

Memorandum



Date: February 3, 2020

Agenda Item No. 2(B)1
February 19, 2020

To: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", written over the printed name of the Mayor.

Subject: Report Regarding Modifying the Operating Hours and Allowed Users of the County's
Trash and Recycling Centers (TRCs) and the Creation and Management of Additional
TRCs –Directive 191468

The following information is provided in response to Resolution No. R-951-19, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on September 4, 2019, directing the County Mayor to examine the feasibility of modifying the operating hours and allowed users of the County's Trash and Recycling Centers (TRCs). The resolution also directs the County Mayor to examine the feasibility of creating and managing additional TRCs.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Solid Waste Management's (DSWM) Collection Division provides solid waste services through a non-ad valorem fee in the Waste Collection Service Area (WCSA). The WCSA includes unincorporated areas of the County and nine municipalities, including: the City of Aventura, City of Doral, City of Miami Gardens, City of Sunny Isles Beach, Town of Cutler Bay, Town of Miami Lakes, Village of Palmetto Bay, Village of Pinecrest, and the City of Opa-locka. Solid waste services include twice-a-week garbage collection, bi-weekly recycling collection, two scheduled bulky waste pickups of up to 25 cubic yards per calendar year, unlimited access to 13 TRCs and code enforcement.

The 13 TRCs are located throughout the WCSA. The TRCs provide WCSA customers unlimited access to dispose of residential household trash, tree and yard cutting and up to three cubic yards of construction and demolition debris. Most TRCs accept up to four standard automobile tires and also accept white goods such as old stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, washers, dryers and freezers. TRCs are open 7 days a week, 10.5 hours a day with operating hours from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

TRC ACTIVITY

The Department evaluated the hourly traffic/visits for a period of six months (March 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019) and determined the heaviest periods, on average, were between 11:00 a.m. to noon for most TRCs. The lightest traffic/visits, on average, were after 5:00 p.m. DSWM also examined 3-1-1 Contact Center reports for the past year and determined that there were zero complaints registered regarding the TRC hours. Based on the information evaluated, DSWM recommends that the opening and closing times for the TRCs remain the same.

ILLEGAL DUMPING ACTIVITY

A review of 3-1-1 Contact Center service request (SR) reports from December 2017 to September 2019 identified that residents made four more calls reporting illegal dumping on Mondays (55) than on Tuesdays (51), which is the next highest call day. In addition, a review of code enforcement citations issued for illegal dumping during the same time period indicated that, on average, more citations were issued on Wednesdays and Thursdays, than on Mondays.

NON-WCSA CUSTOMERS

DSWM also examined the possibility of allowing non-WCSA customers the use of TRCs for an appropriate fee. As mentioned above, the neighborhood TRCs are part of the Collection system, which is funded by the non-ad valorem fee charged to WCSA customers on their tax bill. Neighborhood TRCs are an enhancement to the bulky waste collection service offered to WCSA customers. The best possible option would be to use the existing Landscaper Coupon process to allow non-commercial, non-WCSA customers, to prepay for trash and/or construction and demolition debris at approximately \$77.00 per load, for up to three cubic yards per load. All materials hauled away from the TRCs are transported by DSWM staff. There are no operating agreements between the County and third-party haulers to move the waste.

ADDITIONAL TRCs

DSWM examined the feasibility of creating and managing additional TRCs in or close to areas where illegal dumping is prevalent in the WCSA, including the most heavily affected areas of the County referenced in the minutes of the Miami-Dade County Illegal Dumping Task Force (Task Force) meetings. In its findings, the Task Force concluded that there were higher instances of reported illegal dumping cases in or around vacant and unattended lots. The inability of private property owners to maintain constant surveillance of their properties offers illegal dumpers the opportunity to dispose of their material on or around vacant properties. DSWM conducts surveillance and investigations, working closely with the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), in order to discourage illegal dumping on vacant land. This practice has been successful in identifying illegal dumpers and has even led to arrests. DSWM encourages vacant land owners to install surveillance cameras and to work with the MDPD to apprehend violators.

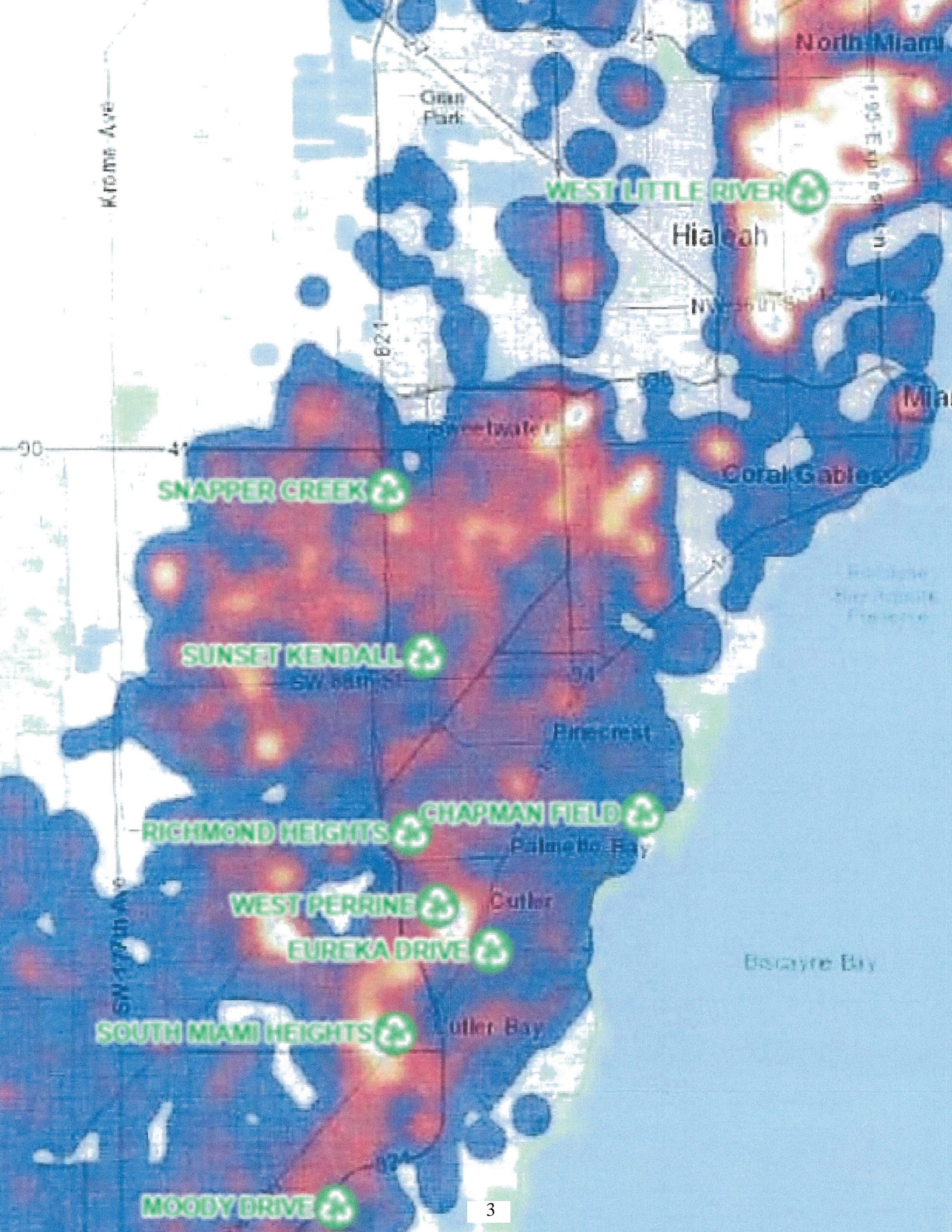
The Task Force recommended establishing more TRCs as a means of motivating illegal dumpers to legally dispose of material. Data collected shows that illegal dumping often occurs in vacant lot areas where TRCs already exist within the proximity; therefore, adding another TRC may not be the solution to curbing illegal dumping. The attached heat map, generated from illegal dumping complaints between May 2015 and May 2018 through the County's 3-1-1 Contact Center, illustrates examples of illegal dumping in close proximity to the West Little River TRC.

For the purposes of this report, capital costs of a TRC would vary depending on the acreage and value of land acquired. Ten acres of land provides ideal space to build a full service TRC. Scaling back the size and level of service would also impact the annual operating costs for personnel, equipment and disposal. Building one TRC would require a one-time \$19 per household fee increase to fund capital costs. Thereafter, DSWM would need an additional fixed \$5 annual fee increase per household to support the daily operations of an additional TRC.

Should you require additional information, please contact Director Michael J. Fernandez, Department of Solid Waste Management, at 305-514-6609.

Per Ordinance No. 14-65, this report shall be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

- c: Abilgal Price-Williams, County Attorney
- Geri Bonzon-Keenan, First Assistant County Attorney
- Jennifer Moon, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
- Adeyinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Linda L. Cave, Clerk of the Board
- Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator



North Miami

Oran Park

WEST LITTLE RIVER

Hialeah

NW 57th St

I-95 Express Lane

Krome Ave

624

635

Mia

90 41

Sheelalet

Coral Gables

SNAPPER CREEK

SUNSET KENDALL

SW 11th St

Firecrest

94

RICHMOND HEIGHTS

CHAPMAN FIELD

Palmato Bay

WEST PERRINE

Cutter

EUREKA DRIVE

Bayshore Bay

SOUTH MIAMI HEIGHTS

Cutter Bay

MOODY DRIVE