

## **MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodríguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** December 3, 2024

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing the County Mayor develop and implement a plan to (1) combat copper wire theft, which may include allocating additional law enforcement resources, and (2) repair or replace, as needed, all damaged street light devices and facilities within the County's jurisdiction and control; and requiring a report

Resolution No. R-1104-24

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Anthony Rodríguez.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/ks



## MEMORANDUM (Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodríguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** December 3, 2024

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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)(18)  
12-3-24

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ R-1104-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO (1) COMBAT COPPER WIRE THEFT, WHICH MAY INCLUDE ALLOCATING ADDITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES, AND (2) REPAIR OR REPLACE, AS NEEDED, ALL DAMAGED STREET LIGHT DEVICES AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY'S JURISDICTION AND CONTROL; AND REQUIRING A REPORT

**WHEREAS**, copper wire, which can fetch high resale prices, is frequently stolen from light poles throughout Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, copper wire theft leaves street light devices and facilities in disrepair and contributes to streetlight outages throughout the County; and

**WHEREAS**, streetlight outages can negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, streetlight outages can harm community health and welfare by discouraging residents from participating in outdoor physical activity in poorly lit areas; and

**WHEREAS**, streetlight outages can reduce visibility for motorists, which may negatively impact traffic safety; and

**WHEREAS**, streetlight outages can invite opportunistic crimes in poorly lit areas and around poorly lit homes and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, copper wire theft also creates quantifiable costs for the County, as the Department of Transportation and Public Works must expend resources to repair street light devices and facilities that have been damaged as a result of copper wire theft; and

**WHEREAS**, state law imposes serious penalties, including felonies, not only upon individuals who engage in copper wire theft, but also upon individuals who improperly purchase copper wire and other regulated metals; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wishes to highlight and address the problem of copper wire theft in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, to that end, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to develop a plan to allocate additional law enforcement resources to combat copper wire theft as well as leverage any available resources to urgently repair damaged street light devices and facilities throughout the 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 develop and implement a plan to combat copper wire theft, which may include allocating additional law enforcement resources, such as by the creation of a specialized unit, the expansion of an existing unit, or the deployment of additional patrols in areas with high levels of copper wire theft. These additional enforcement efforts may also include conducting inspections of secondary metals recyclers and scrap metal dealers to ensure compliance with state and local law. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is further directed to identify legally available funding sources as may be needed for such purposes.

**Section 2.** Further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to develop and implement a plan to repair or replace, as needed, all damaged street light devices and facilities within the County's jurisdiction and control. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall include, at a minimum, as part of the plan to repair or replace damaged street light devices and

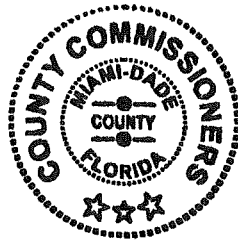
facilities, the identification of legally available funding sources as may be needed for such purposes, and the examination of the feasibility of completing such repair or replacement work within 15 days of receiving notice of the damage to a device or facility, and if such 15 day period is not feasible, to provide a time period that would be feasible to complete any such necessary repair or replacement work.

**Section 3.** Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution to provide a report to this Board regarding the directives in sections 1 and 2 above and to place the completed report on an agenda of this Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure. In addition to the items identified in sections 1 and 2 above, the report shall provide details regarding the fiscal impact of implementing the directives in sections 1 and 2 above, any funding sources identified to fund such implementation, and the current status of such implementation, including (a) a description of any additional law enforcement resources that have been allocated to combat copper wire theft, and (b) a summary of how many damaged street light devices and facilities have been repaired, whether any remain outstanding, and whether any resources are necessary to complete repairs.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Anthony Rodríguez. It was offered by Commissioner **Kevin Marino Cabrera** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 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.

Anita Viciano Zapata  
Annery Pulgar Alfonso