

Memorandum



Date: April 29th 2022

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(1)
July 7, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Subject: Report on Traffic Control and Non-Traffic Control Signs Damaged or Destroyed by Hurricane Irma - Directive No. 191169

Executive Summary:

As part of my operation to catch up on the backlog of items, we are bringing you reports that were pending from the previous administration. The following information is submitted in response to Board of County Commissioners (Board) Resolution R-628-19, sponsored by Senator Souto and adopted on June 24, 2019, requesting the County Mayor or County Mayor’s Designee to identify and repair Traffic Control and Non-Traffic Control Signs damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Irma that are currently in a State of Disrepair and to provide a report to the Board.

The Department of Transportation and Public Work’s Traffic Signals and Signs (TSS) Division has completed its review and research on traffic control signs and non-traffic control signs damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Irma. All sign repairs that could be identified as related to Hurricane Irma have been completed.

Background

The Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) is responsible for the fabrication, procurement, installation, and maintenance of all traffic control signs throughout Miami-Dade County (County) with the exception of traffic signs located along State Roads and on private property. While TSS is also responsible for non-traffic control signs, not all non-traffic control signs within the public right-of-way (ROW) are maintained by TSS. There are a significant number of non-traffic control signs within the ROW that are maintained by private owners, municipalities, or other County departments.

It is estimated that there are over 1.5 million signs installed throughout the County, with the majority being signs maintained by TSS. An inventory of all signs and their locations within the County has never been completed. In partnership with Information Technology Department (ITD), TSS has been working to utilize Geographical Information Systems (GIS) tools along with tablets to begin building an inventory of repaired signs. While this effort will create new records, a full inventory of signs may require several years to complete. DTPW is reviewing potential options for creating a complete initial survey and inventory, including contracting with a third-party vendor or partnering with Google to leverage Street View information and advances analytics. The lack of a complete inventory impacts the ability to identify missing non-traffic control signs, as well as some traffic signs. While it is easy to identify where traffic control signs such as STOP signs are missing, missing non-traffic control signs can be difficult to locate. In many instances, signs that have fallen or knocked over are picked up and removed from their location,

making it difficult to ascertain where they were previously installed. In many instances, the missing signs are reinstalled because there has been a report of a specific sign missing.

DTPW repairs approximately 24,000 signs annually. The majority of these repairs are the result of signs being knocked down or leaning due to impacts with vehicles. As part of the Hurricane Irma recovery effort, TSS Crews and emergency contractors repaired nearly 50,000 signs. The initial effort was to repair traffic control signs to protect driver safety. This initial effort was completed as of March 2018 and was followed by sweeps of the entire County to repair any leaning or reported missing signs, which were completed in the fall of 2018.

Conclusion

All sign repairs that could be identified as related to Hurricane Irma have been completed. There may be additional signs that are missing as a result of Hurricane Irma, however the capability to identify them is not available at this time. There may be signs currently in need of repair which are part of the annual anticipated repairs and are not as a result of Hurricane Irma. There are numerous signs that have been reported to the County for repair, however the majority of those signs are within private property and not under the County’s jurisdiction. DTPW continues to repair and replace signs as they are reported or identified as part of its day-to-day operations. Furthermore, DTPW continues its effort to create an inventory of signage throughout the County in order to better identify damaged and missing signs in the future.

Pursuant to Ordinance No.14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board Meeting.

If additional information is required, please contact Eulois Cleckley., Director and CEO, DTPW, at (786) 469-5406.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
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