

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(5)

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

**DATE:** July 7, 2022

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution appointing  
Mark Philcox to the Agricultural  
Practices Advisory Board

Resolution No. R-634-22

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The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor County Infrastructure, Operations and Innovations Committee.

  
Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney


GBK/gh

# Memorandum



**Date:** July 7, 2022

**To:** Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Daniella Levine Cava  
Mayor 

**Subject:** Appointment of Tropical Fruit Crop Representative to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board

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## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) appoint Mark Philcox as the Tropical Fruit Crops representative to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB) as recommended by the Florida Avocado Administrative Committee. Pursuant to Section 2-934 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code), members of the APAB serve four-year terms commencing upon appointment by the Board.

## **Scope**

The recommendations and actions of the APAB have a countywide impact.

## **Delegation of Authority**

The proposed resolution does not delegate authority to the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee.

## **Fiscal Impact/Funding Source**

There is no fiscal impact to Miami-Dade County.

## **Track Record/Monitor**

Jerry Bell, Assistant Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Planning Division, monitors the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

## **Background**

The APAB consists of 13 members representing a variety of agricultural industries:

- Two representatives from the Tropical Fruit Crops Industry of Miami-Dade County, one recommended by the Florida Avocado Committee, and one recommended by the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.;
- Two representatives from the nursery industry, recommended by the Miami-Dade County Chapter of the Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association;
- Two representatives from the vegetable industry, recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau;
- One representative of the aquaculture industry, recommended by the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida;
- One representative of a citizens' association supportive of agriculture, recommended by the Redland Citizens' Association;

- One representative of allied agribusiness recommended by the Dade AgriCouncil;
- One representative of agri-banking, agri-financial consulting, or agri-lending recommended by the Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce;
- One representative of Farm Labor, recommended by Coalition of Florida Farmworkers Organizations;
- One representative of the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District, recommended by the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District; and
- One at large representative recommended by the Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Section 2-935 of the Code requires that the Board fill vacancies occurring on the APAB. Pursuant to Section 2-933 of the Code, each designated organization shall submit, for Board review, at least one nominee for their vacant position(s), including the nominee’s resume and the minutes of the organization’s meeting at which the nominee was selected. The required documentation for Mr. Philcox is attached as Exhibit A.

Tropical Fruit Crops Industry Representative

Mr. Mark Philcox is the owner, President, and General Manager of Grove Services, Inc. of Miami located in Homestead, Florida. Mr. Philcox began his career with Grove Services in 1972 as a tractor operator and worked in various positions until 1984, when he and his wife purchased the company from the previous owner. He currently assists the University of Florida’s Tropical Research and Education Center (UF/TREC) in harvesting and selling tropical fruits grown on TREC property. Mr. Philcox is a member of the Florida Avocado Administrative Committee and has served as Chairman for five years during his more than 20 years with the organization; he is a UF/TREC Advisory Board member of which he has served for more than 10 years; he is also the Director of the Florida Farm Bureau and a member of the Farm Credit Nominating Committee. The Florida Avocado Administrative Committee recommended Mr. Philcox’s appointment at their June 9, 2021, meeting. Mr. Philcox’s resume and the minutes of the meeting at which he was selected are attached as Exhibit A.



Jimmy Morales  
Chief Operations Officer

## Exhibit A

**Mark Philcox**  
**38100 S.W. 214 Avenue**  
**Homestead, Fl 33034**  
**Markphilcox@me.com**

### **Work History:**

#### **05/1972 to Current President/General Manager**

##### **Grove Services Inc., of Miami - Homestead Florida**

I started as a tractor operator working with crews applying herbicide in avocado and lime groves. I was later promoted to foreman. I was in charge of installing irrigation in groves following the 1977 freeze. In 1978 I was promoted to General Manager. In 1984 my wife and I purchased the company from the late Herman Lucerne. I maintained a relationship with both customers and suppliers through a hands on approach and by implementing operational strategies and effectively built both customer and employee loyalty. Assist the University of Florida TREC to harvest and sell the tropical fruits grown on their property.

### **Skills:**

Problem anticipation and resolution. Assignment delegation. Records and organization and management. Focus and follow-through.

