

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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

DATE: October 5, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County
Mayor to study and assess how
sea level rise may affect septic
systems in Miami-Dade County,
and to provide a report

Resolution No. R-911-16

This item was amended at the 9-12-16 Strategic Planning & Government Operations to require the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to consider seeking any necessary funding from the State for purposes of carrying out the objectives of the item and to address that in the report.

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



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/lmp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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 ____, 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)(18)
10-5-16

RESOLUTION NO. R-911-16

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO STUDY AND ASSESS
HOW SEA LEVEL RISE MAY AFFECT SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, like the rest of South Florida, is understood to be particularly vulnerable to sea level rise due to its low elevation and proximity to the coast; and

WHEREAS, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, commonly referred to as septic systems, are a type of onsite sewage facility, a key component of which provides significant treatment of wastewater in an underground drainfield; and

WHEREAS, some portions of the County, particularly rural and suburban areas, lack public sanitary sewer systems and therefore rely on septic systems to treat and dispose of wastewater from toilets, showers, sinks, and dishwashers; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise poses particular concern to septic systems because, among other problems, when sea levels rise, water tables rise, diminishing the treatment capacity of drainfields and resulting in elevated levels of ground water pollution; and

WHEREAS, rising water tables associated with sea level rise may present additional concerns, as this may lead to flooding and pooling of sewage in people's yards and neighborhoods, which in turn presents serious public health and safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, it is time to assess, study, and understand all of the potential consequences of sea level rise on septic systems in the County, and to look at possible solutions to mitigate the problems that may be on the horizon; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to undertake a study and report back with findings and recommendations for further action,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board directs the County Mayor or designee to study and assess how sea level rise may affect septic systems in Miami-Dade County, and to prepare a report. The report shall, at a minimum, identify: (1) how septic systems may be affected by sea level rise; (2) the potential risks involved; (3) areas of the County that could be most impacted; (4) recommendations on how best to eliminate the vulnerability of septic systems to sea level rise; and (5) recommendations as to any further legislative or administrative action that may be necessary to address the vulnerabilities and problems identified >>, including, but not limited to, seeking funding from the state for purposes of carrying out the objectives of this item<<.¹ The report shall be provided to this Board within 365 days of the effective date of this resolution, and shall be placed on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Xavier L. Suarez**, 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:

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Jean Monestime, Chairman | aye | | |
| Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman | aye | | |
| 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 | aye | | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of October, 2016. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "James Eddie Kirtley", written over a horizontal line.

James Eddie Kirtley