

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner Mark Samuelian
DATE: September 11, 2019

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING HEALTH OF BISCAYNE BAY WITH FOCUS ON HARD DEBRIS AND AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE CITY OF AVENTURA IS DOING IN RESPONSE.

ANALYSIS

The Grand Jury Report regarding the health of Biscayne Bay was issued on August 9, 2019. While the report does not specifically mention the City of Miami Beach nor its pumps, it does assert the following:

"We urge all levels of government to participate in earnest efforts to implement whatever recommendations they can to ensure a healthy future for our Bay and our groundwater. The broad and beautiful lagoon that we know today as Biscayne Bay has always had a special magnetism...Yet, as we express our love for Biscayne Bay's beauty, marine life and its ecology, we too often shy away from our daily actions that may be slowly strangling this thing we say we cherish."

We should seek to learn from this report and take action. Specifically, the discussion should focus on hard debris as well as any other opportunities (e.g., capturing excessive nutrients). In addition, the City of Aventura has already begun taking measures,

"Grates have been installed on all storm drains in the City of Aventura, to block debris from entering into the drainage system. Consequently, the quality of the water emptying into the intra-coastal waterways in that area has improved."

The City of Miami Beach should look into and inform the Commission with an update on the ongoing actions of City of Aventura in this matter.

The report may be found in the link below:

<https://docmgmt.miamibeachfl.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=256139&dbid=0&repo=CityClerk>

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner Mark Samuelian