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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(30)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** December 1, 2015

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to provide funding for local programs to improve tree canopy, such as Miami-Dade County's Adopt-a-Tree Program

Resolution No. R-1126-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, and Co-Sponsors Chairman Jean Monestime and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** December 1, 2015

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(30)

**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)(30)
12-1-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-1126-15

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE TREE CANOPY, SUCH AS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, according to an analysis performed in 1996, the tree canopy cover in the County's unincorporated area averaged approximately 10 percent, with some locations having as little as 1 to 2 percent of canopy cover; and

**WHEREAS,** according to another study conducted in 2008, the average tree canopy cover in the same area was found to be approximately 12 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, adequate tree canopy coverage for urban areas is generally considered to be in the range of 25 to 40 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2001, to help restore much needed tree canopy cover throughout the County, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-97-01 approving and implementing the Adopt-a-Tree Program ("Adopt-a-Tree"), which was funded by a grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

**WHEREAS**, Adopt-a-Tree provides trees, free of charge, to County residents for planting in areas that have been heavily impacted by citrus canker eradication efforts and that are generally low on tree canopy cover; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to providing free trees to qualifying County residents, the program also offers public outreach and education to ensure the proper siting, planting, care, and maintenance of trees and to inform the public of the many benefits that trees, and their canopy cover, can offer to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, since its inception nearly 15 years ago, Adopt-a-Tree has been successful in adding much needed tree canopy cover throughout the County and is widely popular with the County's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, since 2001, 190,754 trees have been adopted at 72 different events with over 1,200 residents attending each event; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, 6,450 trees have been adopted at three events held within the last year; and

**WHEREAS**, the program has an 85 percent tree survival rate, which has raised the County's tree canopy average up to 12 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, trees provide many significant and invaluable benefits to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, trees help reduce electrical demand costs when planted to shade buildings; they trap and store rainfall and reduce flood risks; they help prevent erosion and stormwater runoff; they improve air quality and the wildlife habitat value of urban areas; they help improve the livability and aesthetic value of urban areas; they may increase property values through the beautification of residences; and, where fruit-bearing trees are concerned, they provide a food source with important nutritional benefits; and

**WHEREAS,** it is therefore imperative that the County be able to continue to offer residents the opportunity to take part in efforts to increase the presence of trees and tree canopy cover throughout our community by participating in Adopt-a-Tree; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature currently provides some funding for tree planting on public land, tree protection projects, and tree maintenance projects through the Florida Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature should also provide additional funding for local programs such as Adopt-a-Tree; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly, to ensure the continued success and viability of Adopt-a-Tree, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to provide additional funding for this important program,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to provide funding for local programs to improve tree canopy, such as Miami-Dade County's Adopt-a-Tree Program.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the appropriation described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 state legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, and the Co-Sponsors are Chairman Jean Monestime and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. It was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman **aye**
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman **absent**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bruno A. Barreiro | **aye** | Daniella Levine Cava | **aye** |
| Jose "Pepe" Diaz | **aye** | Audrey M. Edmonson | **aye** |
| Sally A. Heyman | **aye** | Barbara J. Jordan | **aye** |
| Dennis C. Moss | **aye** | Rebeca Sosa | **aye** |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto | **aye** | Xavier L. Suarez | **aye** |
| Juan C. Zapata | **absent** | | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of December, 2015. 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: Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

James Eddie Kirtley