

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: June 11, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS THE REMEDIATION RESULTING FROM THE PARK VIEW CANAL REPORT.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends continued implementation of the City Commission adopted recommendations from the North Beach Water Quality and Park View Canal report entitled "Assessment of the Enterococci in Groundwater and Stormwater at the Miami Beach Park View Canal" and the adopted "Operation Clean Water" Resolution to urgently address the specific outfalls and street level pollutants entering the stormwater system and impacting the Park View Canal water quality.

The Administration also recommends evaluating the effectiveness of UV disinfection in reducing the enterococci in street level runoff, and to provide a basis of comparison (designed experiments) to evaluate enterococci in stormwater runoff from streets and sidewalks, prior to implementing a program to utilize UV technology at the five (5) hot spots with highest level of contamination. The timeline for this study is from May 15, 2025 to September 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On March 19, 2025 at the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen-Gonzalez, co-sponsored by Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt, the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") approved item C4 F ("Attachment A), a referral to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC") to discuss the remediation resulting from the Park View Canal report.

Commissioners Rosen-Gonzalez and Bhatt would like to discuss the remediation resulting from the Park View Canal report. Specifically, regarding the presence of fecal indicator bacteria in Park View Canal, and identifying five (5) hot spots with highest level of contamination to install ultraviolet light or other means for decontamination.

ANALYSIS

On September 28, 2022, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 2022-32331, ratifying the City Manager's emergency engagement of services from the University of Miami to conduct water quality contamination research and analysis for Park View Canal, sponsored by Commissioner Alex Fernandez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

On December 13, 2023, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 2023-32852, authorizing the Administration to procure the services of Dr. Solo-Gabriele of the University of Miami ("UM") to conduct a Phase II Post Study after the implementation of short-term actions in North Beach, as they relate to the Park View Canal water quality improvement efforts and Action Plan, sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

On March 13, 2024, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 2024-32954 directing the Administration to prioritize, as part of the FY 2025 Budget process, funding for improvements to address the water quality concerns relating to the Park View Island Canal, sponsored by Commissioner Alex Fernandez.

On February 3, 2025, the City Commission referred Phase II of University of Miami Park View Canal Water Quality Report to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee ("LUSC") for discussion, sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen-Gonzalez and Commissioner Alex Fernandez.

On March 11, 2025, the LUSC members discussed the Park View Canal report, concluding with a motion for the Administration to present an urgent six-month "Operation Clean Water" plan at the March 19, 2025 City Commission meeting. The intent of the plan was to aggressively address the street level pollutants entering the stormwater system and impacting Park View Canal water quality as identified in the North Beach Water Quality and Park View Canal report entitled "Assessment of Enterococci in Groundwater and Stormwater at the Miami Beach Park View Canal" led by Helena Solo-Gabriele, Ph.D., P.E., from the University of Miami Department of Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering. The presentation is included as ("Attachment B"). The item was sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Bhatt, Commissioner Dominguez, Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez, and Commissioner Suarez.

On March 19, 2025, the City Commission approved Resolution 2025-33559 to implement the Report's recommendations and "Operation Clean Water" ("Attachment C"). The item was sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Bhatt, Commissioner Dominguez, Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez, and Commissioner Suarez. On May 8, 2025, LUSC members were presented the Operation Clean Water action updates ("Attachment D").

"Operation Clean Water" targets street level pollutants in the North Beach watershed entering the stormwater system and impacting the Park View Canal. The proposed scope addresses the following two items in "Operation Clean Water."

Item 6. Explore additional street and sidewalk cleaning mechanisms to include smaller scale equipment, including pooper scoopers to remove visible animal waste, increase hand crew collection, and potentially a restricted parking program to ensure street sweeping measures are effective.

Item 7. Investigate the feasibility and cost of implementing a UV disinfection of street level hotspots in a heavily urbanized environment, perhaps utilizing similar technologies to yoga studios.

Ultraviolet ("UV") Pilot Program

City staff met with Dr. Solo-Gabriele on May 8, 2025, to discuss the scope and feasibility of this program and items that can be included with the recently approved budget of \$10,000.

This scope focuses primarily on evaluating the effectiveness of UV disinfection in reducing the enterococci in street level runoff, and to provide a basis of comparison (designed experiments) to evaluate enterococci in stormwater runoff from streets and sidewalks that have undergone the following six conditions:

Streets

- a) No cleaning (identifying the base conditions)
- b) Sweeping by industrial scale sweepers
- c) Sweeping plus UV disinfection

Sidewalks

- a) No cleaning (paired with "a" above)
- b) Sweeping manually with pick up of visible waste (paired with "b" above)
- c) Sweeping plus UV disinfection (paired with "c" above).

The timeline for this study is from May 15, 2025 to September 30, 2025, based on the \$10,000 budget.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recently approved budget of \$10,000

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends continued implementation of the City Commission adopted recommendations from the North Beach Water Quality and Park View Canal report entitled "Assessment of the Enterococci in Groundwater and Stormwater at the Miami Beach Park View Canal" and the adopted "Operation Clean Water" Resolution to urgently address the specific outfalls and street level pollutants entering the stormwater system and impacting the Park View Canal water quality.

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Applicable Area

Middle Beach

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

Department

Public Works

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Condensed Title

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