

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 21, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") to seek modification of Field Permit No. 8042676-DA, related to mechanical beach cleaning, to grant the County discretion to select additional sargassum hot spots to include within the scope of said permit, as needed and whenever feasible, and without requiring further approvals by FDEP

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Micky Steinberg and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

MDC001



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Geni Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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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**
- _____ **Requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3’s present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5’s ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 2/3 members present but not less than 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 9 votes (2/3 membership) ____) 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)(25)
7-21-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO COORDINATE WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("FDEP") TO SEEK MODIFICATION OF FIELD PERMIT NO. 8042676-DA, RELATED TO MECHANICAL BEACH CLEANING, TO GRANT THE COUNTY DISCRETION TO SELECT ADDITIONAL SARGASSUM HOT SPOTS TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF SAID PERMIT, AS NEEDED AND WHENEVER FEASIBLE, AND WITHOUT REQUIRING FURTHER APPROVALS BY FDEP

WHEREAS, tourism is Miami-Dade County's largest industry, and the County's beaches are major tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, the presence of sargassum seaweed on County beaches has dramatically increased in recent years, and this increase may have negative impacts on County residents' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, when sargassum seaweed accumulates on the beach, it emits a hazardous gas that may cause respiratory problems and an unpleasant odor; and

WHEREAS, the presence of sargassum seaweed can have a deleterious effect on the tourism industry and impede visitors' and residents' enjoyment of the natural beauty of our beaches; and

WHEREAS, the County's Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department ("PROS") is responsible for maintaining 17 miles of County beaches; and

WHEREAS, PROS works collaboratively with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to follow all applicable regulations and obtain required permits for beach cleaning; and

WHEREAS, section 161.053, Florida Statutes, authorizes FDEP to approve permits for local governments to conduct certain coastal activities, including mechanical beach cleaning; and

WHEREAS, Field Permit No. 8042676-DA (the “Permit”) authorizes the County to mechanically remove accumulated sargassum from the following specified hot spot locations: the areas between FDEP Monuments DA R-095 to DA R-101 (Crandon Park), DA R-074 to DA R-072 (Miami Beach Government Cut to 3rd Street), DA R-063 to DA R-061 (Miami Beach 22nd Street to 26th Street), DA R-061 to DA R-059 (Miami Beach 26th Street to 32nd Street), DA R-028 to DA R-27 (Bal Harbour Pier), and DA R-026 (Haulover Jetty); and

WHEREAS, the Permit was approved pursuant to chapter 62B-33 of the Florida Administrative Code (“F.A.C.”), this approval is specifically limited to beach cleaning in the listed sargassum hot spots, and the Permit states that any additions or modifications require prior FDEP approval; and

WHEREAS, Rule 62B-33.013, F.A.C. provides that “minor changes or modifications, including minor additions, revisions, or structural modifications of permitted projects or activities that are within the scope of the permit, shall be made upon request of the applicant”; and

WHEREAS, under Rule 62B-33.013, F.A.C., major permit modifications, “including additions, revisions, or structural modifications of permitted projects or activities shall be reviewed in the same manner as the initial application”; and

WHEREAS, if granted more flexibility to select additional sargassum hot spots to include within the scope of the Permit, as needed and whenever feasible, and without further review by FDEP, the County may remove sargassum from beaches more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, therefore, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to coordinate with FDEP to seek a minor or major modification of the Permit, as appropriate, to grant the County discretion to select additional sargassum hot spots to include within the scope of the Permit, as needed and whenever feasible, and without requiring further approvals by FDEP,

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 coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to seek a minor or major modification of Field Permit No. 8042676-DA, as appropriate, to grant the County discretion to select additional sargassum hot spots to include within the scope of the Permit, as needed and whenever feasible, and without requiring further approvals by FDEP.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Micky Steinberg and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. 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:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	
Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Sen. René García	Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Vicki L. Lopez
Natalie Milian Orbis	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of July, 2026. 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.



Cristina M. Rabionet