

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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

DATE: November 7, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to appropriate
funding for the Miami River
Commission

Resolution No. R-1019-23

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: November 7, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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)(13)
11-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1019-23

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE MIAMI RIVER
COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Miami River Commission was created by the Florida Legislature over 20 years ago to improve the 5.5-mile Miami River and its surroundings, including the 69-square-mile water basin that includes portions of the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Miami River Commission is comprised of numerous stakeholders and is established as the official coordinating clearinghouse for all public policy and projects related to the Miami River; and

WHEREAS, the Miami River Commission endeavors to improve the natural environment and the economy of the Miami River and adjacent areas by operating water decontamination vessel services, removing illegally dumped material and invasive plant species, and purchasing and delivering plants, mulch, and dirt for volunteers to use at frequent public Miami River beautification events; and

WHEREAS, in section 163.065(3), Florida Statutes, the Miami River Improvement Act recognizes that “[a]ll state and regional agencies shall provide all available assistance to the Miami River Commission in the conduct of its activities”; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature approved the Miami River Commission’s request for funding for Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2014-15, FY 2015-16, FY 2016-17, and FY 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2016, Governor Rick Scott vetoed funding for the Miami River Commission in the final budget for FY 2016-17; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2017, Governor Rick Scott vetoed funding for the Miami River Commission in the final budget for FY 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature did not approve the Miami River Commission's request for funding for FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, or FY 2021-22; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature approved the Miami River Commission's request for funding for FY 2022-23, but on June 2, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis vetoed funding for the Miami River Commission in the final budget for FY 2022-23; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature did not approve the Miami River Commission's request for funding for FY 2023-24; and

WHEREAS, funding for the Miami River Commission is critical to continue the successful revitalization and sustained urban redevelopment of the Miami River and its surrounding areas,

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 for the Miami River Commission.

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 appropriation set forth 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 Eileen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

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

RAH

Rochelle A. Hall