

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(E)

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

DATE: September 17, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution naming a 15-acre pine
rockland preserve, managed by
the County's Department of
Regulatory and Economic
Resources Division of
Environmental Resources
Management's Environmentally
Endangered Lands Program, and
located in the vicinity of SW
190th Street and SW 140th
Avenue, as the "Sean W.
McCrackine Pineland
Preserve"

Resolution No. R-784-24

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh

Memorandum



Date: September 17, 2024

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Designation of Sean W. McCrackine Pineland Preserve

Recommendation

It is recommended that the three contiguous properties identified by folio numbers 30-6903-000-0065, 30-6903-000-0066 and 30-6903-000-0067 which make up the 15-acre pine rockland preserve located in the vicinity of SW 190 Street and SW 140 Avenue and owned by Miami-Dade County as part of the County's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program be designated as the Sean W. McCrackine Pineland Preserve.

Rule 9.02 of the Board's Rules of Procedure provides that resolutions regarding proposed naming, renaming, or co-designation of Miami-Dade County facilities or property shall be sponsored by the district commissioner where the facility or property is located. The preserve is located in District 8 in unincorporated Miami-Dade County, which is represented by Danielle Cohen Higgins. This preserve includes designated critical habitat for federally endangered species under the Endangered Species Act and has been the site of a significant Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Division of Environmental Resource Management (RER-DERM) restoration effort which is piloting new restoration techniques to reverse the effects of rock plowing on approximately four of the 15 acres (that occurred prior to the County's ownership).

Scope

The preserve is located in District 8 in unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

Approval of this item is not anticipated to create a fiscal impact to the County, as the proposed changes will not require additional staffing resources or generate additional operational expenses.

Track Record/Monitor

The EEL Program Manager within RER-DERM, Janet Gil, will monitor these activities.

Delegation of Authority

There is no delegation of authority associated with this item.

Background

Sean W. McCrackine, a dedicated public servant to the people and environment of Miami-Dade County, passed away on January 28, 2024, at the age of 53 years. Sean grew up in Miami and graduated from Florida International University with a Bachelor's degree in 1995 and a Master's degree in Public Administration in 2014.

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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McCrackine began his employment with Miami-Dade County in 1996 with the County's former Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM). During his tenure with DERM, Sean assisted with the recovery of pine rocklands post Hurricane Andrew, including the development of the first edition of the Pine Rockland Plant Guide.

In January 2003, Sean became an Environmental Policy Aide for Commissioner Katy Sorenson and served in that capacity until November 2010. Between November 2010 and November 2014, Sean became Legislative Director for Commissioner Jean Monestime. In November 2014, Sean moved to then Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava's office and served as the Chief of Policy and Planning until November 2020. During this time, then Commissioner Levine Cava sponsored an item authorizing the purchase of this preserve which was the first resolution authorizing a privately-owned pine rockland acquisition by Miami-Dade County in a decade. With the election of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava as the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Sean became the Director of Policy for the Mayor serving in this capacity until his passing in January 2024.

The purpose of the EEL Program is to acquire, preserve, enhance, restore, conserve, and maintain environmentally endangered lands for the benefit of present and future generations. During his tenure with Miami-Dade County, Sean advocated for the EEL Program and participated in EEL volunteer workdays. In addition, Sean assisted in strategic environmental planning efforts and provided visionary and steadfast leadership, including "after hours" and weekend assistance for the collaborative, first-of-its-kind pine rockland restoration demonstration project at this pine rockland. This project demonstrated to environmental land managers and biologists in the scientific community that the conversion of rock plowed agricultural land, previously believed to be unrestorable, back into a globally imperiled forest is feasible.

Beyond his involvement specifically with this preserve, Sean McCrackine's contributions to Miami-Dade County are immeasurable. Through legislation and policy, he impacted the sustainability and resilience of our community. Below are a few of his contributions:

Parks:

- Preserved Charles Burr Park by ensuring that this historic site received funding for preservation efforts and removal of invasive species.
- Ensured the development of Debbie Curtin Park by working to dedicate funds for the park's development.
- Developed a plan to dedicate funds to Briar Bay Park which resulted in new playground sand and Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF), which is ADA accessible.
- Ensured funding for Devon Aire Park which resulted in a new playground and lighting on the basketball court.

Environment:

- Drafted legislation giving land north of Black Point Marina to the National Park Service, helping to restore natural water flows to Biscayne Bay by advancing the Army Corps/SFMWD Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands CERP project.
- Fought for the restoration of treasured wetlands and mangrove coastline along Biscayne Bay's western shore.

Bike Lanes

- Worked to expand protected bike lanes in South Dade.

South Dade and the Redland

- Worked to protect “Severable Use Rights”: to transfer development away from environmentally vulnerable and/or agricultural lands.
- Developed a plan, in collaboration with farmers, to secure state funds to eradicate Laurel Wilt disease on our avocado farms.
- Developed an approach to advocate for a renegotiation of NAFTA in collaboration with the Farm Bureau.
- Advocated for preservation of the Urban Development Boundary.
- Developed the County’s plan to secure funding for the Farm Life School which resulted in \$1.6 million for this preservation effort.
- Helped the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscapers secure new office space for the industry trade group.
- Developed the County’s plan to secure funding for the Economic Development Council (EDC) to elevate the EDC to lead economic development efforts in South Dade.
- Led efforts to secure roadway repairs in Redland. Worked on the plan to direct millions of dollars toward resurfacing roads critical to agricultural businesses.

