

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PRIORITIZE, AS PART OF THE FY 2026 BUDGET PROCESS, FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ADDRESS THE WATER QUALITY CONCERNS RELATING TO THE PARK VIEW ISLAND CANAL.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach 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**, following a sanitary sewer overflow caused by a contractor in March of 2020, the high bacteria levels did not decrease to meet State parameters, and a "No Contact Advisory" has been issued for the Park View Canal Kayak Launch location since that time; and

**WHEREAS**, the City implemented various strategies to isolate potential sanitary sewer leaks, including multiple dye testing, deep cleaning of the stormwater lines, water quality testing throughout the stormwater system, sediment sampling in the canal, CCTV inspections, and smoke testing to determine potential illegal cross connections between private properties sewer lines and the City's stormwater system; and

**WHEREAS**, the City performed advanced gene biomarker analysis to identify fecal indicators for humans, dogs, or birds at locations within the canal, and the results of the analysis in 2020 and 2021 indicated that fecal coliform from dogs and birds were present at high concentrations in samples; and

**WHEREAS**, the City retained ESciences, a third-party consultant specializing in environmental investigations, to conduct a thorough analysis of the data which indicated more studies were necessary to draw conclusions in the data set, as trends could not be identified; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the continued elevated levels, 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**, at the September 28, 2022 City Commission meeting, item R7 H Resolution No. 2022-32331 ratified the City Manager's emergency engagement of services from the University of Miami to conducted water quality contamination research and analysis for Park View Canal. The item was sponsored Commissioner Alex Gonzalez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Solo-Gabriele and the University of Miami team conducted a four-month sampling study to help determine the geographic or point-source(s) of bacteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the study discovered that freshwater surface layer of the canal had higher levels of bacteria, and that rainfall was the main predictor of poor water quality in the canal, with sediments from the canal shoreline, the streets, and sediments in catch basins, and shallow groundwater entering the canal from the 81-acre catchment area to the east and despite rigorous sanitary sewer testing, the system including private connections is aging and cannot be ruled out; and

**WHEREAS**, the study identified many sources contributing to degraded water quality including exotic and feral animal feces, the homeless population, dog waste, litter, and leaking dumpsters in commercial areas; and

**WHEREAS**, a community workshop was held in North Beach on January 24, 2023, and the draft final report with the study's recommendations was released via Letter to Commission (LTC) and on MBRisingAbove.com on January 23, 2023, for public comment through February 24, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, City staff from several Departments have worked to address many of these findings by providing an increased level of services, and have developed an action plan that combines the study recommendations with actions that include both funded and unfunded items; and

**WHEREAS**, several impactful short-, mid- and long-term recommended actions were identified that include dredging within the Park View Canal to increase flushing and targeted stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environment and Sustainability Department (the "Department") was allocated \$500K in funding in FY 2023 for Phase 1 of Park View Canal dredging, which includes for planning, design, and permitting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department procured this work and has completed bathymetric and geotechnical surveys, a flushing analysis, and pre-application meetings with environmental regulatory agencies. The results of these evaluations are being carefully reviewed for desired water quality outcomes and the appropriate next steps which may include application submittals to the regulatory permitting agencies. Project mobilization is recommended to coincide with the hydrodynamic separator installation to reduce sediment inputs into the canal following dredging; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department was allocated \$2 million in the FY 2024 - 2028 Capital Budget for Phase 2 of Park View Canal dredging, with construction anticipated to be completed in FY 2027/2028; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Department was allocated \$510,000 in FY 2023 funds and completed pipe lining to 95% of the gravity sanitary sewer pipes and 98% of the manholes in Park View Island, and lining of Pump Station No. 23; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Department was allocated a total of \$2.5 million in FY 2024 for rehabilitation of manholes and additional pipe lining in the area east of Parkview Island (from 73rd St to 76th St); and

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2025, 100% of sewer lining, including all five (5) North Beach pump station wet well rehabilitations were completed, and Public Works also concluded citywide force main leak detection, which found zero leaks in the system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Department was allocated \$200K in FY 2023 for design and permitting and \$2M for construction to retrofit existing gravity stormwater system with water quality treatment devices to minimize litter and sediments from entering the waterway, anticipated to be completed in FY 2026/ FY 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Beach Town Center-North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project will include design and replacement of the stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure in the catchment area; this would include outfall relocations and water quality treatment pump stations; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 13, 2023 the City Commission authorized the City Administration to procure the services of Dr. Solo-Gabriele to conduct a post-study (Phase II) on the water quality in the Park View Island Canal, in order to determine whether the water quality has improved following the completion of proposed short-term remedial measures; and further, providing that the total amount of the post-study shall not exceed \$75,000; and

**WHEREAS**, at the March 13, 2024 City Commission meeting, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-32954, sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez, which directed the Administration to prioritize, as part of the FY 2025 Budget process, funding for additional improvements to address the water quality concerns relating to the Park View Island Canal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environment and Sustainability Department worked with Dr. Solo-Gabriele to conduct the Phase II study conducted during 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Phase II study included the following tasks:

- Collected stormwater before catch basins (catch system under grate before basin) to determine how much fecal bacteria is coming from the streets vs groundwater.
- Sampled groundwater directly utilizing direct push technology for samples of upper groundwater to determine the background levels of fecal bacteria.

- Tested within catch basins with biomarker source tracking (i.e. bird, dog, human) to determine how much fecal bacteria is coming into the system and from which source.
- Analyzed groundwater elevations to tie the elevation of the canal to groundwater, along with a comparison to pipe elevations.
- Reviewed and updated the City's historical data with information and testing that has been made available since the Phase I study concluded, from both Surfrider's Bluewater Task Force and the City's datasets

**WHEREAS**, the Phase II data was compiled, analyzed and presented in a final report; and

**WHEREAS**, The Phase II report notes that improvements have been observed since short term efforts such as air release valve replacements and pipe lining were conducted in 2023. Specifically, the fecal indicator bacteria enterococci values have dropped significantly between storm events due to this work ensuring that sanitary sewer leaks are no longer a source; and

**WHEREAS**, the Phase II study showed that the city's sanitary sewer leaks are no longer a source to the Park View Canal however there are additional private outfalls as sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the report further highlights 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

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to improving the quality of water in the Park View Island Canal and, since publication of the Phase II study, various resolutions have been adopted to implement measures in furtherance of this goal.

**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 direct the Administration to prioritize, as part of the FY 2026 budget process, funding for improvements to address the water quality concerns within Park View Island Canal.

**PASSED and ADOPTED THIS** \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Meiner, Mayor

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

4/16/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date