

## MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Commissioner Alex Fernandez  
DATE: May 15, 2024

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE PRIORITIZATION OF IDENTIFYING FUNDING FOR PHASE III OF THE WEST AVENUE RESILIENCY PROJECT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET PROCESS.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Please place on the May 15, 2024 agenda a referral to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC") to discuss the prioritization of identifying funding for Phase III of the West Avenue Resiliency Project ("Phase III") during the fiscal year 2025 budget process.

The West Avenue Resiliency project is designed to enhance quality of life with aesthetics and infrastructure, and to reduce flood risk to this vulnerable neighborhood both now and in the future. The West Avenue neighborhood is one of the lowest lying areas in the City with elevations as low as 1. 7' NAVD. Since 2017, low-lying areas of West Avenue have experienced flooding from high tides 59 times (NOAA Virginia Key tidal gauges). Flooding is expected to worsen, as the City faces 14-30 inches of sea level rise over the next thirty years (Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, 2019). A high groundwater table and intense rain events result in additional compound flooding concerns. Without the deployment of temporary pumps, segments of the neighborhood flood regularly during intense rain events and king tides. Miami-Dade County is planning for 2 ft of sea level rise by 2060, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers is planning for 3 ft of sea level rise by 2070.

The West Avenue Phase III Improvements Project – South of 14 Street represents a comprehensively defined neighborhood improvement program, focused on resolving challenges associated with climate impacts and aged infrastructure. The scope of this neighborhood improvement project includes replacement of the existing water distribution/transmission systems and gravity sanitary sewers, installation of a new robust storm water drainage collection and pumping system including new bi-fuel axillary generators, raising of the paved roadway and harmonization to the adjacent properties, installation of new street lighting, pedestrian lighting, replacement of existing and installation of new traffic and pedestrian signals at intersections, new landscaping, irrigation and construction of a new segment of the Bay Walk. Most of the improvements for Phase III are on West Avenue between 14th Street and 8th Street, with some limited improvements between 8th Street and 6th Street.

I would like to discuss with my colleagues the prioritization of identifying funding for the Phase III portion of the project during the FY 2025 budget process.

The appropriate representative(s) from the Office of Capital Improvement Projects and the Grants Management Division should be prepared to address this matter before the Committee.

**SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA**

na

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

na

**Applicable Area**

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?**

Yes

**Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?**

No

**Legislative Tracking**

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

**Sponsor**

Co-sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

 [memo](#)