

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 1, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to provide a report proposing environmental justice education and outreach opportunities geared towards students and at-risk youth, identifying potential partnerships, and describing other efforts to enhance environmental crime enforcement

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jean Monestime.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 1, 2022

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan
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
- 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)(23)
9-1-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT PROPOSING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES GEARED TOWARDS STUDENTS AND AT-RISK YOUTH, IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS, AND DESCRIBING OTHER EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has long been committed to protecting our air, water, and natural resources and restoring the County's diverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the County Mayor and her Administration have been developing and implementing educational and public outreach initiatives to safeguard our environment; and

WHEREAS, many County residents are also committed to protecting the environment and actively volunteer their time to promote environmental objectives; and

WHEREAS, other members of the public, especially the youth of Miami-Dade County, could be more interested in learning about and protecting the environment, given an opportunity and the training to participate in such advocacy; and

WHEREAS, mobilizing more people, and particularly the youth of Miami-Dade County, in the County's environmental initiatives could help the County in achieving its environmental goals, while also fostering a stronger sense of civic pride and promoting environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, involving youth in these initiatives would allow them to discover and prepare for careers relating to the environment or otherwise relating to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM); and

WHEREAS, an environmental justice education program could further empower students and at-risk youth to make a positive and lasting impact on their community; and

WHEREAS, the County saw one successful example of youth-based environmental advocacy back in the 1990s, when the ARISE Foundation instituted its Enviro-Cops program; and

WHEREAS, the Enviro-Cops program hosted events to educate and entertain elementary school children in the County with programming designed to raise environmental awareness while also promoting community relations with law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the Enviro-Cops program was a stunning success, which was attributed in part to its collaboration with the County, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, and the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Enviro-Cops program was eventually expanded with the creation of the Enviro-Mentors program, by which students from Florida International University and the University of Miami assisted in educating elementary school students participating in the Enviro-Cops program in conjunction with other entities, including the County's former Park and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, the County used to have an Environmental Crimes Unit, which was staffed by trained employees of the former Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) who worked with law enforcement officers dedicated to enforcing criminal laws designed to protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to support the Mayor's initiatives to protect and preserve the environment, such as reinstating the County's Environmental Crimes Unit,

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

Section 1. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to prepare a report proposing environmental justice education and outreach opportunities that expand upon or complement existing or upcoming County environmental initiatives, with such programs being open to all, but recruitment being geared towards students and at-risk youth. The report should include recommendations for hands-on practical participation in appropriate environmental protection activities supervised by County employees, including: engagement in outreach and compliance efforts, such as environmental clean-up activities; documenting and reporting of environmental issues, such as pollution, clogged stormwater drains, or injured wildlife; and field work identifying different plant and animal species. The report should also identify potential partnerships or collaboration with other governmental entities, educational institutions, and community-based organizations, as well as describe other efforts to enhance environmental crime enforcement, such as the possible reinstatement of the County’s Environmental Crimes Unit.

Section 2. The County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee shall provide the report to this Board within 45 days of the effective date of this resolution and place the report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jean Monestime. 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:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	
Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Joe A. Martinez
Kionne L. McGhee	Jean Monestime
Raquel A. Regalado	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

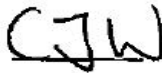
The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of September, 2022. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override 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.



Christopher J. Wahl