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OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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

DATE: July 8, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the
County Mayor to compile data
regarding properties that are
served by septic systems or
private water wells; directing
the Commissioner Auditor to
review and verify such data;
urging the Office of the
Property Appraiser to include a
link to such septic system and
private water well information
on the Property Appraiser’s
website

Resolution No. R-672-21

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/uw

MDC001



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: July 8, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Amended
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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	Amended
Veto	_____		Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)
Override	_____		7-8-21

RESOLUTION NO. R-672-21

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO COMPILE DATA REGARDING PROPERTIES THAT ARE SERVED BY SEPTIC SYSTEMS OR PRIVATE WATER WELLS; DIRECTING THE COMMISSIONER AUDITOR TO REVIEW AND VERIFY SUCH DATA; URGING THE OFFICE OF THE PROPERTY APPRAISER TO INCLUDE A LINK TO SUCH SEPTIC SYSTEM AND PRIVATE WATER WELL INFORMATION ON THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S WEBSITE

WHEREAS, in Miami-Dade County (the "County"), approximately 108,000 properties are served by septic systems and are not connected to the County's or a municipal 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, homeowners and potential homeowners or renters may not be aware that a property is served by a septic system, the age of the septic system, or 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 or replacement, and may damage the home or other structures connected to it; and

WHEREAS, the location of a septic tank and drainfield may limit the use of a 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 primary 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, on May 4, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee of Miami-Dade County to conduct an educational campaign as to septic system maintenance; and

WHEREAS, similarly, many properties within Miami-Dade County are served by private water wells, and homeowners, potential homeowners, and renters may not be aware that a property is served by a private water well, and they also may not know what maintenance or testing may be recommended for private water wells; and

WHEREAS, many residents of Miami-Dade County rely on the Office of the Property Appraiser's website to obtain information about their properties; and

WHEREAS, residents of Miami-Dade County trust the Office of the Property Appraiser with information regarding their properties, and are likely to share information about the condition of their properties with the Office of the Property Appraiser; and

WHEREAS, as such, this Board wishes to request the assistance of the Office of the Property Appraiser in providing all Miami-Dade County residents with information about septic tanks including, but not limited to, links to information regarding septic systems and private water wells,

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 compile data of all properties that are served by septic systems or private water wells, including but not limited to permit information when available. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is further directed to maintain an updated database with such data in a format accessible to the Office of the Property Appraiser and the Office of the Commission Auditor.

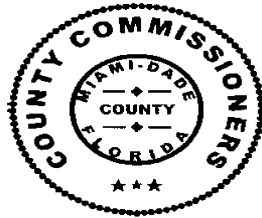
Section 2. Directs the Commissioner Auditor to review and verify the data compiled pursuant to section 1 above.

Section 3. Urges the Office of the Property Appraiser to link to the database maintained pursuant to section 1 above on its website profile for each property served by a septic system or private water well.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado**, 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	absent	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	absent	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 8th day of July, 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.

Jorge Martinez-Esteve