

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT AN ALTERNATIVE TESTING METHOD FOR DETECTING AND TREATING THE ZIKA VIRUS.

WHEREAS, the Zika Virus has been known to cause fever, rashes, joint pain, conjunctivitis and has been linked to serious birth defects in pregnant women, including microcephaly; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2016 Florida Governor Rick Scott declared a public health emergency in Miami-Dade County due to a single Zika Virus Diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, since the Governor's initial declaration, the Florida Department of Health has confirmed 301 cases of Zika in Miami-Dade County, 82 of which have been locally-transmitted (as of September 20, 2016); and

WHEREAS, the current testing method is based on relatively expensive real-time quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) techniques that require shipment of samples to central laboratories with turnaround times of several days to weeks, and is a challenging model, particularly in the resource-limited settings that are hardest hit by Zika; and

WHEREAS, private lab tests purchased through insurance or out-of-pocket can produce results in a few days, while results from the Florida Department of Health's free Zika test can take in excess of four weeks, due to significant backlog, and can lead to greater chances of Zika transmission and less time to make potentially life-altering decisions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mario Stevenson and Dr. Mark Sharkey of the University of Miami, have developed a rapid, cost effective, point-of-care assay, that is suitable even in resource-limited settings; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of Coral Gables finds that Governor Scott and the Florida Department of Health should implement Dr. Stevenson's and Dr. Sharkey's assay, or a comparable method, as an alternative to the current model for Zika testing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of Coral Gables urges Governor Scott and the Florida Department of Health to implement Dr. Stevenson's and Dr. Sharkey's assay, or a comparable method, as an alternative to the current model for Zika testing.

SECTION 3. That said Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

That this resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D., 2016

JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRAIG E. LEEN