

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO:	Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members
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FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: July 26, 2024

TITLE: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A PLAN AND A COST ESTIMATE FOR TRAPPING, SPAYING OR NEUTERING, AND RELEASING ALL COMMUNITY CATS WITHIN MIAMI BEACH WITHING AN EFFICIENT AND EXPEDITED TIMELINE, WITH THE PLAN TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE ("FERC") AT ITS JULY 26, 2024 MEETING.**

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At its May 15, 2024 meeting, the City Commission approved a Resolution, directing the Administration to prepare a plan and a cost estimate for trapping, spaying or neutering, and releasing all community cats within Miami Beach withing 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, via Resolution number 2024-33041.

ANALYSIS

During the discussion, Ms. Linda Diamond, a member of the Animal Welfare Committee appearing via Zoom, suggested the assessment should include the following:

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

It has yet to be determined. There needs to be a team to conduct the head count per area. The feral cat population head count would need to be conducted during the night hours, when cats come out.

Estimated numbers as per a pre-pandemic study indicates that there are approximately 1 stray cat per 6 residents. A 2020 census indicated there were 82,890 City of Miami Beach residents, which equal to approximately 13,850 stray cats. This study was from about 4 years ago, and cat population could have potentially increased. It is important to note that during those 4 years, SoBe Cats trappers have been actively trapping and TNVRing cats.

(b)Classifying how many cats are ear-tipped

Undetermined. 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

Undetermined. First there needs to be a 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

Undetermined. First there needs to be a count of how many unfixed cats there are. From there on, it can be determined how many cat trappers 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 pets, the overflow of the Kitty Campus, and that could help with the 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.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The initial cost of this project will be approximately \$21,000 for a 6-person team, 40 hours a week, for a one-month period, including night vision goggles. This will consist of a two-person team in North, Mid and South Beach, who will count the feral cat population.

CONCLUSION

Before starting a cat program, a team would need to be hired to conduct a stray cat head count. This process is considered a Transect Cat Count, which can only be performed at night, when cats come out. The estimated cost is \$21,000 for a 6-person team, 40 hours a week, for a one-month period, including night vision goggles that are needed.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

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

No

Department

Public Works

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Condensed Title

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