

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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

DATE: October 17, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to provide increased
funding and a dedicated funding
source for the Biscayne Bay
Water Quality Improvement
Grant Program

Resolution No. R-930-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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)(5)
10-17-23

RESOLUTION NO. R-930-23

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING AND A DEDICATED
FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE BISCAYNE BAY WATER
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Biscayne Bay is a critical and irreplaceable component of the environment, culture, and economy of Miami-Dade County (the “County”) and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, events in recent years, including but not limited to seagrass die-offs, fish kills, and coral bleaching, have indicated that Biscayne Bay’s health is in a precarious state and that urgent action must be taken to protect Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, this Board has continuously taken action to protect Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Board’s efforts include the recent establishment of the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has supported the County’s efforts to protect Biscayne Bay by, among other things, establishing the Biscayne Bay Commission and appropriating funding for protection efforts through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$20,000,000.00 to fund projects, including septic-to-sewer and wastewater projects, that will improve the water quality of Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, increased funding is urgently needed to enable the County to bring to fruition the various projects the County has planned for the benefit of Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, continued state funding will be necessary in Miami-Dade County to increase the rate of water quality improvement projects designated for recovery efforts to help improve Biscayne Bay’s health; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to provide sustained and increased funding for the Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant Program,

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 provide increased funding and a dedicated funding source for the Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

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 2024 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kevin Marino Cabrera** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye	
	Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	absent	
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 17th day of October, 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "JO", is written over a horizontal line.

Jose I. Ortega