

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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

DATE: October 1, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to: (1) design and present to this Board for approval a plan for a pilot program under which only non-gas-powered leaf blowers would be used to perform landscaping at County parks; (2) implement the pilot program if approved by this Board; (3) propose a plan to permanently transition the County to the use of only non-gas-powered leaf blowers; and (4) provide reports

Resolution No. R-890-24

This item was amended at the September 9, 2024 Housing, Recreation, Culture & Community Development Committee to require that the report summarizing the implementation of the pilot program also use the information gained from the program to propose a plan that, over the course of three to five years, would permanently transition the County to the use of only non-gas-powered leaf blowers to perform landscaping at County-owned and -operated parks and at such other County-owned or -operated facilities that the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee deems appropriate. The amendment further requires that the transition plan include, and be informed by, a cost-benefit analysis that assesses costs and benefits to the County and to contractors who may be impacted by this change in policy, and the amendment also makes conforming changes to the title.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Micky Steinberg and Co-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: October 1, 2024

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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 _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)
10-1-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-890-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO: (1) DESIGN AND PRESENT TO THIS BOARD FOR APPROVAL A PLAN FOR A PILOT PROGRAM UNDER WHICH ONLY NON-GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS WOULD BE USED TO PERFORM LANDSCAPING AT COUNTY PARKS; (2) IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM IF APPROVED BY THIS BOARD; (3) PROPOSE A PLAN TO PERMANENTLY TRANSITION THE COUNTY TO THE USE OF ONLY NON-GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS; AND (4) PROVIDE REPORTS

WHEREAS, a leaf blower is a widely used landscaping tool used to manage leaves, clippings, and other debris; and

WHEREAS, most gas-powered leaf blowers use two-stroke engines, which mix gas and oil; and

WHEREAS, about 30 percent of the fuel/oil mixture the engine uses fails to undergo complete combustion, and as a result, the engine emits certain air pollutants, such as: hydrocarbons, which combine with other gases in the atmosphere to form ozone; carbon monoxide; oil-based particulates; and benzene, 1,3-butadiene, acetaldehyde, and formaldehyde; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 test by the car experts at Edmunds showed that "[a] consumer-grade leaf blower emits more pollutants than a 6,200-pound 2011 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor"; and

WHEREAS, the test also showed that the four-stroke engine leaf blower performed significantly better than the two-stroke engine leaf blower but still worse than the car engines to which they were also compared; and

WHEREAS, in addition to environmental impacts, air emissions and noise pollution from gas-powered leaf blowers could have adverse health effects on workers and others in the vicinity of gas-powered leaf blowers; and

WHEREAS, alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers include electric leaf blowers and non-motorized tools such as rakes; and

WHEREAS, this Board has a long record of protecting our environment and taking action to ensure that our future is sustainable, clean, and healthy; and

WHEREAS, many County-owned and County-operated properties have landscaping that requires consistent maintenance, particularly at County parks; and

WHEREAS, because gas-powered leaf blowers could have negative environmental and health side effects, it may be appropriate to change County policy so that gas-powered leaf blowers could not be used to perform landscaping on County-owned or County-operated property; and

WHEREAS, before adopting such a policy change, this Board wishes to conduct a pilot program only at County parks, the results of which could help guide this Board's future decision-making with respect to all County-owned or County-operated property; and

WHEREAS, to that end, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to design and present to this Board for this Board's approval a plan for a pilot program under which only non-gas-powered leaf blowers would be used to perform landscaping at County-owned or County-operated parks,

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

Section 1. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to design and present to this Board for this Board's approval a plan for a pilot program under which only non-gas-powered leaf blowers would be used to perform landscaping at County-owned or County-operated parks. The plan for the pilot program shall address, at a minimum: (1) the expected fiscal impact of the pilot program, including potential legally available funding sources; (2) whether the pilot program should cover all County-owned or County-operated parks or only certain parks; and (3) any other significant practical considerations.

Section 2. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to prepare a written report setting forth the plan for the pilot program. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall provide the report to this Board within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution and 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.

Section 3. Upon this Board's acceptance of the report required by section 2 of this resolution, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to implement the pilot program and, upon the completion of one year of full implementation of the pilot program, provide to this Board a written report summarizing the implementation of the pilot program. >>The report shall also use the information gained from the pilot program to propose a plan that, over the course of three to five years, would permanently transition the County to the use of only non-gas-powered leaf blowers to perform landscaping at County-owned and -operated parks and at such other County-owned or -operated facilities that the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee deems appropriate. Such transition plan shall also include, and be informed by, a cost-benefit analysis

that assesses costs and benefits to the County and to contractors who may be impacted by this change in policy.<<¹ The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall 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 Micky Steinberg and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Juan Carlos Bermudez** who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** 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	absent	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	absent
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

¹ Committee amendments are indicated as follows: Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] are deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of October, 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

Christopher J. Wahl