

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

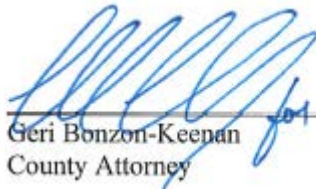
TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 16, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor apply for all possible state and federal grants, including Florida Department of Environmental Protection grants, Water Quality Improvement grants, and Resilient Florida grants, for septic-to-sewer conversion in the Biscayne Shores neighborhood in Miami-Dade County; urging the Florida Legislature and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to appropriate funding for septic-to-sewer conversion in the Biscayne Shores neighborhood in Miami-Dade County

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 16, 2025

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

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 ____, majority plus one ____, 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) ____, 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)
12-16-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR ALL POSSIBLE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS, INCLUDING FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GRANTS, WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, AND RESILIENT FLORIDA GRANTS, FOR SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSION IN THE BISCAYNE SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSION IN THE BISCAYNE SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

WHEREAS, a septic system is a type of onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that treats wastewater from an individual property; and

WHEREAS, in a conventional septic system, wastewater from toilets, sinks, showers, and other plumbing facilities flows through pipes into a septic tank where parts of the wastewater are separated to promote limited bacteria breakdown of organic matter, store solids, and allow clarified wastewater containing pollutants to flow into a drainfield; and

WHEREAS, a critical portion of a septic system is the treatment of wastewater in an underground drainfield; and

WHEREAS, septic systems may present environmental risks and are potentially vulnerable to the effects of rising groundwater tables, which may diminish the treatment capacity of drainfields and result in elevated levels of groundwater pollution; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department, and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County presented a report (the Report) to this Board detailing that almost half of the septic tanks in Miami-Dade County break down yearly, a number that is expected to grow to 64 percent by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Report recommended that the most effective means of addressing the long-term risks related to rising groundwater levels is to extend sewer connections to new and existing structures where feasible and to reduce the amount of new septic systems installed in vulnerable parts of Miami-Dade County (the County); and

WHEREAS, the Biscayne Shores neighborhood—and specifically, the area from Northeast 110th Terrace to Northeast 108th Street along North Bayshore Drive—is documented as one of Miami-Dade County’s low-lying, high-risk coastal zones where flooding already occurs with greater frequency and intensity compared to many other communities; and

WHEREAS, Biscayne Shores is a septic-reliant neighborhood, with internal Water and Sewer Department (WASD) and Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) inventories identifying approximately 190 residential parcels in this service area that continue to use septic systems; and

WHEREAS, the Biscayne Shores neighborhood’s geology and hydrologic conditions—shallow groundwater, porous limestone, and low elevations—create a setting where septic systems may face significant, recurrent operational stress during heavy rain and high-tide periods; and

WHEREAS, media reporting and County resilience memoranda have repeatedly noted flooding around Northeast 108th Street, Northeast 109th Street, and North Bayshore Drive during heavy rainfall, king tides, and seasonal high-water periods, with some events reaching roadway-blocking levels; and

WHEREAS, because Biscayne Shores is septic-reliant and sits on the high-permeability limestone of the Biscayne Aquifer, untreated or partially treated effluent can move rapidly through the subsurface when the drainfield is saturated during flooding events, which means there is a potential risk of release of untreated or partially treated sewage into the environment; and

WHEREAS, converting septic systems to sewer connections may require building new infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, when sewer infrastructure is expanded into new areas, residents of such areas may incur significant financial costs to connect their properties to the expanded sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, those residents in the County's Biscayne Shores neighborhood that currently utilize septic systems now seek to connect to the County's sewer system to mitigate the risks associated with septic tanks; and

WHEREAS, those residents in the Biscayne Shores neighborhood would greatly benefit from state and local assistance with septic-to-sewer conversion; and

WHEREAS, aside from Florida Legislature member projects, multiple state grant programs exist that may provide an opportunity for financial assistance with connecting to the sewer system; and

WHEREAS, the County should avail itself of the above-mentioned opportunities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. R-1049-24, \$250,000.00 was allocated from the FY 2024-25 District 4 Designated Project Program for septic-to-sewer conversion; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to appropriate funding to facilitate this initiative,

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 apply for all possible state and federal grants, including Florida Department of Environmental Protection grants, Water Quality Improvement grants, and Resilient Florida grants, for septic-to-sewer conversion in the Biscayne Shores neighborhood in Miami-Dade County.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to appropriate funding for septic-to-sewer conversion in the Biscayne Shores neighborhood in Miami-Dade County.

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

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2026 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Micky Steinberg. 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:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	
Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Sen. René García	Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Vicki L. Lopez
Natalie Milian Orbis	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of December, 2025. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Christian J. Fernandez-Andes