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## Commission Agenda Report

**Commission Meeting Date:** November 1, 2016

**Prepared By:** Vice Mayor Roxanna Ross

**Title / Subject:** Resolution 2016-34 and 2016-35

### **Background:**

Resolution No. R-823-16 adopted September 7, 2016 by the Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners, offers support of Governor Scott's initiative to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon/Caloosahatche River watershed. A companion Resolution No. R-822-16 urges a partnership among the County and its municipalities to pursue similar combined funding to aid in converting septic systems to sewer management connections in Miami Dade County.

The Village of Biscayne Park is one of the few remaining municipalities that relying almost exclusively on septic tank/drainfield systems for its wastewater treatment and disposal. Conversion to any alternative public sanitary sewer system would require a substantial investment in regional systemic infrastructure that does not currently exist. These improvements, let along condition-forecasting and planning, are beyond local community resources, and may only be accomplished through strong collaborations with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

### **Fiscal / Budget Impact:**

Negligible, if any, related to finalizing the resolution and electronic distribution of same.

### **Recommendation:**

Support Governor Scott's goal for central Florida, and further promote similar funding in Miami Dade County and Biscayne Park.

### **Attachments:**

- Resolution 2016-34
- Resolution 2016-35

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2  
3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-34**  
4

5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION**  
6 **OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA,**  
7 **SUPPORTING GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT’S**  
8 **PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO ASSIST**  
9 **LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH CONVERTING FROM**  
10 **SEPTIC TANKS TO SEWER SYSTEMS; AND URGING**  
11 **THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE STATE**  
12 **FUNDING TO ASSIST LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH**  
13 **ELIMINATING SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND**  
14 **CONVERTING TO SEWER SYSTEM CONNECTIONS,**  
15 **AS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR.**  
16

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, on September 7, 2016, the Miami Dade County Board of County  
19 Commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution R-823-16, supporting Governor Rick Scott, and  
20 urging the Florida Legislature to provide funding, in connection with the titled initiative; *and*  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, on July 6, 2016, Governor Rick Scott announced that he will propose additional  
23 funding in his State Fiscal Year 2017-2018 recommended budget to help clean up the Indian River  
24 Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River into which the polluted waters of Lake Okeechobee are  
25 discharged; *and*  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, this proposal is expected to include new funding for a voluntary 50/50  
28 matching grant program with local communities surrounding the water bodies affected by algae  
29 blooms resulting from the frequent discharges of water from the Lake; *and*  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, if approved by the Legislature, this voluntary program would provide funding  
32 to encourage residents to convert from septic tanks to sewer systems to help curb pollution that is  
33 currently entering into these water bodies; *and*  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, Governor Rick Scott stated in a press release that “[s]eptic tank runoff is a  
36 major contributor to the pollution in these water bodies and I look forward to working with the  
37 Legislature to fund efforts to curb it.,” *and*  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, the Governor’s proposal would also provide financial support to local  
40 communities to help them build wastewater systems to meet the increased demand for wastewater  
41 services; *and*  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, as the Governor explained, “[i]t is up to all of us – the state, Florida’s local  
44 communities and the federal government – to work together on long term solutions to improve the  
45 quality of our water. That is why I am going to commit state funding and match it with local  
46 contributions so we can work together on efforts to clean up our waters;” *and*  
47

48 **WHEREAS**, the problem of pollution due to septic systems extends beyond the communities  
49 surrounding the Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River; *and*



1 Attest:

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5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk

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9 Approved as to form:

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12 \_\_\_\_\_

13 John J. Hearn, Village Attorney

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2  
3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-35**  
4

5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION**  
6 **OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA,**  
7 **URGING MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN MIAMI-DADE**  
8 **COUNTY TO PARTNER WITH THE COUNTY TO**  
9 **SECURE STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING TO**  
10 **ASSIST WITH THEE ELIMINATION OF SEPTIC**  
11 **SYSTEMS AND CONVERSION TO SEWER SYSTEM**  
12 **CONNECTIONS.**

