

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 7(A)

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

**DATE:** October 5, 2016

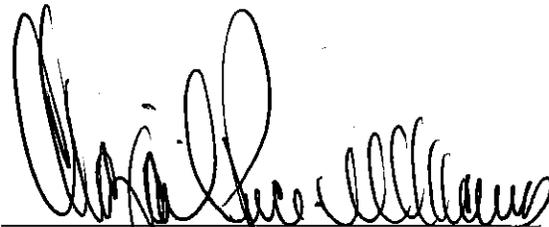
**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance relating to zoning;  
prohibiting use of land for well  
stimulation for oil and gas  
exploration or production;  
providing criteria and notice and  
hearing prerequisites for  
variances; providing for  
applicability in incorporated  
areas; creating Chapter 33,  
Article XLII, sections 33-435  
through 33-438 of the Code

Ordinance No. 16-106

**This item was amended at the 9-13-16 Metropolitan Services Committee to add language to section 33-437 to clarify that the prohibition in this ordinance would not apply to oil and gas exploration or production which does not use well stimulation, or ancillary or associated activities.**

The accompanying ordinance was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

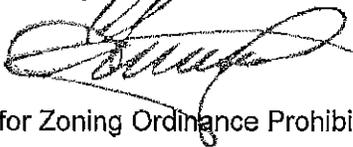
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# Memorandum



**Date:** October 5, 2016

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

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** Fiscal Impact Statement for Zoning Ordinance Prohibiting Use of Land for Well Stimulation

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The proposed ordinance creates Article XLII, Sections 33-435 through 33-438 under Chapter 33 of the Code of Miami-Dade County to regulate and prohibit the use of lands for oil or gas exploration or production through well stimulation (fracking). Furthermore, this proposed ordinance establishes the criteria and procedures by which a variance can be granted upon approval by the Board of County Commissioner at a public hearing where it is demonstrated that approval is in the interest of the public.

The proposed ordinance does not create a fiscal impact to the County in the event that a variance is filed as no additional staff is anticipated and any operating costs associated with the required notices will be borne by the applicant.



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Jack Osterholt  
Deputy Mayor

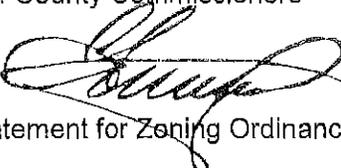
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# Memorandum



**Date:** October 5, 2016

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

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** Social Equity Impact Statement for Zoning Ordinance Prohibiting Use of Land for Well Stimulation

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The proposed ordinance creates Chapter 33, Article XLII, Sections 33-435 through 33-438 of the Code, which extends to all areas of the County (by setting that it is a minimum standard for municipalities), through the regulation and prohibition on the use of lands for oil or gas exploration or production through well stimulation (fracking).

The proposed ordinance does not allow for any variance unless it is in the public's interest and subject to granting by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) after the demonstration of competent substantial evidence, at a public hearing, that the proposed activity will not result in irreversible impact to lands in Miami-Dade County and their designated uses, including: 1) structural damage to buildings, foundations or underground infrastructure), 2) impacts to public and private drinking water supplies and wastewater treatment facilities, 3) increased demand on water resources, 4) leaking or leaching of chemicals or natural gas.

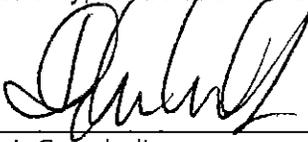
If a variance is filed, the Director of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (Director) is required to issue a courtesy notice to all property owners of record within a one-mile radius as reflected on the Property Appraiser tax roll and publish a courtesy notice in the paper of largest circulation with the same information as in the courtesy mailer within 30 days, which costs will be borne by the applicant. Upon the filing of a variance application, the Director shall prepare a written recommendation to the Board indicating the application's relationship to the Comprehensive Development Master Plan, which is to include known living, working, traffic, and transportation conditions in the vicinity of the property in the application as well as projected effects 30 days before the public hearing. The public will have time to provide the Director with information as well as inspect all public documents evaluating the application during that time period prior to the public hearing.

