

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: September 11, 2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE AT ITS JULY 26, 2024 MEETING, TO PROCEED WITH THE FERAL CAT POPULATION SURVEY AT A COST NOT EXCEED \$30,000 AS FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT TO TRAP, SPAY OR NEUTER, AND RELEASE OF ALL COMMUNITY CATS WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH WITHIN AN EFFICIENT AND EXPEDITED TIMELINE.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends approving the Resolution.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At its May 15, 2024 meeting, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved a Resolution (2024-33041), directing the Administration to prepare a plan and a cost estimate for trapping, spaying or neutering, and releasing (TNVR) all community cats within Miami Beach within an efficient and expedited timeline, with the plan to be presented at the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC") at its July 26, 2024 meeting.

ANALYSIS

During the May 15, 2024, City Commission discussion, Ms. Linda Diamond, a member of the Animal Welfare Committee who appeared via Zoom, suggested the list below be taken into consideration for the plan. Public Works has included pertinent responses:

(a) Quantification of the feral cat population in North Beach, Mid-Beach, and South Beach

Yet to be determined. There needs to be a team dedicated to conduct a feral cat population head count per area, during the night hours, which is when cats come out. A pre-pandemic study estimated there are approximately 1 stray cat per every 6 residents. A 2020 census indicated there were 82,890 City of Miami Beach residents, equating to approximately 13,850 stray cats. This study was conducted four years ago, and cat population could have increased. It is important to note that during those four years, SoBe Cats trappers have been actively trapping and TNVR cats.

(b) Classifying how many cats are *ear-tipped (*the removal of about one centimeter of the tip of an adult cat's ear)

Yet to be determined. There needs to be a team that can accurately assess the number of ear-tipped cats.

(c) Assessing how many cats can be fixed per month

Yet to be determined. There needs to be a head count of how many unfixed cats there are. From there on, it can be determined how many veterinarians can be hired to conduct spay/neuter surgeries per month.

(d) Determining the number of trappers required

Yet to be determined. There needs to be a head count of how many unfixed cats there are. From there on, it can be determined how many cat trappers will need to be hired for trapping.

(e) Locating surgery outlets available per volume needed

Undetermined. First there needs to be a count of how many unfixed cats there are. From there on, it can be determined how many surgery outlets can be used to conduct spay/neuter surgeries per month.

(f) Identifying the availability of no-kill outlets that could take in adoptable kittens and cats, abandoned cats, Kitty Campus overflow, and assist with care and recovery of sick and injured cats that will inevitably be found on the trapping excursions.

The Kitty Campus is currently full. Other rescues will need to be contacted once a cat team (preferably 3-6 people, 1 person or 2 people per area) is identified to conduct a stray cat head count, and proceed with the above mentioned.

At the July 26, 2024 FERC meeting, Public Works presented an update of the proposed cat program, and recommended to hire a 6-person team (a two-person team in North, Mid and South Beach), to work 40 hours a week, for a one-month period, responsible for counting the feral cat population in the City in the estimated amount of \$21,000 (a budget amount of \$30,000 had already been approved at the July 12, 2024 Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee - Budget Workshop for this purpose). In conclusion, FERC members agreed with the proposed and made a favorable recommendation to move to the full City Commission for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

No fiscal impact. The estimated cost to hire a 6-person team is \$21,000 (a \$30,000 budget cap was already approved at the July 12, 2024 Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee - Budget Workshop).

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends approving the recommendation of the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee at its July 26, 2024 meeting to proceed with the hiring of a 6-person team to count feral cat population, as part of the plan for trapping, spaying or neutering, and releasing of all community cats within Miami Beach, with an efficient and expedited timeline.

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

Public Works

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Condensed Title

Accept Rec, Proceed with Feral Cat Population Survey - Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release. (Suarez)
PW