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, on September 7, 2016, the Miami Dade County Board of County  
15 Commissioners adopted Resolution R-822-16, extending a hand in partnership with municipalities  
16 within its geographic boards, in connection with the titled initiative; *and*  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, commonly referred to as septic  
19 systems, are a type of onsite sewage facility, a key component of which is the significant treatment of  
20 wastewater in an underground drainfields; *and*  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, some portions of the County, including the Village of Biscayne Park, lack  
23 public sanitary sewer systems and therefore rely on septic systems to treat and dispose of household  
24 wastewater from toilets, showers, sinks and dishwashers; *and*  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, wherever located, when improperly managed, septic systems may present  
27 environmental concerns, including potential vulnerability to the effects of increased water tables and  
28 sea level rise; *and*  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, on July 6, 2016, Governor Rick Scott announced that he will propose additional  
31 funding in his State Fiscal Year 2017-2018 recommended budget for a voluntary matching program  
32 to encourage residents to convert from septic tanks to sewer systems to help curb pollution that is  
33 currently entering into the Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River; *and*  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, Governor Scott stated in a press release that “[s]eptic tank runoff is a major  
36 contributor to the pollution in these water bodies and I look forward to working with the Legislature  
37 to fund efforts to curb it;” *and*  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, the Governor’s proposal would also provide financial support to local  
40 communities to help them build wastewater systems to meet the increased demand for wastewater  
41 services; *and*  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, as the Governor explained, “[i]t is up to all of us – the state, Florida’s local  
44 communities and the federal government – to work together on long term solutions to improve the  
45 quality of our water,” and “[t]hat is why I am going to commit state funding and match it with local  
46 contributions so we can work together on efforts to clean up our waters;” *and*  
47

48 **WHEREAS**, in a companion item, the Village Commission is urging the Florida Legislature  
49 to provide state funding to assist local communities in eliminating septic systems and converting to  
50 sewer systems connections, as proposed by the Governor for the Indian River Lagoon and  
51 Caloosahatchee River; *and*

1           **WHEREAS**, the importance of eliminating septic systems and converting to sewer system  
2 connections extends beyond the local and state level, with the federal government playing an active  
3 role in policy and regulation of water quality issues; *and*

4           **WHEREAS**, the Village Commission recognizes the benefit of partnering with Miami Dade  
5 County, other municipalities, state and federal agencies to eliminate septic systems for the betterment  
6 of our environment and water quality, and to seek funding from the state and federal levels to assist  
7 with such endeavors,  
8

9           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE**  
10 **VILLAGE OF BISCAAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, that:**

11           Section 1. The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true  
12 and correct and hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.  
13

14           Section 2. The Village Commission urges municipalities to join in partnership with Miami  
15 Dade County to secure state and federal funding for assistance with the elimination of septic systems  
16 and conversion to sewer system connections.  
17

18           Section 3. The Village Commission directs the Clerk to electronically transmit copies of this  
19 resolution to the Mayor and Manager of Miami Dade County and as well as each municipality in the  
20 County, and to the Executive Director of the Miami Dade County League of Cities.  
21

22           Section 4. The Village Commission directs the Village’s legislative consultant to advocate  
23 for the funding set forth above.  
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25

26 PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.  
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29           The foregoing resolution upon being  
30 put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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32 \_\_\_\_\_  
33 David Coviello, Mayor

34 Mayor Coviello: \_\_\_\_  
35 Vice Mayor Ross: \_\_\_\_  
36 Commissioner Anderson: \_\_\_\_  
37 Commissioner Jonas: \_\_\_\_  
38 Commissioner Watts: \_\_\_\_

39 Attest:  
40

41 \_\_\_\_\_  
42 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk  
43

44 Approved as to form:  
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47 \_\_\_\_\_  
48 John J. Hearn, Village Attorney  
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