Prior to the public hearing, the Director must also: 1) issue a written notice containing general information (i.e. date, time and place), the subject property's location, and nature of the application to all property owners of record within one-mile radius as reflected on the Property Appraiser tax roll, 2) issue a courtesy notice, containing same information as written notice to property owners, to each city clerk, attorney, manager for municipalities, the executive director of the Miami-Dade League of Cities, and president of any homeowner's association with members living within the area of the mailed written notice, 3) publish a full legal notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation containing date, time, place of the hearing, subject property's location, nature of the application, and all specific variances and other requests, and 4) publish a layman's notice shall be published in the newspaper of largest circulation containing the same information as in the full legal notice, but the nature of the application can be summarized in a more concise, abbreviated fashion. The Director must also place notices (i.e. signs) on the subject property no later than 60 days prior to the hearing in a manner conspicuous to the public. The property owner must ensure that the posting is up until completion of the public hearing and removed within two (2) weeks upon completion of the public hearing. Any costs related to the mailing and publishing of notices and the posting of signs around the subject property associated with a variance application will be borne by the applicant.

Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners  
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As the Board is aware, there is support for fracking as a cost-saving process for drilling oil and gas, and it has led to new jobs and growing local economies in certain Western US states. Additionally, proponents of fracking see the growing natural gas industry as a "bridge fuel" until other more renewable energy sources (i.e. wind, solar, etc.) can be produced on a larger scale. However, many reports indicate that aside from the economic benefits, fracking creates negative impacts to the surrounding and distant lands of a well site. The noticeable impacts of fracking include odor, noise, light, and heavy truck traffic, as well as potential structural damage to buildings, foundations, or underground infrastructure.

Miami-Dade County is a highly urbanized county with environmentally sensitive lands and coastal areas; therefore, fracking may pose a risk to our community. Additionally, the County has specific provisions in the Code that are intended to protect our drinking water supplies, air, and soil from the types of environmental impacts that may be caused from the chemicals used in the fracking process. Fracking in an urbanized County such as ours may have an adverse impact on our residents, economy, environment and regional wildlife.



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Jack Osterholt  
Deputy Mayor

161261



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

**DATE:** October 5, 2016

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 7(A)

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. 7(A)  
10-5-16

ORDINANCE NO. 16-106

ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; PROHIBITING USE OF LAND FOR WELL STIMULATION FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION; PROVIDING CRITERIA AND NOTICE AND HEARING PREREQUISITES FOR VARIANCES; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY IN INCORPORATED AREAS; CREATING CHAPTER 33, ARTICLE XLII, SECTIONS 33-435 THROUGH 33-438 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** Chapter 33, Article XLII of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby created to read as follows:

**ARTICLE XLII. - WELL STIMULATION FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION**

**Sec. 33-435. - Purpose and applicability.**

- (a) This article shall be applicable in the unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County and as a minimum standard in the incorporated areas of Miami-Dade County.
- (b) Nothing contained herein shall prevent or prohibit a municipality from adopting or enforcing regulations that are stricter than those contained in this article. Any and all relief from this article may only be granted by the Board of County Commissioners.
- (c) The purpose of this article is to provide additional protections against incompatible land uses in Miami-Dade County by prohibiting the use of lands in Miami-Dade County for oil and gas exploration or production through well stimulation, as defined in this Article, including processes commonly known as “fracking.”

**Sec. 33-436. - Legislative findings.**

The health, safety, welfare, comfort, and convenience of the present and future residents of Miami-Dade County are dependent upon the orderly development and compatibility of uses on lands in Miami-Dade County. Ensuring compatibility of land uses within Miami-Dade County is of paramount importance in protecting private property rights of landowners, avoiding interference with other lawful land uses, and avoiding adverse impacts to parks, preservation lands, and other areas that enjoy unique protections for the benefit of all residents of Miami-Dade County.

