or allocated for such purposes. The reports shall be placed on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board’s Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution 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:

- Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman
- Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman
- Marleine Bastien
- Kevin Marino Cabrera
- Roberto J. Gonzalez
- Danielle Cohen Higgins
- Kionne L. McGhee
- Micky Steinberg
- Juan Carlos Bermudez
- Sen. René García
- Keon Hardemon
- Eileen Higgins
- Raquel A. Regalado

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of April, 2023. 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

LUIS G. MONTALDO, CLERK AD INTERIM

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

D.P.C

Dale P. Clarke
Leigh C. Kobrinski