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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

DATE: February 17, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to establish a fund to financially assist and support local governments, such as Miami-Dade County, in developing and implementing solutions to sea level rise and related impacts

Resolution No. R-168-16

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/smm

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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)(4)
2-17-16

RESOLUTION NO. R-168-16

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH A FUND TO FINANCIALLY ASSIST AND SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SUCH AS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS TO SEA LEVEL RISE AND RELATED IMPACTS

WHEREAS, Florida has approximately 1350 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than any other state besides Alaska; and

WHEREAS, because of this vast coastline and Florida's geographical location, state and local governments in Florida should be leaders in developing innovative strategies on how to be resilient to sea level rise, particularly as impacts of sea level rise are expected to increase in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Florida has been identified by both the United Nations and the United States Climate Assessment as "ground zero" for sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has already taken action to collaborate with Broward County, Palm Beach County, and Monroe County on various issues related to sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, pursuant to Resolution No. R-599-13, this Board created the Miami-Dade County Sea Level Rise Task Force, which subsequently presented recommendations to this Board on July 1, 2014 that are available online at http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/legistarfiles/Matters/Y2014/141493.pdf; and

WHEREAS, this Board subsequently adopted multiple resolutions in order to implement the recommendations of the Sea Level Rise Task Force, including but not limited to Resolution No. R-63-15, which urged the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to fund

Everglades restoration; Resolution No. R-48-15, which directed the County Mayor to study and develop adaptation strategies to address flooding and salt water intrusion associated with sea level rise; and Resolution No. R-49-15, which directed the County Mayor to initiate discussions with private insurance and reinsurance groups, along with other local governments and state agencies, in order to develop long term risk management solutions; and

WHEREAS, the County Mayor has assembled an impressive team to tackle this trailblazing effort and carry out the directives from this Board related to sea level rise, and the County has demonstrated leadership on these issues; and

WHEREAS, if the federal government provides financial assistance to local governments such as Miami-Dade County for purposes of developing and implementing solutions to sea level rise, together with appropriate matching funds from state and local funding sources, the result would be a tremendous, value-added investment; and

WHEREAS, such federal assistance would accelerate the development of success models which could be copied and used by scores of similarly situated communities elsewhere, thus multiplying the utility and effect of federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, such federal assistance and the resulting Miami-Dade County projects and solutions would create new jobs and potentially attract new companies and industry, all of which would substantially enhance our economy at all levels; and

WHEREAS, such federal assistance could also help local governments, such as Miami-Dade County, find solutions to potential property damage due to impacts of sea level rise and could ultimately result in a far-reaching damage prevention initiative that may reduce financial pressure on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its after-the-fact damage compensation fund, thus saving the federal government money in the long run; and

WHEREAS, this Board now wishes to call upon the federal government to provide appropriate financial assistance and support to establish a fund, which would be used to partner with local governments, such as Miami-Dade County, that are on the forefront of developing adaptive solutions to the potentially devastating impacts of sea level rise and to provide such local governments with financial assistance and support for such sea level rise related initiatives and to further carry out the recommendations of the Miami-Dade County Sea Level Rise Task Force; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supported by the Honorable Harvey Ruvin, who is the Miami-Dade County Clerk and who has shown leadership and has played an instrumental role with sea level rise initiatives on the local, state, national, and international levels,

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

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Congress to establish a fund that would be used to partner with local governments, such as Miami-Dade County, to provide financial assistance and support for sea level rise related initiatives and projects.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislation and appropriation described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2016 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, 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	**absent**	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 17th day of February, 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.

James Eddie Kirtley
Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell