

MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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

DATE: February 19, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to evaluate legally viable options for the purchase and/or joint venture and/or profit share of suitable sized land outside of Miami-Dade County near a rail line to use for a landfill and/or composting, and to provide a written report to the Board within 90 days

R-192-25

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/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: February 19, 2025

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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 _____

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)
2-19-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-192-25

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EVALUATE LEGALLY VIABLE OPTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE AND/OR JOINT VENTURE AND/OR PROFIT SHARE OF SUITABLE SIZED LAND OUTSIDE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY NEAR A RAIL LINE TO USE FOR A LANDFILL AND/OR COMPOSTING, AND TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE BOARD WITHIN 90 DAYS

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste ("DSWM" or the "Department"), processes and disposes of approximately 2.4 million tons of solid waste annually, arising from both the solid waste collected by the Department as well as waste from 15 cities with which the County has a long-term disposal contract; and

WHEREAS, DSWM operates (i) three landfills, (ii) three Regional Transfer Stations, and (iii) the Resources Recovery Facility ("RRF") for waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, the North Dade Landfill and South Dade Landfill are reaching capacity, and the Board has not approved commencement of the application process to expand the landfills; and

WHEREAS, the RRF, located in Doral, Florida ("Doral"), began commercial operations in 1982 and was originally sited on 100 acres of land, including the adjacent ash fill; and

WHEREAS, the RRF was the keystone of Miami-Dade County's (the "County") solid waste system, operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and resulting in an average annual processing of over 1,000,000 tons of waste produced in the County; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2023, a fire occurred at the RRF, and, except for tire shredding, the RRF has remained inoperable since that date; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2023, the County Mayor issued a Report Related to the Development of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan in Miami-Dade County – A Combined Response to Directives 222097, 230509 and 230998 (the “Report”); and

WHEREAS, the Report recommended the creation of a solid waste campus including a new mass burn Waste-to-Energy (“WTE”) facility; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”), passed and adopted Resolution No. R-822-23 pertaining to solid waste management, which among other things directed the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee “to negotiate any documents necessary for the existing RRF not to be restored and reactivated at the current Doral site, subject to Board approval”; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2025, the Board passed and adopted Resolution No. R-61-25 which approved the Third Amended and Restated Agreement with Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. and provided additional disposal capacity for the County’s solid waste system by accessing landfills outside of the County; and

WHEREAS, selecting an appropriate site for the WTE campus in Miami-Dade County has encountered challenges; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County’s population has grown dramatically since 1982; and

WHEREAS, land suitable for disposal of waste is scarce in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the geological conditions of the limestone in the County and the October waterline, create environmental concerns that do not exist in other areas of the State of Florida or outside of Florida; and

WHEREAS, finding land near a rail line will reduce the cost of transporting waste and reduce congestion in the County, by reducing the trucks necessary to move such waste; and

WHEREAS, the County must evaluate options to dispose of its waste, including finding suitable lands outside of Miami-Dade County for landfilling and/or composting,

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

Section 1. This Board incorporates the foregoing recitals.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to evaluate legally available and viable options for the County to purchase and/or joint venture and/or profit share a suitably sized and situated property outside of Miami-Dade County with direct access to rail for the disposal of solid waste, either through landfilling and/or composting.

Section 3. This Board further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide a written report to this Board within 90 days of the adoption of this resolution, which report shall include, but not be limited to, information as to any and all viable properties outside of Miami-Dade County, including the property description, land use designations, local governments with jurisdiction over the property, the sales price for the property, if the property is listed for sale, any legal obstacles that may interfere with the intended use, the proximity of the property to rail that can be used to transport solid waste from Miami-Dade County to the property, whether the property is located at or near the Florida East Coast Railway ("FECR") corridor and/or any rail corridor owned or operated by FECR and/or Grupo Mexico, and if so, whether FECR has executed the necessary agreements, including an easement, for the Northeast Corridor commuter rail service which is intended to operate along the FECR corridor, economically equivalent options, and any other information relevant to the decision. The completed report shall be placed on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to Rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kevin Marino Cabrera** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	absent		
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.

dsh

David Stephen Hope