

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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

DATE: September 4, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the
County Mayor to evaluate
and make recommendations
regarding prioritizing and
pursuing funding sources for
conservation, preservation,
restoration, acquisition, and
maintenance of pine
rocklands; and requiring a
report

Resolution No. R-778-24

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/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: September 4, 2024

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)
9-4-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-778-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EVALUATE AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PRIORITIZING AND
PURSUING FUNDING SOURCES FOR CONSERVATION,
PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, ACQUISITION, AND
MAINTENANCE OF PINE ROCKLANDS; AND REQUIRING A
REPORT

WHEREAS, pine rocklands are a biodiverse and globally critically imperiled type of forest found only in South Florida and the Caribbean, and indeed less than two percent of this type of forest is found outside of Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, pine rocklands exhibit a unique and diverse plant community of more than 450 types of native plants, and more than 10 percent of the plant species that are found there are endemic, meaning that they are found nowhere else in the world; and

WHEREAS, pine rocklands support more than 20 federally protected, imperiled species, including the Miami tiger beetle, which is found nowhere else on Earth, and the Florida bonneted bat, which is the rarest bat in the United States; and

WHEREAS, biologists also recently discovered the pine rockland trapdoor spider; and

WHEREAS, protecting Miami-Dade County's pine rocklands could help prevent the extinction of dozens of endangered and threatened species found only in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County's Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Division of Environmental Resources Management ("DERM") implements the County's Environmentally Endangered Lands ("EEL") Program, which manages more than 84 natural area preserves covering more than 28,000 acres of various native plant communities, including over 1,630 acres of pine rocklands; and

WHEREAS, starting in 2019, DERM began piloting new restoration techniques in pine rocklands to reverse the effects of rock plowing that occurred prior to the County's ownership; and

WHEREAS, DERM's restoration techniques have reversed these impacts on over 40 acres of pine rocklands, and the effort will finish with the installation of over 20,000 trees in the restored areas; and

WHEREAS, there are, in addition, still over 340 acres of pine rockland habitat on the EEL Program Acquisition List, meaning these sites have been identified for potential purchase by and inclusion in the EEL Program; and

WHEREAS, forested areas reduce the urban heat-island effect, which is caused by dense concentrations of pavement and buildings that absorb and retain heat; and

WHEREAS, protecting and expanding pine rockland forests could help Miami-Dade County counteract the urban heat-island effect by decreasing energy costs, air pollution, and heat-related illness and death; and

WHEREAS, pine rocklands also offer residents and visitors convenient opportunities for rest, reflection, and recreation because they are interwoven into Miami-Dade County's communities; and

WHEREAS, this Board therefore wishes for the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to prioritize and pursue funding sources for the conservation, preservation, restoration, acquisition, and maintenance of pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County,

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 evaluate and make recommendations to this Board regarding: (1) prioritizing long-term initiatives and programs to conserve, preserve, restore, acquire, and maintain pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County, including, but not limited to, through the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program; and (2) pursuing funding sources for the conservation, preservation, restoration, acquisition, and maintenance of pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide a written report detailing the administration's evaluation and recommendations to this Board within 120 days of the effective date of this resolution and to place the completed report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien**, 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	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 4th day of September, 2024. 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.

CJW

Cristina M. Rabionet
Christopher J. Wahl