

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON MARCH 11, 2025, AND APPROVING “OPERATION CLEAN WATER” TO URGENTLY ADDRESS STREET LEVEL POLLUTANTS IN THE NORTH BEACH WATERSHED ENTERING THE STORMWATER SYSTEM AND IMPACTING PARK VIEW CANAL WATER QUALITY, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 24, 2025, ENTITLED “ASSESSMENT OF ENTEROCOCCI IN GROUNDWATER AND STORMWATER AT THE MIAMI BEACH PARK VIEW CANAL.”

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (“City”) is committed to maintaining and improving the quality of its waterways and Biscayne Bay as they are critical to environmental, economic, and recreational prosperity, and to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Administration continues to move forward with prioritized improvements funded by the City Commission to address water quality concerns related to North Beach water quality and the Park View Canal; and

WHEREAS, Park View Canal is an angled canal within the Tatum Waterway canal, which is within the broader Biscayne Bay, that has limited natural flushing to dilute pollutants associated with urban waterways; and

WHEREAS, the North Beach Watershed consists of 81-acres utilizing stormwater infrastructure that partially dates to the 1930s, predating water quality standards required of newer systems, and flows into the Park View Canal; and

WHEREAS, the City procured the services of Dr. Solo-Gabriele, Associate Dean for the University of Miami College of Engineering, a global water quality expert in evaluating microbes in water and sediments; and

WHEREAS, the report notes that an improvement has been observed since short term sanitary sewer system improvements were made, such as replacement of air release valves and pipe lining in 2023; more specifically, enterococci values have dropped significantly between storm events; and

WHEREAS, despite the improvements, the canal still has fecal indicator bacteria concentration that exceeds recreational water quality standards established by the Florida Department of Health for ocean beach standards for bathing; and

WHEREAS, the report notes that the main water type contributing to elevated enterococci levels in the Park View Canal is stormwater with the microbial source being birds, humans, and dogs from street runoff; and

WHEREAS, the report documented that the Biscayne Beach Elementary outfall contributes enterococci to the Park View Canal; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2025, the Land Use and Sustainability Committee (“LUSC”)

adopted a motion recommending that the City Commission authorize the Administration to develop "Operation Clean Water," an urgent six-month action plan based upon the findings of the water quality report; and

WHEREAS, Operation Clean Water will address the urgent findings of the report over the next six months such as:

1. Urge the Miami-Dade County Public Schools to address the stormwater and sanitary system at Biscayne Beach Elementary School considering the hotspots documented in groundwater and from the school's infrastructure leading to the stormwater outfall to the Park View Canal.
2. Urge Miami-Dade County to examine private outfalls as sources of pollution to the Park View Canal.
3. Develop a more rigorous pilot stormwater system cleaning program that doubles the level of service within the 81-acre drainage basin from three times per year to three times in the upcoming six-month period (to coincide with the rainy season). Based on the cleanliness of the catch basins, they can be evaluated for more frequent cleanings such as those closest to the street-level hotspots or those closest to the Park View Canal. (Public Works -- Stormwater Division).
4. Add catch basin filter fabric and sediment filter socks to key stormwater catch basins and gutters in the Park View Island and extended North Beach watershed. This will require monitoring and frequently clearing of debris. Adjust as needed during the rainy season to avoid increasing flooding. (Public Works' Stormwater Division).
5. Conduct more frequent sweeps of the watershed to provide services to homeless individuals and explore increased access to sanitation facilities. (Homeless Outreach and Community Services with collaboration from the Police Department).
6. Explore additional street and sidewalk cleaning mechanisms to include smaller scale equipment, including pooper scoopers to remove visible animal waste, increased hand crew collection, and potentially a restricted parking program to ensure street sweeping measures are effective. (Public Works -- Sanitation Division, with support from the Parking Department if applicable).
7. Investigate the feasibility and cost of implementing UV disinfection of street level hotspots in a heavily urbanized environment, perhaps utilizing similar technologies to yoga studios. (Environment and Sustainability with support of Dr. Solo-Gabriele at a cost not to exceed \$10,000).
8. Implement a weekly shoreline cleaning program along Crab Alley within reach of the path adjacent to Biscayne Beach Elementary, regardless of ownership. Examine strategies for specialized trash removal within the mangroves in alignment with high tides in an environmentally sensitive manner to avoid trampling of vegetation. (Public Works -- Sanitation).

9. Implement a Cleanliness Index pilot program to survey the 81-acre drainage basin plus Crab Alley adjacent to Biscayne Beach Elementary to occur over the 2025 rainy season in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. (Public Works Administration, with the support of Environment and Sustainability).
10. Investigate and work with the Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) to see what temporary measures might be applicable and available to treat stormwater runoff. (Public Works' Engineering Division).
11. Conduct monthly inspections in the areas immediately adjacent to the Park View Canal to route visual concerns to respective Departments as needed. (Environment and Sustainability).
12. Increase community engagement by examining ways to support and expand the Park View Island Sustainable Association community cleanups in a manner similar to beach cleanups. (Environment and Sustainability and Neighborhood Affairs).
13. Implement an advanced education campaign to include collateral such as PSAs and drain markers indicating stormwater leads to the Park View Canal/Biscayne Bay. (Environment and Sustainability with collaboration from the Office of Marketing and Communications).
14. Conduct weekly walk-throughs in the watershed area to proactively investigate concerns such as overflowing dumpsters, pet waste pick-up, the feeding of feral animals, and illicit discharges. (Code Compliance).
15. Add doggie bag stations at locations where no dog stations exist and where sampling analysis showed evidence of dog waste. (Public Works -- Sanitation).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby authorize the Administration to implement Operation Water Quality to address the water quality concerns within Park View Island Canal as set forth in this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of March, 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioners Alex Fernandez, Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt, Commissioner Laura Dominguez, Mayor Steven Meiner, Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez and Commissioner David Suarez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

Nick Kallezi 3/18/25
for City Attorney NK Date