

Memorandum



Date: November 7, 2023

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 3(B)(1)

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

Subject: Resolution Retroactively Approving a Grant Submission to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service for up to \$13,279,845 with a Match Waiver for the Keep Cool Miami-Dade: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department Urban Forestry Tree Canopy Project

Executive Summary

This item retroactively approves the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department's (PROS) application to the USDA Forest Service 2023 Urban and Community Forestry Grant in the amount of up to \$13,279,845 for native and Florida friendly tree plantings within PROS's parks, natural areas, and along County-owned roads. Grant funds will additionally be utilized towards staff enhancements, community outreach, tree maintenance, and contractual work to support project activities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board retroactively approve the application for USDA Forest Service 2023 Urban and Community Forestry Grant funds for up to \$13,279,845 for the Keep Cool Miami-Dade: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department Urban Forestry Tree Canopy Project. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to receive and expend funds and execute grant agreements upon review and final approval of the County Attorney's Office for legal sufficiency.

Scope

Project activities will be conducted countywide throughout various PROS parks, natural areas, and along County-owned roads located within disadvantaged communities, as designated by the White House Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

Fiscal Impact/Funding

The County's estimate of the total project cost is \$13,279,845. If awarded, the USDA Forest Service 2023 Urban and Community Forestry Grant will provide funds up to \$13,279,845. A match will not be required for this project as PROS requested a federal match waiver. Project activities that deliver 100 percent of the funding/program benefits to disadvantaged communities are deemed eligible for this waiver by the USDA Forest Service in alignment with Justice40 Initiative Implementation goals.

Track Record/Monitor

Grant funds have not been awarded to PROS from the USDA Forest Service within the past five years. Oversight of the grant will be managed by PROS staff including Gabriela Lopez, Community Image Manager, Community Forestry and Beautification Division; Jennifer Novak, Natural Areas Manager, Natural Areas Management Division; and Michael Rojas, Chief, Right-of-Way Aesthetic and Assets Management Division. The PROS divisions will be supported by a full-time Grants Manager whose

job duties will be fully dedicated to the administration and reporting for this grant. The Grants Manager position will be included as a staff enhancement funded through the grant award.

Delegation of Authority

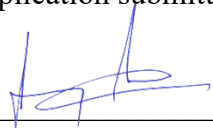
This item authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to execute grant award agreements, amendments and other documents the grant requires, following approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to legal sufficiency; provided however that the County Mayor or Mayor’s designee are only delegated the authority to execute amendments that do not have an additional fiscal impact on the County and that otherwise are for projects eligible under the USDA Forest Service. The Board authorizes the County Mayor or Mayor’s designee to receive and expend all monies for the purposes described in the funding request for an on behalf of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Background

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was signed into law by President Biden in August of 2022, marking a historic investment of nearly \$400,000,000,000 into clean energy and other efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. Within this legislation \$1,500,000,000 was allocated to the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program to provide multiyear, programmatic, competitive grants for tree planting and related activities, with a priority for projects that benefit underserved populations and areas through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program. Urban and Community Forestry Grants, authorized under the IRA, provide funding to community-based organizations, Tribes, State and local agencies, public colleges and universities, and non-profits working to provide equitable access to trees and nature and the benefits they provide to urban communities.

The grant program’s objectives align with Miami-Dade County’s goal for a 30 percent tree canopy for every community, as established by its Neat Streets Miami-Dade County Board’s Million Trees Miami-Dade County initiative in 2011. In 2022, the County committed to an Extreme Heat Action Plan, a key goal of which further prioritized the importance of developing and implementing a plan to achieve the 30 percent tree canopy goal and to address inequities in urban tree canopy coverage currently experienced in low-income communities as identified in the 2021 Miami-Dade County Urban Tree Canopy Assessment. If funded, the Keep Cool Miami-Dade project will enhance tree canopy to mitigate urban heat island effects, improve thermal safety, and provide equitable access to tree benefits. Grant funded activities will focus on low-income areas with low tree canopy and restore critical habitats in disadvantaged communities.

If awarded, the five-year grant term is expected to begin at the end of 2023 through 2028. The project is scheduled to be completed within the grant term. A copy of the grant application is on file with PROS and is available upon request. PROS is requesting retroactive approval of submittal as the grant deadline was June 1, 2023, however, there was insufficient time from the funding announcement to the grant deadline to obtain a resolution. An adopted resolution was not required by the funding agency for application submittal.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operations Officer



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 7, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 3(B)(1)

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. 3(B)(1)
11-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY APPROVING A GRANT SUBMISSION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) FOREST SERVICE FOR UP TO \$13,279,845.00 WITH A MATCH WAIVER FOR THE KEEP COOL MIAMI-DADE: PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY TREE CANOPY PROJECT, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDS, AND EXECUTE GRANT AWARD AGREEMENTS, CERTAIN AMENDMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) FOREST SERVICE AND THE GRANT

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

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

Section 1. This Board retroactively approves the submission of an application to the USDA Forest Service 2023 Urban and Community Forestry Grant program for a total of up to \$13,279,845.00. A county match is not required as the Department requested a federal match waiver. Project activities that deliver 100 percent of the funding/program benefits to disadvantaged communities are deemed eligible for this waiver by the USDA Forest Service in alignment with Justice40 Initiative Implementation goals.

Section 2. The Board authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to accept and expend funds and execute contracts, amendments, and other documents as required by the grant, upon review and final approval of the County Attorney's Office. A copy of the USDA

Forest Service 2023 Urban and Community Forestry Grant application is on file with the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department and available for inspection upon request. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall be required to seek Board approval for any approvals, consents, actions, events or undertakings that would create a financial obligation, cost or expense to the County beyond those specifically identified and set forth in the Agreement.

The foregoing resolution 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:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	
Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Kevin Marino Cabrera	Sen. René García
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Eileen Higgins
Kionne L. McGhee	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of November, 2023. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

mjs

Melanie J. Spencer