

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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**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 undertake a comprehensive review and analysis involving industry experts from all available sectors of waste management to further explore the feasibility of constructing a new Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility; directing the County Mayor to solicit information and technical advice from waste management industry experts on the best available delivery options and recommended procurement approaches for the design, construction, operation and/or maintenance of a new WTE facility; directing the County Mayor to explore and analyze funding sources and technologies to contribute to or defray costs of the County's solid waste system including any construction, operation and maintenance costs associated with a solid waste campus, WTE facility, or landfill expansion; and directing the County Mayor to prepare a report

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**This item was amended at the February 10, 2025 Infrastructure, Innovations and Technology Committee to also direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to explore and analyze available funding sources and technologies, including P3s, federal tax credits, and federal and state grants, to contribute to or defray the costs of the County's solid waste system including any construction, operation and maintenance costs associated with a solid waste campus, WTE facility, or landfill expansion .**

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Anthony Rodriguez.



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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:**   
Gen 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)  
2-19-25

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR’S DESIGNEE TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS INVOLVING INDUSTRY EXPERTS FROM ALL AVAILABLE SECTORS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT TO FURTHER EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW WASTE-TO-ENERGY (WTE) FACILITY; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR’S DESIGNEE TO SOLICIT INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ADVICE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY EXPERTS ON THE BEST AVAILABLE DELIVERY OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED PROCUREMENT APPROACHES FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE OF A NEW WTE FACILITY; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR’S DESIGNEE TO EXPLORE AND ANALYZE FUNDING SOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO OR DEFRAY COSTS OF THE COUNTY’S SOLID WASTE SYSTEM INCLUDING ANY CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A SOLID WASTE CAMPUS, WTE FACILITY, OR LANDFILL EXPANSION; AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR’S DESIGNEE TO PREPARE A REPORT

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade County Resources Recovery Facility (“RRF”), located in Doral, Florida, 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 “Super Bowl Sunday”, 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 “August 2023 Report”); and

**WHEREAS**, the August 2023 Report recommended the creation of a solid waste campus including a new mass burn Waste-to-Energy (“WTE”) facility capable of processing at least 4,000 tons of waste daily, to be sited on County-owned property located at the intersection of Krome Avenue and US 27 and commonly referred to as Opa-Locka West Airport, and to not reopen the existing RRF; and

**WHEREAS**, since the August 2023 Report, pursuant to Board directives, the County Mayor has examined additional potential sites for the WTE facility as well as other disposal options, and on January 25, 2025, the County Mayor issued a Report to the Board (the “January 2025 Report”) wherein the County Mayor expressed that “we are confident that a new [WTE] facility – built to meet stringent modern standards – would meet our disposal needs while protecting both human health and the environment”, but ultimately recommended that the County continue to long haul waste via truck and rail using contracted capacity while continuing to explore options to acquire land and build a landfill outside of Miami-Dade County concluding that “the costs of building and maintaining a new [WTE] facility are extremely high, and any site selected would likely generate legal and other challenges that would significantly extend the project timeline.”; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board desires to solicit and analyze the expertise and knowledge from waste management industry sources of all available delivery methods for the disposal of waste before moving away from constructing a new modern and environmentally friendly WTE facility that will meet the County's disposal needs,

**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 undertake a comprehensive review and analysis involving industry experts from all available sectors of waste management to further explore the feasibility of constructing a new WTE facility. Specifically, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall solicit information and technical advice from waste management industry experts on the best available delivery options and recommended procurement approaches for the design, construction, operation and/or maintenance of a new WTE facility for the County including but not limited to: (1) traditional government procurement methods such as design-build solicitations; (2) public-private partnership (P3) agreements; and (3) utilizing unsolicited proposals to determine which approach is the most cost and time efficient for the delivery of a WTE facility. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall not limit its comprehensive analysis to already-identified potential sites or locations nor to assumptions as to the size and capacity of the WTE facility. The County Mayor or designee shall explore all available options with waste management industry experts including but not limited to constructing a larger regional WTE facility with other local governments or the State of Florida or building a smaller facility

combined with utilizing other waste disposal methods such as landfills or hauling waste. >>The Board also directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to explore and analyze available funding sources and technologies, including P3s, federal tax credits, and federal and state grants, to contribute to or defray the costs of the County's solid waste system including any construction, operation and maintenance costs associated with a solid waste campus, WTE facility, or landfill expansion.<<<sup>1</sup>

**Section 3.** This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to maximize input from industry sources and to disclose to the Board all efforts made to maximize such input, identify all industry sources from which information and recommendations were received, and disclose all recommendations from industry sources. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall ask waste management industry experts to address the challenges identified by the County Mayor in her January 2025 Report in building a new WTE facility.

**Section 4.** This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to prepare a written report addressing all the directives set forth in this resolution. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall submit and place on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to Rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure, such report within 120 days.

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

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Anthony Rodriguez. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	
Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Kevin Marino Cabrera	Sen. René García
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	Roberto J. Gonzalez
Keon Hardemon	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Eduardo W. Gonzalez