The use of land for oil and gas exploration or production through “well stimulation,” as defined in this Article, (including the use of techniques commonly known as “fracking”), and efforts to engage in well stimulation, have increased around the United States in recent years. Well stimulation, and its associated or ancillary activities, have been shown to have negative impacts to surrounding lands, including lands beyond the immediate vicinity of a well site, that are incompatible with residential, commercial, agricultural, and other land uses and that are not easily reversible. In addition to impacts such as odor, noise, light, and heavy truck traffic, potential impacts associated with well stimulation, which may also affect properties far beyond the well site, include: structural damage to buildings, foundations, or underground infrastructure resulting from induced seismic activity; increased demand on infrastructure such as roads and wastewater treatment facilities; increased demand on water resources; impacts to public and private drinking water supplies; and leaking or leaching of chemicals or natural gas resulting in environmental contamination to air, water, or soils. In addition, the specific chemicals used in well stimulation are neither disclosed nor strictly regulated by any federal or state agency, and therefore the full extent of the incompatibility of well stimulation with surrounding land uses cannot be assessed at this time. The impacts from well stimulation could also negatively affect the economy of Miami-Dade County, including but not limited to certain large industries such as tourism and agriculture.

For all of these reasons, it is necessary to protect the health, safety, welfare, comfort, and convenience of the present and future residents of Miami-Dade County by enacting the land use regulations in this article to specifically regulate and prohibit the use of lands in Miami-Dade County for oil and gas exploration or production through the use of well stimulation.

**Sec. 33-437. - Uses prohibited by this article.**

Notwithstanding anything in this chapter or any municipal regulations to the contrary, the use of property for oil and gas exploration or production through the use of well stimulation, including any ancillary or associated activities, shall be prohibited. For purposes of this article, "well stimulation" is defined as a well intervention, exploration, operation, or maintenance procedure performed by injecting fluid, which may include additives, into a rock formation to increase the rate of production at an oil or gas well by increasing the flow of hydrocarbons from the formation into the wellbore. Well stimulation includes, but is not limited to, the processes known as hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and cyclic steam injection, which are sometimes referred to as "fracking," as well as matrix acidizing and fracture acidizing. Well stimulation does not include routine well cleaning that does not affect the integrity of the well or the formation. >>This prohibition would not apply to oil and gas exploration or production which does not use well stimulation, or ancillary or associated activities, but any such uses remain subject to other regulations of this chapter, including section 33-13 on unusual uses, the Code of Miami-Dade County, and municipal regulations, as applicable.<<<sup>1</sup>

**Sec. 33-438. - Variances.**

- (a) *Variance criteria.* No variances from the provisions of this article may be granted, except: where it would not be contrary to the public interest, where owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions herein will result in unnecessary hardship, and so the spirit of the regulations shall be observed and substantial justice done; provided that the variance will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the regulations, and that the same is the minimum variance that will permit the reasonable use of the premises. In addition, any variance of the requirements of this article may only be granted by the Board of County Commissioners and only after a demonstration by competent substantial evidence:
- (i) that the variance is the minimum variance that will

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<sup>1</sup> Committee amendments are indicated as follows: Words double stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] are deleted, words double underlined and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

- (ii) permit the reasonable use of the premises, and that the variance will not result in irreversible impacts to lands in Miami-Dade County that affect their designated or existing uses, including, at a minimum, an analysis of the following impacts:
    1. structural damage to buildings, foundations, or underground infrastructure resulting from induced seismic activity;
    2. impacts to public and private drinking water supplies and wastewater treatment facilities;
    3. increased demand on water resources; and
    4. leaking or leaching of chemicals or natural gas.
- (b) *Notice and hearing prerequisites to action on variance application.*
  - (i) No action on any application for variance of this article shall be taken until a public hearing has been held before the Board of County Commissioners upon notice in accordance with this section, the cost of said notice to be borne by the applicant.
  - (ii) *Recommendation.* For every application filed hereunder, the Director shall prepare a written recommendation, which shall also include a statement of the Director as to the application's relationship to the Comprehensive Development Master Plan. All such recommendations shall state all facts relevant to the application, including an accurate depiction of known living, working, traffic, and transportation conditions in the vicinity of the property that is the subject of the application, and also a description of all projected effects of the proposed variance on those conditions. All such recommendations shall be signed and considered final no earlier than 30 days prior to the public hearing to give the public an opportunity to provide information to the Director prior to the recommendations becoming final. This shall not preclude earlier, preliminary recommendations. All documents of the County departments evaluating the application, which documents pertain to the application, are open for public inspection to applicants or other interested persons.
  - (ii) *Mailed notices.* The Director shall mail written notice to all property owners of record, as reflected on the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's tax

roll as updated, within a 1-mile radius of the subject property, as follows:

