

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



TO: City Commission
City Manager, Amos Rojas

FROM: Mayor Vince Lago



DATE: April 2, 2024

SUBJECT: Directive to Address Flooding Concerns and Request for Action Plan

In light of recent events and growing concerns regarding flooding within our city, it is imperative that we take immediate and decisive action to mitigate the risks and damage associated with such natural occurrences. The City of Coral Gables, known for its beauty and historical significance, must also be a model of resilience and preparedness in the face of climate change and its impact on weather patterns.

I. Compilation of Recent Rainfall Data and Flood Events

First, I am requesting the Environmental and Public Works Departments to collaborate on building a comprehensive list of recent rainfall data and documented flood events within the city limits. This data should include, but not be limited to, the dates, duration, and intensity of rainfall, as well as the specific areas affected by flooding. It is critical that this data is collected and analyzed with precision, as it will form the basis for projecting high-risk areas and understanding the frequency and severity of flooding events.

II. Solicitation of Community Input

Additionally, I urge the Community Affairs Department to reach out to residents and businesses, asking them to share their experiences with flooding. This real-world feedback is invaluable and will augment our data with firsthand accounts of the impacts of these events. It will also serve to engage the community in our efforts, fostering a collaborative approach to problem-solving.

III. Development of a Comprehensive Flood Mitigation Plan

With the collected data and community input, I direct the relevant city departments to work together to develop a comprehensive flood mitigation plan. This plan should address:

- Identification of high-risk areas based on historical data and projections.
- Short-term and long-term strategies to reduce flood risk and damage.
- Infrastructure improvements, including but not limited to stormwater management systems and natural flood barriers.
- Community engagement and education initiatives to prepare residents for flood events.

This plan should be designed with a two-year outlook, setting clear milestones and objectives to be achieved within this timeframe.

IV. Funding Request

Recognizing the scale and importance of this initiative, I also instruct the Finance Department to prepare a funding request to be submitted to both state and county government bodies. This request should outline the estimated costs of implementing the flood mitigation plan, highlighting the benefits not only to Coral Gables but to the wider region in terms of disaster prevention and response.

Conclusion

The task before us is significant, but with coordinated effort and a clear sense of purpose, I am confident that we can address the challenges posed by flooding. It is not only our responsibility but our duty to safeguard our city and its residents from the increasing threats of natural disasters.

I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to seeing the actionable steps we will take together to protect Coral Gables now and in the future.