

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to appropriate
funds for Miami-Dade
County's purchase of
environmentally endangered
lands listed in the County's
EEL Acquisition List
approved pursuant to
Resolution No. R-1042-21

Resolution No. R-82-25

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 Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 22, 2025

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)
1-22-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-82-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S
PURCHASE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED
LANDS LISTED IN THE COUNTY'S EEL ACQUISITION LIST
APPROVED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. R-1042-21

WHEREAS, the historic loss, fragmentation, and degradation of native wetland and forest communities in Miami-Dade County (the "County") has been well recognized; and

WHEREAS, the County's Environmentally Endangered Lands ("EEL") Program was established in 1990 to acquire, preserve, enhance, restore, conserve, and maintain environmentally endangered lands for the benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the EEL Program currently manages over 28,000 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, to prioritize the acquisition of environmentally endangered lands, the EEL Program maintains the EEL Acquisition List, which is organized as Priority A and Priority B lists; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2021, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-1042-21, which approved a revised EEL Acquisition List; and

WHEREAS, the EEL Program has yet to acquire over 33,000 acres of the properties included in the EEL Acquisition List, as modified by Resolution No. R-1042-21; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$200 million in funding may be needed for the EEL Program to purchase the unacquired properties on the EEL Acquisition List; and

WHEREAS, the County currently would benefit from only two programs on the Florida Forever Priority List; and

WHEREAS, natural areas may provide significant, cost-effective storm and flooding mitigation and property protection, and at least one study valued the benefits of coastal mangroves at approximately \$138,000.00 per square kilometer annually; and

WHEREAS, conservation lands are included in FEMA's Community Ratings System, and the inclusion of County-managed lands contributed to the recent reduction in flood insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of properties on the EEL Acquisition List may play a critical role in such important goals as enhancing investments in Everglades restoration projects, drinking water supply, aquifer recharge, and flood protection; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to appropriate funds for the County's purchase of environmentally endangered lands listed in the County's EEL Acquisition List approved pursuant to Resolution No. R-1042-21,

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 appropriate funds for Miami-Dade County's purchase of environmentally endangered lands listed in the County's EEL Acquisition List approved pursuant to Resolution No. R-1042-21.

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, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins**, 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 Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	absent	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of January, 2025. 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 in black ink, appearing to be "CMR", is written over a horizontal line.

Cristina M. Rabionet