

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the coral reef restoration goals of the United States Coral Reef Task Force and the State of Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative and urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding in support of those goals

Resolution No. R-981-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Eileen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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

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)(11)
10-9-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-981-25

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CORAL REEF
RESTORATION GOALS OF THE UNITED STATES CORAL
REEF TASK FORCE AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S CORAL
REEF RESTORATION AND RECOVERY INITIATIVE AND
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE
FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING IN
SUPPORT OF THOSE GOALS

WHEREAS, Florida's coral reefs are essential to the ecological, economic, and coastal resilience of Miami-Dade County, providing habitat for marine biodiversity and supporting fisheries and tourism; and

WHEREAS, coral reefs act as natural barriers against storm surge and erosion, providing a value of \$675 million annually in Florida and reducing the risk of a 100-year flood by 20 percent for nearby properties; and

WHEREAS, coral reefs provide important habitat for recreational and commercial fisheries and are essential to a vibrant coastal tourism industry, providing Florida approximately \$1.1 billion in tourism value annually; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Coral Reef, which stretches almost 350 miles from the Dry Tortugas to the St. Lucie Inlet, has experienced a significant decline in healthy coral cover, with some estimates around 80-90 percent, due to warming oceans, ocean acidification, disease outbreaks, and water pollution over the past several decades, necessitating immediate and sustained restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coral Reef Task Force was established in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order No. 13089, and codified by the United States Congress in 2022, with the goal of leading U.S. efforts to preserve, restore, and protect coral reef ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the task force's membership is comprised of representatives of: 15 federal agencies; seven states, territories, and commonwealths, including the State of Florida; three freely associated states; and four fishery management councils; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coral Reef Task Force makes recommendations for policy initiatives in furtherance of coral reef restoration; for example, it recently called on all task force member jurisdictions to recognize corals as natural infrastructure, which could help facilitate future federal funding of coral reef restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2023, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 23-06, which, among other things, established Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery (FCR3) Initiative "to increase the State's coral propagation and deployment capacity to restore the natural infrastructure that will enhance coastal flood and storm surge protections"; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the FCR3 Initiative "aims to develop the infrastructure, technology, skilled workforce, and logistics necessary by 2050 to support the long-term recovery of no less than 25% of Florida's Coral Reef"; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has a significant interest in supporting federal and state policies and actions that advance coral reef restoration,

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

Section 1. Supports the coral reef restoration goals of the United States Coral Reef Task Force and the State of Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative and urges the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding in support of those goals.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and remaining members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 Federal Legislative Package to include this item, to include this item in the 2026 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board, and to include this item in the 2026 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** 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	aye
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 9th day of October, 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.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl