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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 7, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to appropriate
funding to Miami-Dade County
to provide assistance with septic-
to-sewer conversions to the
residents in the Schenley Park
area, as bounded by Coral
Way/SW 24th Street to the north,
Red Road/SW 57th Avenue to
the east, the Coral Gables Canal
to the south, and SW 63rd
Avenue to the west

Resolution No. R-113-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 7, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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)
2-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-113-23

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSIONS TO THE RESIDENTS IN THE SCHENLEY PARK AREA, AS BOUNDED BY CORAL WAY/SW 24TH STREET TO THE NORTH, RED ROAD/SW 57TH AVENUE TO THE EAST, THE CORAL GABLES CANAL TO THE SOUTH, AND SW 63RD AVENUE TO THE WEST

WHEREAS, a septic system is a type of onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that treats wastewater from an individual property; and

WHEREAS, in a conventional septic system, wastewater from toilets, sinks, showers, and other plumbing facilities flows through pipes into a septic tank where parts of the wastewater are separated to promote limited bacteria break down of organic matter, store solids, and allow clarified wastewater containing pollutants to flow into a drainfield; and

WHEREAS, a critical portion of a septic system is the treatment of wastewater in an underground drainfield; and

WHEREAS, septic systems may present environmental risks and are potentially vulnerable to the effects of rising groundwater tables, which may diminish the treatment capacity of drainfields and result in elevated levels of groundwater pollution; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department, and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County presented a report (the “Report”) to this Board detailing that almost half of the septic tanks in Miami-Dade County break down yearly, a number that is expected to grow to 64 percent by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Report recommended that the most effective means of addressing the long-term risks related to rising groundwater levels is to extend sewer connections to new and existing structures where feasible and to reduce the amount of new septic systems installed in vulnerable parts of the County; and

WHEREAS, converting septic systems to sewer connections may require building new infrastructure and can be expensive; and

WHEREAS, certain parts of the County lack sufficient sewer infrastructure, resulting in a reliance on septic systems; and

WHEREAS, one such area is the Schenley Park area, as bounded by Coral Way/SW 24th Street to the north, Red Road/SW 57th Avenue to the east, the Coral Gables Canal to the south, and SW 63rd Avenue to the west; and

WHEREAS, as referenced in Resolution No. R-1160-22, to in part address these concerns, the County was awarded a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Fiscal Year 2021 Resilient Florida Grant Program for multiple resilience projects, including \$27,500,000.00 for septic to sewer conversions in the Schenley Park area with a \$27,500,000.00 match from the County; and

WHEREAS, the County does not anticipate that the funding from the grant will result in a fully completed project; and

WHEREAS, even if the sewer infrastructure is expanded to and within the Schenley Park area, the residents of the area may incur significant financial costs when going to connect to the expanded sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, therefore, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to provide funding to Miami-Dade County to provide assistance with septic-to-sewer conversions to the residents in the Schenley Park area, as bounded by Coral Way/SW 24th Street to the north, Red Road/SW 57th Avenue to the east, the Coral Gables Canal to the south, and SW 63rd Avenue to the west,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to Miami-Dade County to provide assistance with septic-to-sewer conversions to residents in the Schenley Park area, as bounded by Coral Way/SW 24th Street to the north, Red Road/SW 57th Avenue to the east, the Coral Gables Canal to the south, and SW 63rd Avenue to the west.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2023 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez** , 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:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of February, 2023. 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

LUIS G. MONTALDO, CLERK AD INTERIM

Basia Pruna

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JO", written over a horizontal line.

Jose I. Ortega
Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell