Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: July 18, 2016

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

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Historical Recognition for Tropical Park – Directive 150435

At the April 21, 2015 Board of County Commissioners (Board) meeting, the Board approved Resolution No. R-348-15 (Attachment 1), sponsored by Commissioner Javier D. Souto, directing the Mayor or Mayor's designee to: (a) obtain any and all historic recognition available for Tropical Park through the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources; (b) explore whether Tropical Park may qualify for designation as a "Heritage Park" in Miami-Dade County and, if so, to take appropriate action to designate it as such; and (c) have the Clerk of the Board transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Florida Secretary of State, and the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources and its Director.

Staff from the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department's Office of Historic Preservation and the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) have worked together to identify which actions can be taken regarding the historic designation of Tropical Park. Historic Preservation Chief Kathleen Kauffman has conferred with the Division of Historical Resources' Bureau of Historic Preservation (Bureau) on Tropical Park's eligibility. The Bureau reviewed the request and presented its findings in a letter dated February 10, 2016 (Attachment 2) in which it was determined that listing Tropical Park on the National Register of Historic Places was not the most viable option. However, the Bureau recommended the placement of a Florida Historical Marker to narrate the park's history.

Prior to becoming a County park in 1979, the grounds were used as Tropical Park Race Track, which was one of Florida's early horse tracks, in operation from 1931 through the early 1970s. While the park no longer has its original race horse facility elements to qualify it as a Heritage Park, the history of the facility will be commemorated in a permanent exhibit at the Mary Abreu Center, located within Tropical Park. PROS is currently working on securing the Florida Historical Marker and will place it in Tropical Park in coordination with Commissioner Souto.

In accordance with Ordinance 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. If additional information is needed, please contact Jack Kardys, PROS Director, at (305) 755-7903.

Attachment 1: Resolution No. R-348-15
Attachment 2: Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources Letter

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Michael Spring, Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department
Kathleen Kauffman, Chief, Historic Preservation, Regulatory and Economic Resources Department
Neil R. Singh, Interim Commission Auditor
Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

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

ATTACHMENT 1

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

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

DATE: April 21, 2015

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor to: (1) take appropriate action to obtain any and all historic recognition available for Tropical Park through the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, and (2) explore whether Tropical Park may qualify for designation as a Heritage Park in Miami-Dade County and, if so, to take appropriate action to designate it as such

Resolution No. R-348-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: April 21, 2015

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

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

_____ 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)(23)
4-21-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-348-15

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO: (1) TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO OBTAIN ANY AND ALL HISTORIC RECOGNITION AVAILABLE FOR TROPICAL PARK THROUGH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES, AND (2) EXPLORE WHETHER TROPICAL PARK MAY QUALIFY FOR DESIGNATION AS A HERITAGE PARK IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND, IF SO, TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DESIGNATE IT AS SUCH

WHEREAS, since 1979, Tropical Park has been a county-operated urban park located in Miami-Dade County, southwest of the intersection of the State Road 826-Palmetto Expressway and Bird Road; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Park attracts approximately 1.5 million visitors annually, offering many activities to park-goers, including, among others, bicycling, walking, running, basketball, and racquet sports; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Park is located upon the grounds of the former Tropical Park Race Track, one of Florida's early horse tracks which hosted horse races on the site from 1931 until the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of its historical tie to horses, Tropical Park today has an Equestrian Center that hosts over thirty horse shows annually, including international shows, as well as the renowned Miami International Agriculture, Horse and Cattle Show; and

WHEREAS, to acknowledge the history and cultural significance of Tropical Park as an early Florida horse track and park, the Florida Legislature is being asked to designate, or recognize, Tropical Park as a site of statewide historical significance; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources also should be called upon to provide any and all further recognition available to Tropical Park; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. R-238-04, this Board declared that certain parks in Miami-Dade County should be designated as "Heritage Parks," in recognition of their unique significance to the County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the "Heritage Parks" designation is designed to encourage sustained stewardship of exceptional parks, to call attention to their unique characteristics, and to instill in residents a greater sense of pride in Miami-Dade County's great parks; and

WHEREAS, to determine if a particular park qualifies for designation as a "Heritage Park," the following criteria may be considered: whether the park has exceptional historic or archaeological countywide significance, either natural or cultural; whether the park has exceptional natural resource value; or whether the park has exceptional design and material characteristics; and

WHEREAS, the parks that this Board has recognized as "Heritage Parks" include Crandon Park, the Deering Estate at Cutler, Greynolds Park, Haulover Beach Park, Homestead Bayfront Park, Matheson Hammock Park, and Redland Fruit and Spice Park; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Park also should be considered for designation as a "Heritage Park," in recognition of its exceptional cultural and historic significance to 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 Mayor or designee to obtain any and all historic recognition available for Tropical Park through the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, and provide a report regarding same to this Board within 90 days of the effective date

of this resolution and place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Section 2. Directs the Mayor or designee to explore whether Tropical Park may qualify for designation as a "Heritage Park" in Miami-Dade County and, if so, to take appropriate action to designate it as such, and provide a report regarding same to this Board within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution and place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Florida Secretary of State, the Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources, and its Director.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner **Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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	**absent**	Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**
Juan C. Zapata	**absent**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of April, 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

ATTACHMENT 2

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

February 10, 2016

Ms. Kathleen Kauffman
Historic Preservation Chief, Miami-Dade County
111 NW 1st Street, Mailbox #114
Miami, FL 33128

Re: Tropical Park Determination of Eligibility, Miami-Dade County, Florida

Dear Ms. Kauffman:

Per your request, our office reviewed the eligibility of listing the Tropical Park property on the National Register of Historic Places. After careful consideration, it appears that the park has lost integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, and association as a horse racing facility. Horse racing has a particularly long legacy in South Florida, but for the resource to be eligible as one of Florida's earliest, the property would have to retain the track and related structures from that period. From modern aerials, it is evident that remnants of the ca. 1931 track are present in the northern portions of the current property, but the remaining context is lost. The parking lot was expanded and additional amenities were built into the landscape to accommodate recreational activities, thus removing approximately two-thirds of the original racing track. As a county-managed property, Tropical Park itself has only existed for 36 years, and would have to demonstrate exceptional significance under Special Criterion Consideration G for properties less than 50 years of age.

This determination in no way diminishes the historic significance of the site and its continual evolution as a public amenity. Although National Register designation may not be the most viable option for commemorating this significance, our office recommends the placement of a Florida Historical Marker to narrate this property's history for visitors and residents alike. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 850.245.6333 if you have any questions or would like to explore the marker application process.

Sincerely,

Desiree Estabrook
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation