

C7 AQ A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE CITY'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND BISCAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO CONDUCT AN INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL'S STORMWATER AND SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS, AND TO PROCEED WITH ANY NECESSARY REPAIRS AND/OR RELINING OF THE SEWER PIPES THEREAFTER, WITH THE SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: April 23, 2025

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE CITY'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND BISCAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO CONDUCT AN INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL'S STORMWATER AND SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS, AND TO PROCEED WITH ANY NECESSARY REPAIRS AND/OR RELINING OF THE SEWER PIPES THEREAFTER, WITH THE SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

The attached Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsor, Commissioner Alex Fernandez.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The cost of any potential repair and/or relining is currently unknown.

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

No

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

No

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481,
includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

City Attorney

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez
Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Condensed Title

Biscayne Elementary School Stormwater and Sanitary Sewer Systems. (AF/DS/TB) CA

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE CITY'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND BISCAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO CONDUCT AN INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL'S STORMWATER AND SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS, AND TO PROCEED WITH ANY NECESSARY REPAIRS AND/OR RELINING OF THE SEWER PIPES THEREAFTER, WITH THE SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is committed to promoting a safe, healthy, and sustainable learning environment for students and staff at Biscayne Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 University of Miami report titled "Assessment of Enterococci in Groundwater and Stormwater at the Miami Beach Park View Canal," dated February 24, 2025, identified extreme enterococci contamination levels in groundwater near Biscayne Elementary School, with samples at the school's outfall reaching as high as 198,000 MPN/100 mL—significantly exceeding the EPA's Beach Action Value of 70 MPN/100 mL for recreational water quality; and

WHEREAS, the same study found that groundwater contamination in the area led to further investigation of the Biscayne Elementary School outfall, confirming it as a localized "hot spot" of contamination—exceeding levels at other monitoring points, such as the nearby kayak launch, by more than 20-fold; and

WHEREAS, the University of Miami's 2024 report further documents that in other areas of North Beach—where the City of Miami Beach implemented remediation efforts including the lining of gravity sewer pipes, rehabilitation of manholes, and replacement of leaking air release valves—enterococci levels declined, demonstrating that targeted sanitary sewer repairs are effective in reducing bacterial contamination and improving water quality; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Alex Fernandez reached out to leadership at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which led to an on-site meeting between school officials and the City of Miami Beach administration to discuss the elevated contamination levels at Biscayne Elementary School and to initiate a collaborative effort to identify and mitigate the source of the issue; and

WHEREAS, prolonged exceedances of enterococci levels in stormwater and groundwater threaten not only public health but also the ecological health of the Park View Canal and surrounding systems, necessitating urgent infrastructure inspection and repair to meet local and federal water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board has agreed to allow the City to access the property to perform an inspection of the school's stormwater and sanitary sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, the inspection is anticipated to take place as soon as possible, with any necessary pipe repair and/or relining to follow based on the results of that inspection; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board has further indicated its willingness to permit the City to perform any required repair and/or relining activities.

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 direct the City Administration to collaborate with the City's Public Works Department and Biscayne Elementary School to conduct an inspection of the school's stormwater and sanitary sewer systems, and to proceed with any necessary repairs and/or relining of the sewer pipes thereafter, with the support and authorization of the Miami-Dade County School Board.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *RR*

4/15/2025

Date

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex Fernandez)