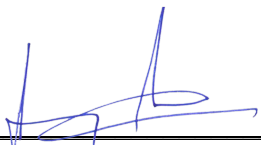
Major Legislative Initiatives:

- Updated building requirements in the County to make buildings more solar friendly.
- Established off-street parking requirements for electric vehicles.
- Advanced new rules to require the county use of the SolSmart program to further improve solar energy permitting processes and to seek designation as a SolSmart Gold County.
- Expanded requirements for storage and collection of recyclable materials.
- Initiated the annual "report card" program that evaluates the health of Biscayne Bay.
- Initiated the "envision" sustainable infrastructure rating system for Miami Dade infrastructure projects.
- Drafted legislation requiring the development of a plan to install electric vehicle charging stations to serve the general public.

Throughout his career, Sean taught generations of policy and legislative analysts how to navigate the governmental bureaucracy, passing on his values and expertise so we all could strive for a better world. Sean was a most trusted advisor and was a mentor to many.

Sean’s passing is an incalculable loss for our community, but his legacy is furthered through every environmental project groundbreaking, every native tree we plant, and every piece of legislation that serves to improve the lives of our residents. Now, with the designation of this important nature preserve as the Sean W. McCrackine Pineland Preserve, his legacy and memory lives on.

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners
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Jimmy Morales
Chief Operating Officer



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: September 17, 2024

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5(E)

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 ____, majority plus one ____, 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) ____, 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 *Daniella Leme Carr* Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 5(E)
9-17-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-784-24

RESOLUTION NAMING A 15-ACRE PINE ROCKLAND PRESERVE, MANAGED BY THE COUNTY'S DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT'S ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM, AND LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF SW 190TH STREET AND SW 140TH AVENUE, AS THE "SEAN W. MCCRACKINE PINELAND PRESERVE"

WHEREAS, three contiguous properties identified by folio numbers 30-6903-000-0065, 30-6903-000-0066 and 30-6903-000-0067 make up the 15-acre pine rockland preserve located in the vicinity of SW 190th Street and SW 140th Avenue and owned by Miami-Dade County as part of the County's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, within the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Division of Environmental Resources Management (RER-DELM); and

WHEREAS, this preserve includes designated critical habitat for federally endangered species under the Endangered Species Act and has been the site of a significant RER-DELM restoration effort which is piloting new restoration techniques to reverse the effects of rock plowing which occurred prior to the County's ownership on approximately four of the 15 acres; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the EEL Program is to acquire, preserve, enhance, restore, conserve, and maintain environmentally endangered lands for the benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Sean W. McCrackine, a dedicated public servant to the people and environment of Miami-Dade County, passed away on January 28, 2024 at the age of 53; and

WHEREAS, McCrackine grew up in Miami and graduated from Florida International University with a Bachelor's degree in 1995 and a Master's degree in Public Administration in 2014; and

WHEREAS, McCrackine began his employment with Miami-Dade County in 1996 with the County's former Department of Environmental Resources Management; and

WHEREAS, McCrackine served as Environmental Policy Aide for Commissioner Katy Sorenson from January 2003 until November 2010; and

WHEREAS, McCrackine served as Legislative Director for Commissioner Jean Monestime from November 2010 until November 2014; and

WHEREAS, McCrackine served as the Chief of Policy and Planning for Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava from November 2014 until November 2020; and

WHEREAS, McCrackine served as Director of Policy for Mayor Daniella Levine Cava from November 2020 until his death in January 2024; and

WHEREAS, to acknowledge McCrackine's long and dedicated service to the people and environment of this County, and as further detailed in the attached County Mayor's Memorandum incorporated by reference, this Board wishes to name the 15-acre Pine Rockland Preserve, managed by RER-DERM's EEL Program and located in the vicinity of SW 190th Street and SW 140th Avenue as the "Sean W. McCrackine Pineland Preserve"; and

WHEREAS, Rule 9.02(a) of the Board's Rules of Procedure provides that resolutions regarding proposed naming, renaming, or codesignation of Miami-Dade County facilities or property shall be sponsored by the district commissioner where the facility or property is located; and

WHEREAS, this County-owned pine rockland preserve is located in County Commission District 8 in unincorporated Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Having considered this matter at a public hearing, approves the naming of the 15-acre pine rockland preserve, managed by RER-DERM's EEL Program and located in the vicinity of SW 190th Street and SW 140th Avenue, as the "Sean W. McCrackine Pineland Preserve".

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to send certified copies of this Resolution to the United States Postal Service, the Traffic Signals and Signs Division of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Development Services Division of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, the Division of Environmental Resources Management of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department and the Miami-Dade Police Department.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez** 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 17th 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.

A handwritten signature, appearing to be "JZ", is written over a horizontal line.

Javier Zapata