### **Professional**

#### **Organizations:**

Currently a member of the Florida Avocado Committee for 20+ years.  
Past Chairman 5 years  
Currently on the University of Florida TREC Advisory Board for 10+ years.  
Farm Credit Nominating Committee - 2+ years  
Florida Farm Bureau Director - 2+ years

June 09, 2021

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**FLORIDA AVOCADO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting held via Zoom Conference call

due to COVID-19 &amp; in-person

18710 SW 288<sup>TH</sup> STREET

HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA 33030

9:00 AM

(305) 247-0848

The Chairman, Medora Krome, called the meeting to order and requested that the Manager, Alan Flinn, call the roll. Those present were:

**Bill Brindle**

Handler Member

District I

**Diego Rodriguez**

Handler Member

District I

**Medora Krom**

Grower Member

District I

**William Losner**

Grower Member

District I

**Hal Kendall Jr.**

Grower Member

District I

**Greg Smith**

Handler Member

District II

**Juan Amezquita**

Grower Member

District II

**Dr. Jonathan Crane**

Public Member

Other alternates present: P. Leifermann, M. Hevia, G. Case, C. De La Torre, M. Pikarsky, M. Philcox, S. Hoveland, J. Leon

Others present were: Sgt. Farinas, Miami-Dade County Ag. Patrol; C. Gonzalez, D. Morales, J. Gilpin, A. Perpuly, C. LaPradd, Ag Manager for Miami-Dade County, A. Fernandez, Office Administrator; A. Flinn, Manager; A. Campos, USDA, Marketing Specialist.

The Chairman welcomed the Committee members, alternates, and guests.

**AG PATROL REPORT -**

Sgt. Farinas provided the Ag Patrol. There were 165 calls for service for May 2021, 32 arrests, 36 civil citations, 6 burglaries, and 8 animal-related issues. After a brief discussion, this completed the Ag Patrol report.

June 09, 2021

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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The May 2021 meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Brindle to accept the May 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The March, April, and May 2021 financial statements were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Brindle and seconded by Mr. Kendall to accept the March, April, and May 2021 financial statements as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Chairman requested that the Manager, Mr. Flinn, give his report. The Manager began his account by advising the Committee that the 2021-2022 e-Compliance plan was emailed to the Committee members for review and, it requires a Committee vote for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Brindle and seconded by Mr. Losner to accept the 2021-2022 e-Compliance Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

After a brief discussion, this completed the Manager's report.

**NEW BUSINESS -**

Committee Member Mr. De La Torre requested \$2500.00 in research funds for residue testing. Ms. Campos, USDA Representative, requested that Mr. De La Torre submit a write-up providing timeline, objective and, expected time of results for funding approval by USDA.

A motion was made by Mr. Brindle and seconded by Mr. Losner to fund Mr. De La Torre's research request contingent on USDA approval.

Committee Member Mr. Losner informed the Committee he will be retiring from his position as the Avocado Committee's representative to the Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Board. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Losner and seconded by Mr. Brindle to nominate Mr. Philcox as the Avocado Committee's representative to the Miami-Dade County Agriculture Practices. The motion passed unanimously.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to be discussed, the meeting of the Avocado Committee was adjourned.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE AVOCADO COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, July 14, 2021, AT 9:00 AM VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL & IN-PERSON MEETING at 18710 SW 288 STREET, HOMESTEAD, FL 33030. All growers and handlers of Florida avocados are encouraged to participate in the nomination process and seek membership on the Avocado Administration Committee.




## MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

**DATE:** July 7, 2022

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 8(L)(5)

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. 8(L)(5)  
7-7-22

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ R-634-22

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARK PHILCOX TO  
THE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, sections 2-931 through 2-936 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provide for the creation, composition, terms, purpose, and duties of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, section 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County specifically provides for the designated organizations to recommend at least one nominee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Avocado Administrative Committee has recommended Mr. Mark Philcox to serve as one of two Tropical Fruit Crops Industry representatives on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

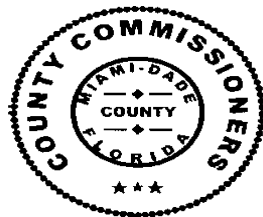
**WHEREAS**, section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that vacancies on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board shall be filled by the Board of County Commissioners,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that Mr. Mark Philcox is hereby appointed as one of two Tropical Fruit Crops Industry representatives on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board to serve a four-year term beginning on the effective date of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** 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>absent</b>	Joe A. Martinez	<b>aye</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 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022. 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

**Basia Pruna**

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

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

Cristina M. Rabionet