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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(21)

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

DATE: February 19, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a sub-grant to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc. ("Fairchild"), a Florida nonprofit corporation, in amount of \$12,500,000.00 funded by a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") and a grant of \$12,500,000.00 funded by the Countywide Infrastructure Investment Program funds to serve as matching funds for the FDEP grant for a total of \$25,000,000.00 to be used to make improvements to County-owned land leased to Fairchild ("Project"); authorizing the County Mayor to negotiate sub-grant and grant agreements with Fairchild for the Project, to execute same and exercise all provisions contained therein

Resolution No. R-148-25

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

MDC001



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: February 19, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(21)

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 Lene Carr* Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(21)
2-19-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-148-25

RESOLUTION APPROVING A SUB-GRANT TO FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN, INC. ("FAIRCHILD"), A FLORIDA NONPROFIT CORPORATION, IN AMOUNT OF \$12,500,000.00 FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("FDEP") AND A GRANT OF \$12,500,000.00 FUNDED BY THE COUNTYWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM FUNDS TO SERVE AS MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE FDEP GRANT FOR A TOTAL OF \$25,000,000.00 TO BE USED TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY-OWNED LAND LEASED TO FAIRCHILD ("PROJECT"); AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE SUB-GRANT AND GRANT AGREEMENTS WITH FAIRCHILD FOR THE PROJECT, TO EXECUTE SAME AND EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

WHEREAS, the State of Florida, through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP"), made significant financial assistance available to help prepare Florida communities for current and future effects of rising sea levels, including coastal flooding, erosion, and ecosystem changes by making available funds through its Resilient Florida Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, this Board, pursuant to Resolution No. R-1160-22, Board approved the County's application to FDEP for receipt of funds through its Resilient Florida Grant Program in the amount of \$115,450,415.00 and a commitment of matching funds from the County in an amount not to exceed \$112,366,415.00 for certain County projects seeking to make the County more resilient to sea level rise, coastal flooding, erosion, and ecosystem changes; and

WHEREAS, one of those County projects to be funded by FDEP was at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden; and

WHEREAS, the scope of work for Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is for resiliency improvements on County-owned land at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden to include creating a stormwater drainage and discharge system, hardening of seawalls, building of berms and/or retaining walls around the site's 11 lakes and surrounding islands, elevating natural fields, open spaces, barriers, and trails, improving the nature-based and green infrastructure, and adapting plant collections and lowland landmarks to improve salt tolerance (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project will also include the expansion of public education offerings and the building construction of a community engagement hub through the improvement of an existing site and the building of a new site; and

WHEREAS, the Project is estimated to cost \$25,000,000.00 and FDEP approved a grant in the amount of \$12,500,000.00 with a County match of \$12,500,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-1160-22 advised that the County match was to be provided by donations and, if insufficient, by future financing proceeds from the County; and

WHEREAS, this Board has identified and budgeted \$12,500,000.00 of Countywide Infrastructure Investment Program ("CIIP") proceeds in the adopted Fiscal Year 2024-2025 County Budget under capital program project number 2000001835 titled "Infrastructure Improvements – Coastal Parks, Resiliency and Marinas" for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the site of the Project, 10901 Old Cutler Road, is on land that is owned by the County but is under a long-term lease agreement with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc. ("Fairchild") and it is therefore in the best interest of the County to enter into a sub-grant agreement with Fairchild for the FDEP funds and to enter into a separate grant agreement with the County for the CIIP matching funds, in both instances to be used for the Project,

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

Section 1. Incorporates the foregoing recitals in this resolution and approves of same.

Section 2. Approves a sub-grant to Fairchild in the amount of \$12,500,000.00 funded by a grant from FDEP to undertake the Project, and a grant to Fairchild in amount of \$12,500,000.00 from the CIIP to serve as matching funds for the Project for a total of \$25,000,000.00.

Section 3. Authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to negotiate a sub-grant agreement and a grant agreement with Fairchild for the Project, to execute same and to exercise all provisions contained therein.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Marleine Bastein** 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	absent
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	aye	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 19th day of February, 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 dark ink, appearing to read "MRP", is written over a horizontal line.

Monica Rizo Perez
Melanie J. Spencer