1. *Preliminary courtesy notice.* Within 30 days of the filing of an application for variance, a courtesy notice that includes: the applicant's name; the processing number; the subject property size; the location (and street address, if available) of the subject property; a general description of the action requested in the application; a statement that the application was filed and is being reviewed by the Department and that a future notice will be provided prior to the public hearing thereon; a statement that any interested person is entitled to discuss the application with the Department to the same extent as the applicant is so entitled; and a statement that the application may change during the hearing process. The failure to mail or receive this courtesy notice shall not affect any action or proceeding taken hereunder.
  2. *Public hearing notice.* No sooner than 90 days, and no later than 60 days, prior to the public hearing, a written notice containing general information, including the date, time, and place of the hearing, the subject property's location (and street address, if available), and the nature of the application.
- (iii) *Published notices.* The Director shall publish notices of an application for variance as follows:
1. Within 30 days of the filing of an application, a courtesy notice shall be published in the newspaper of largest circulation in Miami-Dade County, containing the same information as the mailed preliminary courtesy notice described above. The failure to publish this courtesy notice shall not affect any action or proceeding taken hereunder.
  2. No sooner than 90 days, and no later than 60 days, prior to the public hearing, a full legal notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Miami-Dade County, which shall contain the date, time, and place of the hearing, the subject property's

location (and street address, if available), and the nature of the application, including all specific variances and other requests.

3. No sooner than 90 days, and no later than 60 days, prior to the public hearing, a layman's notice shall be published in the newspaper of largest circulation in Miami-Dade County, which shall contain the same information as the full legal notice, except that the nature of the application and requests contained therein may be summarized in a more concise, abbreviated fashion.

(iv) *Additional courtesy notices.* When written notice of a public hearing is mailed, courtesy notices containing the same information shall also be mailed to:

1. Each city clerk, city attorney, and city manager for municipalities within Miami-Dade County, and the Executive Director of the Miami-Dade League of Cities, Inc.; and
2. The president of any homeowners' association having any member who resides within the area of mailed notice described above when such residency is shown upon a current updated notice filed with the Director. The Director shall establish and maintain a process by which homeowners' associations may provide notice of the areas in which their members reside. Homeowners' associations shall keep these notices current by updating them in accordance with procedures to be prescribed by the Director.
3. The failure to mail or receive these courtesy notices shall not affect any action or proceeding taken hereunder.

(v) *Posting of property.* The subject property shall be posted no later than 60 days prior to the hearing in a manner conspicuous to the public, by a sign or signs containing information including the variance request, application number, and the time and place of the public hearing. The property owner shall be responsible for ensuring that the sign is maintained on the site until completion of the public hearing

- and for removal of the sign within 2 weeks following completion of the public hearing.
- (vi) For subject properties with more than one frontage, the notices and advertisements shall include both the mailing address and identification of the street or intersection of any additional frontage.
  - (vii) For each type of notice and advertisement required by this article, the person or persons for the mailing, posting, or publication shall attach an affidavit or affidavits thereof to the application file setting forth the compliance with the applicable requirement.
  - (viii) The Director shall have the discretion to expand any of the notice provisions contained in this section if deemed appropriate.
  - (ix) If the notices described above are published, and the required affidavits are of record, no judicial proceeding to void a hearing shall be commenced after the time for appeal of a quasi-judicial action of a local government board, as provided in the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.
  - (x) *Conflicts.* In the event of conflicts with any other provisions of this chapter or applicable municipal regulations regarding notice and hearing prerequisites, the provisions of this article shall govern. In the event that any time periods specified in this subsection regarding notice and hearing prerequisites conflict with any applicable provision of the Florida Statutes, the Florida Statutes shall govern.
- (c) *Municipal approval.* Any municipal approval of the use of property in Miami-Dade County for oil and gas exploration or production through the use of well stimulation shall not be effective unless and until the Board of County Commissioners approves a variance pursuant to the procedures and requirements of this subsection and this article.

**Section 2.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

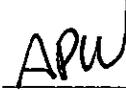
**Section 3.** It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any sunset provision, shall become and

be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

**Section 4.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: October 5, 2016

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency:



Prepared by:



Abbie Schwaderer Raurell

Prime Sponsor: Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava  
Co-Sponsors: Commissioner Sally A. Heyman  
Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan

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