

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** March 16, 2021

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution supporting any and  
all appropriations requests filed  
with the Florida Legislature to  
provide funding to assist  
septic-to-sewer conversions in  
Miami-Dade County

Resolution No. R-229-21

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



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney


GBK/jp



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
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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)(16)  
3-16-21

RESOLUTION NO. R-229-21

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ANY AND ALL  
APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS FILED WITH THE FLORIDA  
LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO ASSIST SEPTIC-  
TO-SEWER CONVERSIONS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, about 120,000 onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, also known as septic systems, exist in Miami-Dade County, and about 12 percent of the County's population is served by septic systems; and

**WHEREAS**, compromised or failing septic systems can pose a threat to public health, the environment, and private property; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has estimated that approximately 9,000 septic systems are currently vulnerable to compromise or failure and that that number will increase to approximately 13,500 by the year 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these currently vulnerable septic systems are in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods in low-lying or coastal areas, including Little River and West Grove; and

**WHEREAS**, the most effective way to reduce the risks posed by septic systems is to eliminate them and connect the properties that they serve to public sanitary sewer systems; and

**WHEREAS**, septic-to-sewer conversions are costly, and the County has estimated that the cost of converting all septic systems in the County exceeds four billion dollars, which includes the cost of constructing the necessary public infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 31, 2020, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-881-20, urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide funding to assist local communities with eliminating septic systems and converting to sewer system connections; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board subsequently identified septic-to-sewer conversions as a 2021 state legislative critical priority in Resolution No. R-1269-20, adopted December 17, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Local Funding Initiative Requests (LFIR) 1180, 1181, and 1182 have been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2021 session by Senator Jason Pizzo (D – Miami); and

**WHEREAS**, House Bills (HB) 3731, 3733, and 3735 have been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2021 session by Representative Dotie Joseph (D – Miami); and

**WHEREAS**, LFIRs 1180, 1181, and 1182 and HBs 3731, 3733, and 3735 are appropriations requests to provide funding to assist the County in constructing sewage infrastructure in the Little River area to help properties convert from septic to sewer; and

**WHEREAS**, LFIR 1928 has been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2021 session by Senator Ileana Garcia (R – Miami); and

**WHEREAS**, HB 3577 has been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2021 session by Representative Nicholas X. Duran (D – Miami); and

**WHEREAS**, LFIR 1928 and HB 3577 are appropriations requests to provide funding to assist the County in constructing sewage infrastructure in the West Grove area to help properties convert from septic to sewer; and

**WHEREAS**, these and similar legislative appropriations requests would greatly help with the vital but expensive task of converting properties in the County from septic to sewer; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board therefore wishes to support any and all appropriations requests filed with the Florida Legislature to provide funding to assist septic-to-sewer conversions in Miami-Dade County,

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

**Section 1.** Supports any and all appropriations requests filed with the Florida Legislature to provide funding to assist septic-to-sewer conversions in Miami-Dade County.

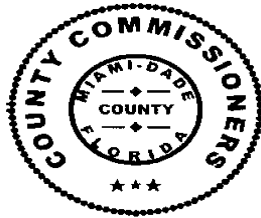
**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Senate President, the House Speaker, Senator Ileana Garcia, Senator Jason Pizzo, Representative Nicholas X. Duran, Representative Dotie Joseph, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and the Co-Sponsor is Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Jean Monestime** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
Sen. René García	<b>aye</b>	Keon Hardemon	<b>aye</b>
Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>	Danielle Cohen Higgins	<b>aye</b>
Eileen Higgins	<b>aye</b>	Joe A. Martinez	<b>nay</b>
Kionne L. McGhee	<b>aye</b>	Jean Monestime	<b>aye</b>
Raquel A. Regalado	<b>aye</b>	Rebeca Sosa	<b>aye</b>
Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>aye</b>		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021. 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

**Melissa Adames**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CJW".

Christopher J. Wahl