

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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

DATE: June 2, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the South
Florida Water Management
District (SFWMD) to take
immediate action to address the
flooding disaster that took place
in Miami-Dade County over the
past two weeks and to
immediately issue a report that
explains in detail the actions that
the SFWMD took in anticipation
of the flooding disaster

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/lmp

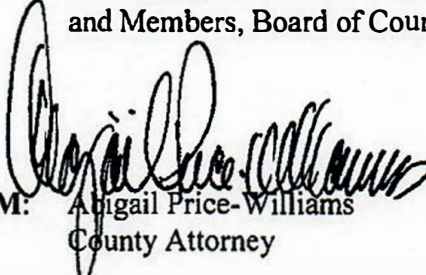


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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 present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ 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)(6)

6-2-20

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD) TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ADDRESS THE FLOODING DISASTER THAT TOOK PLACE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS AND TO IMMEDIATELY ISSUE A REPORT THAT EXPLAINS IN DETAIL THE ACTIONS THAT THE SFWMD TOOK IN ANTICIPATION OF THE FLOODING DISASTER

WHEREAS, beginning on Friday, May 22, 2020, and continuing into the week of May 25, 2020, torrential rainfall pounded Miami-Dade County, resulting in some of the worst flooding in decades; and

WHEREAS, the flooding was so excessive that storm water flooded residents' homes and businesses throughout Miami-Dade County, resulting in significant and unexpected property damage; and

WHEREAS, the flooding also covered roadways, creating unsafe traffic conditions and flooding vehicles, resulting in further property damage; and

WHEREAS, some of the worst flooding took place in the far west part of the County, where thousands of residents suffered substantial property damage; and

WHEREAS, a multibillion-dollar flood protection system, including, but not limited to, the C-4 (Tamiami) Canal and connected waterways and pumps, previously had been constructed in this part of the County to prevent and mitigate the type of disastrous flooding that just took place; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is responsible for operating this flood protection system; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that this heavy rainfall was forecasted, despite calls from concerned individuals for the SFWMD to take action to prepare the flood protection system to handle the heavy rainfall, and despite assurances from the SFWMD that everything was under control, the extreme and extensive flooding that occurred suggests that the SFWMD may have utterly failed to competently operate the flood protection system to deal with the rainfall; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD's inaction led to the excessive flooding and property damage suffered by Miami-Dade County residents and businesses, which has only compounded the economic and personal hardships that the community has been enduring due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to bring transparency and accountability to a preventable disaster that left thousands of County residents and businesses in substantial financial hardship, and to ensure that this does not happen again, especially as we head into hurricane season, this Board urges the SFWMD to take immediate action to address the flooding disaster that took place in Miami-Dade County over the past two weeks and to immediately issue a report that explains the actions that the SFWMD took in anticipation of the flooding disaster,

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

Section 1. Urges the South Florida Water Management District to (1) take immediate action to address the flooding disaster that took place in Miami-Dade County over the past two weeks and (2) immediately issue a report that explains in detail the actions that the South Florida Water Management District took in anticipation of the flooding disaster.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Members of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, the

Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District, the Governor, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 State Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2021 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman

Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Eileen Higgins

Joe A. Martinez

Dennis C. Moss

Xavier L. Suarez

Daniella Levine Cava

Sally A. Heyman

Barbara J. Jordan

Jean Monestime

Sen. Javier D. Souto

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of June, 2020. 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: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl