

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Citywide Project Committee

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: April 20, 2018

SUBJECT: **DISCUSS THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FUNDS FOR AN EMERGENCY BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT AS WELL AS FUND A BREAKWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

BACKGROUND

On April 11, 2017, the Mayor and City Commission referred a discussion to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee regarding the City of Miami Beach providing supplemental funding to Miami-Dade County for an emergency beach renourishment project as well as fund a Breakwater Feasibility Study.

The beaches in Miami Beach are owned by the State of Florida and are managed by Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade County has been designated as the local sponsor for all beach renourishment activities. As the local sponsor, the County is responsible for providing the local funds. For emergency projects, the County usually cost shares the projects with the State of Florida. For larger scale renourishment project, the County funds 25% of the project, the State funds 25% and the Federal government provides the remaining 50% match. It should be noted that the City of Miami Beach has not provided matching funds for any past projects.

ANALYSIS

Hurricane Irma caused extensive beach erosion of the city's beaches. Severe weather this past March caused new sand loss citywide and sections of the beach are now critically eroded. In order to address the most critically eroded section of beach, Miami-Dade County will be issuing an emergency beach renourishment project to truck in sand to the vicinity of 63rd Street. Miami-Dade County will be conducting a survey this month to identify the sand needs and then will be preparing a scope of work for the sand purchase and placement operations. It is estimated this process will take approximately 6 weeks, with renourishment activities commencing as early as June.

The next critically eroded section of beach is in the vicinity of 53 Street. Based on preliminary calculations, an emergency project for this area would cost approximately \$1.5 million.

In the 1990s, Miami-Dade County conducted a series of studies to identify sand needs countywide and recommendations for managing erosional hotspots. In 2001, the County constructed an off-shore breakwater at 32nd Street. In 2005, Miami-Dade County completed a Beach Erosion Control Master Plan that identified 55th Street as potential location for breakwater structures. At this point in time, an updated master plan and sediment studies are needed to determine the feasibility of breakwaters at this location and other locations such as 46th Street.

The City has been urging the County to establish a dedicated funding source to address beach renourishment needs. At this time, the City does not budget for beach renourishment because the County has always been responsible for managing this regional asset.

CONCLUSION

The following is presented to the members of the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee for discussion and direction on whether the city should identify funding for the City to augment the County's project by providing additional funds to address the next severely eroded section of beach in the vicinity of 53 Street and to identify funds for the city to assist the county with a Breakwater Feasibility Study.

SMT/ESW