

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)


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

DATE: December 12, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County
Mayor to provide a written report
regarding the actions the County
is taking to address water quality
issues in Miami-Dade County's
waterways

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

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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)(15)
12-12-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN
REPORT REGARDING THE ACTIONS THE COUNTY IS
TAKING TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN MIAMI-
DADE COUNTY'S WATERWAYS

WHEREAS, in addition to being a fundamental component of the environment, Miami-Dade County's waterways play an integral role in the economic and cultural life of the community; and

WHEREAS, water quality issues have been a recurring concern for the County's waterways in recent years; and

WHEREAS, for example, Biscayne Bay has recently had fish kills, algal blooms, seagrass die-offs, and coral bleaching events; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health has also recently issued swimming advisories warning of the risk of fecal contamination of certain beach waters in the County; and

WHEREAS, these water pollution issues have been linked to multiple physical and environmental factors, including fertilizer run-off, pet waste, and sewage, and therefore stormwater run-off, sewage spills, failing sewer infrastructure, and septic-tank effluent can all be potential sources responsible for transporting pollution into County waters; and

WHEREAS, such water quality issues do not just cause significant harm to marine animal and plant life, but can also pose threats to human health for those who swim or boat in County waters; and

WHEREAS, these issues are not limited to Biscayne Bay, and it has been reported that West Arch Creek, East Greynolds Park, the Little River, Jose Marti Park, and Biscayne Canal are also areas of particular concern for water pollution; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2021, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-472-21, which, among other things, directed the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to (1) develop proactive long-term measures that may help prevent fish kills, oxygen loss, and algal blooms in Biscayne Bay from reoccurring to the greatest extent possible and (2) develop an action plan to mitigate the negative consequences of any future fish kills, oxygen loss, or algal blooms in Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, this Board needs to be kept up-to-date on the water quality issues impacting County waters and on the steps the County is taking to address those issues; and

WHEREAS, this Board therefore wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide a written report regarding the actions the County is taking to address water quality issues in Miami-Dade County's waterways, and in particular West Arch Creek, East Greynolds Park, the Little River, Jose Marti Park, and Biscayne Canal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide a written report regarding the actions the County is taking to address water quality issues in Miami-Dade County's waterways. The report shall include a particular, but not exclusive, focus on water quality issues in West Arch Creek, East Greynolds Park, the Little River, Jose Marti Park, and Biscayne Canal. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall provide the report to this Board within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution and place the completed report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Micky Steinberg. 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:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 12th day of December, 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. 

Christopher J. Wahl