

## **MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(17)

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

**DATE:** December 12, 2023

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to enact Senate  
Resolution 154 or similar  
legislation recognizing The  
Everglades Foundation for 30  
years of service in the protection  
and restoration of the Everglades  
and for its commitment to public  
education and advocacy

Resolution No. R-1164-23

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/gh



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

**DATE:** December 12, 2023

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(17)

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)(17)  
12-12-23

RESOLUTION NO. R-1164-23

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO  
ENACT SENATE RESOLUTION 154 OR SIMILAR  
LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE EVERGLADES  
FOUNDATION FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE  
PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF THE EVERGLADES  
AND FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AND  
ADVOCACY

**WHEREAS**, since its founding in 1993, The Everglades Foundation has been a leading voice for protection and restoration of the Everglades and is the only science-based nonprofit dedicated solely to advocacy for and public education regarding the Everglades ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, The Everglades Foundation aims to restore water flow to South Florida and water quality within the Everglades, and to ensure the sustainability of the Everglades as a healthy and protected ecosystem capable of supporting abundant plant, animal, and human life; and

**WHEREAS**, the foundation's Everglades Literacy Program educates and empowers the next generation of conservation stewards by providing K-12 teachers and students with comprehensive Everglades lesson plans and STEM-based professional development materials; and

**WHEREAS**, Everglades National Park is home to 36 threatened or protected species, including the Florida panther, the American crocodile, and the West Indian manatee, along with 350 species of birds, 300 species of fresh and saltwater fish, 40 species of mammals, and 50 species of reptiles; and

**WHEREAS**, The Everglades Foundation remains dedicated to preserving the Everglades for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Resolution (SR) 154 has been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2024 session by Senator Bryan Avila (R – Hialeah Gardens); and

**WHEREAS**, SR 154 recognizes The Everglades Foundation for 30 years of service in the protection and restoration of the Everglades and for its commitment to public education and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wishes to support legislation that recognizes the contributions of The Everglades Foundation,

**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 enact Senate Resolution 154 or similar legislation recognizing The Everglades Foundation for 30 years of service in the protection and restoration of the Everglades and for its commitment to public education and advocacy.

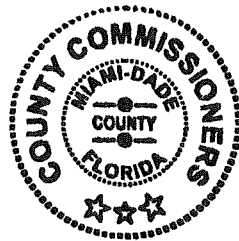
**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Senator Bryan Avila, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation 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 Juan Carlos Bermudez. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez** , 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 | <b>aye</b>    |                      |               |
| Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman | <b>aye</b>    |                      |               |
| Marleine Bastien                 | <b>absent</b> | Juan Carlos Bermudez | <b>aye</b>    |
| Kevin Marino Cabrera             | <b>aye</b>    | Sen. René García     | <b>aye</b>    |
| Roberto J. Gonzalez              | <b>aye</b>    | Keon Hardemon        | <b>absent</b> |
| Danielle Cohen Higgins           | <b>aye</b>    | Eileen Higgins       | <b>aye</b>    |
| Kionne L. McGhee                 | <b>aye</b>    | Raquel A. Regalado   | <b>aye</b>    |
| Micky Steinberg                  | <b>aye</b>    |                      |               |

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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.

Cristina M. Rabionet