

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO REVIEW THE PRACTICE OF FLUORIDATING THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IN LIGHT OF CONCERNS OVER EFFICACY AND POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS.

WHEREAS, fluoridation of public water supplies is a widely practiced method used by municipalities across the United States to prevent dental cavities, with approximately 72% of the U.S. population receiving fluoridated water as of 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”); and

WHEREAS, the CDC has endorsed the practice of water fluoridation, citing it as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century due to its role in reducing tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, despite the endorsement of fluoridation by some public health organizations, there is increasing debate within the scientific community regarding the long-term health effects of fluoridation, with some studies raising concerns about its safety, particularly at the levels used in U.S. public water systems; and

WHEREAS, studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals have suggested that the levels of fluoride typically added to public water supplies (ranging from 0.7 ppm to 1.2 ppm) may have unintended consequences on human health, including potential impacts on the thyroid, brain development, and bone health; and

WHEREAS, a systematic review of studies published in *The Lancet Neurology* (2014) concluded that there is some evidence linking fluoride exposure to neurodevelopmental deficits, particularly in children, which has raised concerns about the cumulative effect of fluoride exposure over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, a study published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* (2019) found associations between high fluoride concentrations in drinking water and lower IQ scores in children, which has led some researchers to call for further investigation into the safety of fluoride in drinking water, particularly in areas where natural fluoride levels are high; and

WHEREAS, another study published in *PubMed Central* in 2021 found that fluoride exposure may influence thyroid function, leading to concerns that fluoride could exacerbate or even cause thyroid-related health issues, including hypothyroidism; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2024, State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph A. Ladapo announced guidance recommending against community water fluoridation due to the neuropsychiatric risk associated with fluoride exposure; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of public health authorities at both the local and state levels to carefully review the evidence, considering both the benefits and potential health risks associated with the practice of water fluoridation, and to ensure that all measures taken are based on the best available scientific evidence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of its residents and recognizes the need to be proactive in evaluating public health practices and policies that may have long-term consequences for the community's health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners to review the practice of fluoridating the public water supply, taking into account the evolving body of scientific evidence that questions the efficacy and safety of water fluoridation, particularly with regard to potential health risks.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.


ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

12/3/2024

Date