

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

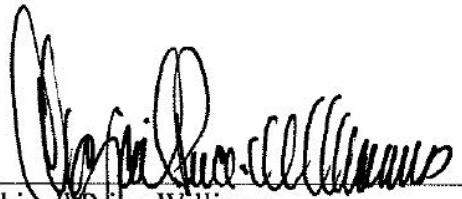
DATE: July 8, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County
Mayor to conduct an independent
analysis of the South Florida
Water Management District's
preparation for and response to
the flooding disaster that took
place in Miami-Dade County in
May 2020, and to provide a
report

Resolution No. R-691-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.


Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

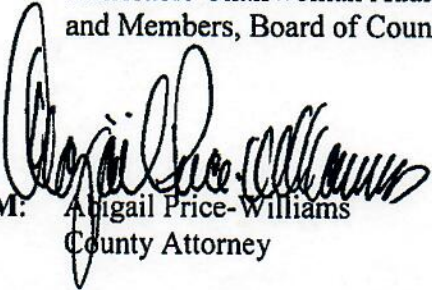
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MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)

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. 14(A)(4)
7-8-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-691-20

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S PREPARATION FOR AND RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING DISASTER THAT TOOK PLACE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN MAY 2020, AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, beginning on Friday, May 22, 2020, and continuing into the week of May 25, 2020, torrential rainfall pounded Miami-Dade County, resulting in some of the worst flooding in decades; and

WHEREAS, the flooding was so excessive that stormwater flooded residents' homes and businesses throughout Miami-Dade County, resulting in significant and unexpected property damage; and

WHEREAS, the flooding also covered roadways, creating unsafe traffic conditions and flooding vehicles, resulting in further property damage; and

WHEREAS, some of the worst flooding took place in the western part of the urbanized area of the County, where thousands of residents suffered substantial property damage; and

WHEREAS, a multibillion-dollar flood protection system, including, but not limited to, the C-4 (Tamiami) Canal and connected waterways and pumps, previously had been constructed in this part of the County to prevent and mitigate the type of disastrous flooding that just took place; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is responsible for operating this flood protection system; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that this heavy rainfall was forecasted, despite calls from concerned individuals for the SFWMD to take action to prepare the flood protection system to handle the heavy rainfall, and despite assurances from the SFWMD that everything was under control, the extreme and extensive flooding that occurred suggests that the SFWMD may have utterly failed to competently operate the flood protection system to deal with the rainfall; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD's inaction led to the excessive flooding and property damage suffered by Miami-Dade County residents and businesses, which has only compounded the economic and personal hardships that the community has been enduring due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to bring transparency and accountability to a preventable disaster that left thousands of County residents and businesses in substantial financial hardship, and to ensure that this does not happen again, especially as we head into hurricane season; and

WHEREAS, this Board would therefore like to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct an independent analysis of the SFWMD's preparation for and response to the flooding disaster that took place in Miami-Dade County in May 2020, and to provide a report,

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

Section 1. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct an independent analysis of the South Florida Water Management District's preparation for and response to the flooding disaster that took place in Miami-Dade County in May 2020. As part of conducting this analysis, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall, to the extent

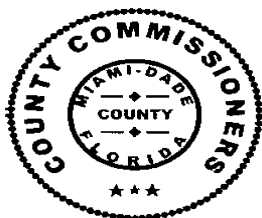
necessary, obtain records of governmental entities involved with the response to this disaster, including, but not necessarily limited to, the South Florida Water Management District.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to prepare a report setting forth the findings of this independent analysis. The County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee shall provide the report to this Board by July 31, 2020 and shall place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	aye		
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	aye		
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	absent	Daniella Levine Cava	aye
Jose “Pepe” Diaz	aye	Sally A. Heyman	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Barbara J. Jordan	aye
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Dennis C. Moss	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye
Xavier L. Suarez	absent		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 9th day of July, 2020. 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: **Melissa Adames**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl