

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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

DATE: May 4, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County
Mayor to conduct an educational
campaign as to septic system
maintenance and to prepare
reports

Resolution No. R-464-21

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: May 4, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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)(18)
5-4-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-464-21

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CONDUCT AN
EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN AS TO SEPTIC SYSTEM
MAINTENANCE AND TO PREPARE REPORTS

WHEREAS, in Miami-Dade County (the "County"), approximately 108,000 properties are served by septic tanks and are not connected to the County's sanitary sewer system; and

WHEREAS, what is colloquially referred to as a "septic tank" involves the treatment and disposal of wastewater in a tank and an underground drainfield, and the tank, drainfield, and associated infrastructure are also referred to as a "septic system"; and

WHEREAS, in the December 2020 report from the County Mayor, entitled "Plan of Action Report: A Risk-Based Approach to Septic Systems Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise," the administration estimated that Miami-Dade County has 120,000 septic systems, which are located in both residential and commercial areas; and

WHEREAS, septic systems need to be properly maintained, including regular pump-outs and other periodic maintenance; and

WHEREAS, septic system owners may not be aware of the necessary maintenance and other requirements to ensure the system's proper functioning, including, for example, what materials should and should not be placed into drains and toilets that discharge to a septic system, the type and frequency of recommended maintenance, and how to address an improperly functioning septic system; and

WHEREAS, an improperly functioning septic system may need expensive repairs and may damage the home or other structures on the property; and

WHEREAS, an improperly functioning septic system may also create health risks and environmental contamination, such as to the underground Biscayne Aquifer, which is the County's source of drinking water; and

WHEREAS, through proper maintenance of septic systems, property owners may be able to avoid or lessen financial, environmental, and health risks, and

WHEREAS, as such, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct an educational campaign for County residents and business owners on septic system maintenance,

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

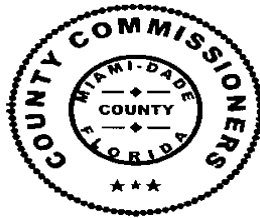
Section 1. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct an educational campaign for County residents and business owners on septic system maintenance, including, but not limited to, materials that should and should not be placed into a septic system, the type and frequency of recommended maintenance, how to address an improperly functioning septic system, and why proper maintenance is important, such as to avoid financial, health, and environmental contamination risks. The components of this educational campaign shall include, at a minimum: "Did You Know" communications, which are to be concise messages that provide helpful information and advice about septic system maintenance and its importance; and greater outreach and engagement, which may include web-based or in-person exchanges of questions and answers, to create more awareness of problems and solutions, demystify technical and regulatory requirements, and provide property owners with answers more efficiently.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to prepare two written reports as to the educational campaign in section 1 above. The first completed report shall set forth the plan for the educational campaign and shall be placed on an agenda of this Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65 within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution. The second completed report shall describe the educational campaign that was conducted and shall be placed on an agenda of this Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65 within 365 days of the effective date of this resolution.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Jean Monestime** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of May, 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

By: Melissa Adames
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "ASR", is written over a horizontal line.

Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell