

C7 AR A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SEAWALL ORDINANCE, AS SPONSORED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONER EILEEN HIGGINS AND HEARD BEFORE THE MIAMI-DADE PORT AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE ON JUNE 11, 2025; RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SEAWALL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FLOOD MITIGATION, COASTAL RESILIENCE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY; URGING THE COUNTY TO IMPLEMENT EFFICIENT PERMITTING PROCESSES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY TO EXPEDITE SEAWALL AND BULKHEAD PROJECTS; AND CALLING FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION TO STRENGTHEN COASTAL RESILIENCE.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: June 25, 2025

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SEAWALL ORDINANCE, AS SPONSORED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONER EILEEN HIGGINS AND HEARD BEFORE THE MIAMI-DADE PORT AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE ON JUNE 11, 2025; RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SEAWALL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FLOOD MITIGATION, COASTAL RESILIENCE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY; URGING THE COUNTY TO IMPLEMENT EFFICIENT PERMITTING PROCESSES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY TO EXPEDITE SEAWALL AND BULKHEAD PROJECTS; AND CALLING FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION TO STRENGTHEN COASTAL RESILIENCE.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

The attached resolution is presented at the request of the sponsor, Commissioner Alex Fernandez.

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?**

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 Laura Dominguez

Condensed Title

Express Support for Proposed County Seawall Ordinance (Fernandez/Dominguez) CA

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SEAWALL ORDINANCE, AS SPONSORED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONER EILEEN HIGGINS AND HEARD BEFORE THE MIAMI-DADE PORT AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE ON JUNE 11, 2025; RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SEAWALL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FLOOD MITIGATION, COASTAL RESILIENCE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY; URGING THE COUNTY TO IMPLEMENT EFFICIENT PERMITTING PROCESSES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY TO EXPEDITE SEAWALL AND BULKHEAD PROJECTS; AND CALLING FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION TO STRENGTHEN COASTAL RESILIENCE.

WHEREAS, seawalls and bulkheads are critical infrastructure that protect coastal communities from erosion, flooding, and storm surge impacts; and

WHEREAS, as a coastal county, Miami-Dade County faces increasing risks from sea level rise and coastal flooding, as recognized in projections from the Unified Sea Level Projection and the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, this projected sea level rise is anticipated to increase the frequency and severity of coastal flooding in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, properties with failing seawalls or without seawalls may be increasingly vulnerable to environmental threats, which may jeopardize lives or cause significant infrastructure damage and exorbitant repair costs; and

WHEREAS, permitting processes for seawall construction and repair currently face significant delays, with approval times ranging from 18 to 24 months—far exceeding the three to six months observed in other coastal counties in Florida; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in seawall and bulkhead permit processing times would better reflect the urgent need for timely action to address the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Miami-Dade County Seawall Ordinance, sponsored by County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, aims to expedite permitting, enhance regulatory flexibility, and promote innovative seawall designs while still maintaining environmental protections; and

WHEREAS, the proposed county ordinance was adopted on first reading by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners on May 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the proposed county ordinance was heard before the Miami-Dade Port and Resiliency Committee on June 11, 2025, furthering discussions on the necessity of streamlined permitting and adaptive coastal protection measures; and

WHEREAS, allowing alternative materials and streamlined administrative reviews for certain seawall modifications will enable more adaptive and sustainable coastal infrastructure solutions; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County must balance environmental considerations with the urgency of climate adaptation and infrastructure resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission recognize the importance of intergovernmental coordination to advance coastal protection measures, reduce permitting inefficiencies, and promote best practices for seawall construction and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission endorse and support the enactment of the proposed county ordinance as presented at the Miami-Dade Port and Resiliency Committee on June 11, 2025, and attached here as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby express their support for the adoption of the Miami-Dade County Seawall Ordinance, as sponsored by County Commissioner Eileen Higgins and heard before the Miami-Dade Port And Resiliency Committee on June 11, 2025; recognize the importance of seawall infrastructure for flood mitigation, coastal resilience, and public safety; urge the County to implement efficient permitting processes and regulatory flexibility to expedite seawall and bulkhead projects; and call for intergovernmental collaboration to strengthen coastal resilience.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *RR*

6/17/2025

Date