

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Land Use and Sustainability Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: February 20, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSSION REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF A WAIVER OF THE MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT PERMITTED UNDER THE CITY'S PRIVATE PROPERTY ADAPTATION PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 2023-32614, TO FUND THE WORK NECESSARY TO RAISE THE HISTORIC HOME LOCATED ON 6005 ALTON ROAD.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Land Use and Sustainability Committee discuss the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Federal Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program opportunities and Elevate Florida program, a new State residential mitigation program that will be available to residents by Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). The City's Private Property Adaptation Program can fund \$20,000 towards home elevation according to existing program criteria.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On November 18, 2020, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2020-31504 (Attachment A) to create the "Miami Beach Resiliency Fund", allocating \$666,666.66 of the Amended and Restated Interlocal Cooperation Agreement from the Miami Beach Resiliency Fund for a Private Property Flooding and Sea Level Rise Program (the Private Property Adaptation program) for FY 2020 and annually thereafter.

On May 17, 2023, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2023-32614 (Attachment B) amending Resolution No. 2020- 31504, which created the "Miami Beach Resiliency Fund," and approved the allocation of \$666,666.66 from the Miami Beach Resiliency Fund for the Private Property Flooding And Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program for FY 2020, and up to \$666,666.66 annually thereafter until FY 2024; said amendment extending the allocation of \$ 666,666.66 for the Private Property Adaptation Program for one (1) additional year, through FY 2025. This item was sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez.

On October 30, 2024, the Mayor and City Commission meeting item C4 S (Attachment C) was discussed and a motion was passed to refer the item to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee and to invite a representative from FEMA to provide an overview of the home elevation program(s). This item was sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

On November 25, 2024, the item was not heard as a FEMA representative was unable to attend.

At the January 16, 2025, Land Use and Sustainability Committee, the item was not heard.

ANALYSIS

The Fight the Flood Private Property Adaptation (PPA) program is well underway after comprehensive program development, procurement, and competitive grant applications. This program is an innovative approach to incentivize resilience action and minimize flood risk for private buildings in the City of Miami Beach by providing information and funding for resilient flood mitigation improvements. This is a competitive, matching reimbursement-based grant that funds a wide variety of flood-mitigation for existing properties, including but not limited to building elevation and floodproofing, electrical life safety and mechanical flood protection, temporary flood barriers, wet floodproofing, flood resistant materials, drainage, permeable pavers, rain gardens and seawalls. Up to \$20,000 may be granted for the full scope of work, inclusive of the \$2500 on-site assessment that identifies up to three projects for applicants. The grant matches the owner's project costs, up to \$17,500. Projects are intended to help property owners adapt to the effects of climate change and sea level rise, such as flooding caused by increased stormwater, rising groundwater levels, tidal levels, and/or storm surge levels. This innovative program is one of the first of its kind and draws from best practice research nationally. The program has 58 participating properties from two cohorts who are in different project stages, from developing their grant agreements, to conducting their projects, to finalizing documentation for final reimbursement. Applications for the third cohort is expected to open in Spring 2025 with the goal is to complete assessments and projects on 50 additional properties.

Home elevation is one of the eligible project types covered by the PPA program. The PPA Program has enabled the City's grant application for two home elevation projects as part of FEMA's Federal Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) first reviews the applications before they are sent for FEMA review. In November 2022, the City officially submitted its first FEMA FMA grant application, which was reviewed by the State before then being reviewed at a Federal level. In Summer 2023, the City was notified that the grant application was selected by FEMA for further review. The City continues to monitor the grant and submit timely response to Requests for Information (RFIs) from FEMA.

City staff has continued to seek opportunities for any funding sources to provide financial assistance for resilient retrofits for Miami Beach residents. The State of Florida recently announced a new residential mitigation opportunity: Elevate Florida, managed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). The goal of this new program is to enhance community resilience by mitigating private residences against natural hazards. Elevate Florida plans to provide funding for residential mitigation projects such as structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, and structure acquisition. The program is in its final stages of development and the application portal is expected to open in the coming weeks. Staff provided this information via a Letter to Commission (LTC) number 045-2025 (Attachment D). The information is being shared through City communication methods. Staff will monitor the program and provide relevant updates.

To capture the interest of residents with respect to home elevation and mitigation, staff recommends creating an interest form for community members to sign up for any further communications and to consent to be directly contacted by County, State, or Federal for any relevant residential flood mitigation programs.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate? (FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Click or tap here to enter text.

CONCLUSION

The Private Property Adaptation (PPA) program is expected to open applications for the third cohort in early 2025. As part of this process, staff can create an interest form for community members to sign up for any further communications and to consent to be directly contacted by County, State, or Federal for any relevant residential flood mitigation programs. The City's Private Property Adaptation Program can fund \$20,000 towards home elevation according to existing program criteria.

The Elevate Florida program, currently in development by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), plans to provide funding for residential mitigation projects such as structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, and structure acquisition. The program is in its final stages of development and the application portal is expected to open in the coming weeks. Staff will monitor the program and provide relevant updates to the Mayor and City Commission and to the community.

Staff has invited a representative from Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to present at the Land Use and Sustainability Committee and provide more information regarding the FEMA FMA process, Elevate Florida, and local considerations.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

Yes

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Environment and Sustainability

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Condensed Title

Discussion Considering Waiver Grant to Raise Historic Home at 6005 Alton Rd. (Rosen Gonzalez) EN