

3. DISCUSS THE CAPTURE AND EUTHANASIA OF IGUANAS PURSUANT TO THE IGUANA REMEDIATION SERVICES AGREEMENT.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: June 11, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS THE CAPTURE AND EUTHANASIA OF IGUANAS PURSUANT TO THE IGUANA REMEDIATION SERVICES AGREEMENT.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends reviewing and discussing the iguana capture and euthanasia protocols detailed herein.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On April 23, 2025, the Mayor and City Commission adopted a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) to discuss the capture and euthanasia of iguanas pursuant to the City's Iguana Remediation Services Agreement.

The means and methods employed by Iguana Control, the City's primary iguana remediation vendor, are described herein for review and consideration by the PSNQLC.

ANALYSIS

Though native to Central America, tropical parts of South America and some eastern Caribbean islands, green iguanas are considered invasive in Florida and have caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to sidewalks, building foundations, seawalls, ornamental plants, trees and underground utilities.

In March 2022, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2022-32073 reaffirming the City's commitment to iguana control and directing the City Administration to prioritize removal of these invasive species in the City of Miami Beach by using the most efficient means of iguana removal.

In September 2022, the City Manager executed an Emergency Purchase Authority in order to contract with several iguana remediation vendors to combat the burgeoning green iguana population on the island. Under this Emergency Purchase Authority, the Facilities Management Division contracted with four different iguana control companies for immediate implementation of remediation services, citywide. In aggregate, these iguana control companies have eradicated over 12,000 invasive green iguanas from City properties.

On June 28, 2023, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2023-32622 accepting the recommendation of the City Manager, pursuant to Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2023-007-WG Iguana Remediation Services, authorizing the Administration to enter into negotiations with Blue Iguana Pest Control, D/B/A Iguana Control, the topped ranked proposer, to serve as the primary contractor.

From January 2025 to date, Iguana Control has assisted the City with eradication of over 720

invasive green iguanas.

The means and methods employed by Iguana Control are described herein for review and consideration by the PSNQL.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Council Guidelines:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) enforces euthanasia methods, as prescribed by The American Veterinary Association (AVMA). The methods currently allow for the euthanasia of iguanas employing the use of nets, nooses, traps, and air gun.

At current, Iguana Control uses .22 caliber pellet pistols equipped with laser sighting scopes for improved accuracy when performing their remediation work around the City. In order to quell any concerns from area residents or visitors, the pistols are painted bright orange. The laser site is installed so the pistol is never “shouldered;” that is, brought up to eye line to gain target. Rather, it is company policy to keep the device at stomach height. The device is not removed from its sack until an iguana is sighted. The device is kept low in front and the laser is turned on.

Technician Training Protocols:

Each Iguana Control technician undergoes a 4-week training program during which he/she is taught the habits, traits, and physiology of iguanas. The technicians learn how to remove iguanas during different seasons, as iguanas tend to change their pattern of behavior depending upon the season. Additionally, technicians are trained in how to be very discreet when controlling iguana populations in high traffic areas.

After their initial training, technicians are required to attend classes at the Firearms Training Academy of Florida for courses in gun safety, prior to becoming certified to service private or public properties.

While the air guns Iguana Control technicians use are not firearms, the technicians are trained to treat them as such.

Post Extermination:

Once the iguana is dispatched, technicians place the carcasses in a sack. The iguana carcasses are later recycled by processing these into fish bait and for use in the creation of iguana leather products.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

The foregoing has been provided for review and consideration by the Public Safety Neighborhoods and Quality of Life Committee. Administration will continue to prioritize removal of these invasive species in the City of Miami Beach by using the most efficient and effective means available.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

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

Facilities and Fleet Management

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Discussion on capture and euthanasia of iguanas.



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

DATE: April 23, 2025

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE CAPTURE AND EUTHANASIA OF IGUANAS PURSUANT TO THE IGUANA REMEDIATION SERVICES AGREEMENT.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Please place on the April 23, 2025 City Commission agenda a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee to discuss the capture and euthanasia of iguanas pursuant to the Iguana Remediation Services Agreement.

Due to the widespread damage caused by the invasive iguana population, the City has made iguana removal a priority and has been committed to establishing a robust program to address these concerns.

As a result, in December of 2024, the City awarded RFQ-2023-007-WG to Blue Iguana Pest Control to perform traditional iguana remediation services including trapping, humane euthanasia and disposal.

Regrettably, recent complaints and observations indicate instances of iguanas not being euthanized humanely, alongside other troubling iguana collection efforts. These incidents have raised concerns among residents and visitors and potentially contradict the City's commitment to ethical and responsible wildlife management.

Accordingly, I would request that the City Administration be prepared at Committee to discuss the concerns raised regarding inhumane iguana euthanasia and provide direction on the review and potential revision of current protocols, which could involve designated hours for capturing iguanas, and the implementation of any necessary corrective actions and methods, to ensure humane and ethical practices are consistently followed in the City's iguana remediation efforts.

ANALYSIS

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-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

**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

**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

Office of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Sponsor(s)

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PSNQLC - Iguana Remediation Services Agreement. (Bhatt)

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)