

C7 V 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.

Applicable Area:

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: December 11, 2024

TITLE: 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

### **ANALYSIS**

The attached Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsor, Commissioner David Suarez.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **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-notice/>

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **CONCLUSION**

### **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

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 David Suarez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

**Condensed Title**

Urge Miami-Dade County to Review Practice of Fluoridating Water Supply. (Suarez) CA

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

12/31/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date