

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(24)

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

**DATE:** November 7, 2023

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to appropriate  
funding to Miami-Dade County  
for the St. Thomas Sewer Service  
Extension and Road  
Improvements Project

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera.

  
Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

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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)(24)  
11-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO  
APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR  
THE ST. THOMAS SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION AND  
ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, a septic system is a type of onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that treats wastewater from an individual property; and

**WHEREAS**, in a conventional septic system, wastewater from toilets, sinks, showers, and other plumbing facilities flows through pipes into a septic tank where parts of the wastewater are separated to promote limited bacteria break down of organic matter, store solids, and allow clarified wastewater containing pollutants to flow into a drainfield; and

**WHEREAS**, a critical portion of a septic system is the treatment of wastewater in an underground drainfield; and

**WHEREAS**, septic systems may present environmental risks and are potentially vulnerable to the effects of rising groundwater tables, which may diminish the treatment capacity of drainfields and result in elevated levels of groundwater pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2018, the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department, and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County presented a report (the “Report”) to this Board detailing that almost half of the septic tanks in Miami-Dade County break down yearly, a number that is expected to grow to 64 percent by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, the Report recommended that the most effective means of addressing the long-term risks related to rising groundwater levels is to extend sewer connections to new and existing structures where feasible and to reduce the amount of new septic systems installed in vulnerable parts of Miami-Dade County (the “County”); and

**WHEREAS**, converting septic systems to sewer connections may require building new infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Thomas Sewer Service Extension and Road Improvements Project seeks to assist St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School (7303 SW 64<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33143) in its septic to sewer conversion, which will require transitioning the school off its seven septic tanks to the County’s centralized wastewater system; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for the project would provide for the extension of the County’s sewer force main in the area needed to transition the school off its seven septic tanks and onto the County’s wastewater system; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding will also provide for roadway improvements in the area to alleviate traffic concerns, which are currently creating a safety hazard in the vicinity of the school’s campus; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to facilitate this project,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to Miami-Dade County for the St. Thomas Sewer Service Extension and Road Improvements Project.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, 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 2024 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera. 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



Jose I. Ortega