

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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

DATE: July 16, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to, to the extent not already contemplated by the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed budget, create and propose a plan to maintain flat water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and to transmit such plan to the Board on or before July 31, 2025

Resolution No. R-789-25

This item was amended at the July 9, 2025 Appropriations Committee to include a directive to the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide an explanation to the Board of County Commissioners if the requested plan to maintain flat water and sewer rates in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 while maintaining service levels and ensuring compliance with regulatory and capital obligations is not feasible.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: July 16, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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)(19)
7-16-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-789-25

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO, TO THE EXTENT NOT ALREADY CONTEMPLATED BY THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET, CREATE AND PROPOSE A PLAN TO MAINTAIN FLAT WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND TO TRANSMIT SUCH PLAN TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2025

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department ("WASD") operates the largest water and sewer utility in the Southeastern United States and provides water and sewer services to millions of residents throughout Miami-Dade County (the "County"); and

WHEREAS, County ratepayers are currently facing elevated costs due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, increasing water and sewer rates would further financially burden ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to explore maintaining flat water and sewer rates in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in an effort to protect ratepayers from additional financial burdens; and

WHEREAS, a flat rate in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 aligns with the County's broader economic resilience and affordability goals; and

WHEREAS, requiring WASD to present a plan to absorb cost increases promotes financial discipline and transparency in the budget process; and

WHEREAS, directing WASD to identify creative and sustainable cost-control measures encourages proactive planning and efficient resource allocations, including but not limited to reprioritizing capital improvement projects, delaying non-critical expenditures, improving procurement strategies and supply chain management, reducing overtime or vacancy-related inefficiencies, finding alternatives to waste water treatment and disposal, and leveraging federal or state grants to offset operating costs; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a flat rate may encourage the offsetting of cost increases through alternative legally available revenue streams,

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

Section 1. The Board approves the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to, to the extent not already contemplated by the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed budget, create and propose a plan to maintain flat water and sewer rates in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 while maintaining service levels and ensuring compliance with regulatory and capital obligations. >>If the creation of such plan is not feasible due to the County's regulatory and capital obligations, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall provide a detailed explanation of the factors precluding the creation of the plan.<<¹

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

Section 3. The Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to transmit such plan >>or explanation of the absence of such plan<< to the Board of County Commissioners on or before July 31, 2025.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez. It was offered by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Juan Carlos Bermudez** 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
Sen. René García	aye	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of July, 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.

Jose I. Ortega