



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

August 11, 2016

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

As the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and on behalf of our 2.7 million residents, I respectfully ask that a reimbursement for the County funds being spent on the operations necessary to keep our community safe in relation to the Zika virus-related mosquito control activities be made available immediately.

As you know, since your Emergency Declaration made in February of this year, Miami-Dade County's Mosquito Control Section has been aggressive with its proactive and responsive mosquito control efforts, and implementation of protocols consistent with the recommendations put forth by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in preparation for a possible outbreak of the Zika virus. The Mosquito Control Section operates countywide and includes public education, inspection staff, and spray operations in all the municipalities within the County.

In addition to absorbing costs in excess of what was anticipated in our budget for mosquito control, should the publicity surrounding the Zika outbreak lead to a reduction in the number of tourists anticipated to visit Miami-Dade County, we could see reduced revenues not just for tourism-related taxes, which support our arts and culture programming as well as contributing significantly toward supporting our parks; our food and beverage taxes, which support services for the homeless and victims of domestic violence; and sales tax and locally-imposed surtaxes, which support public health, transportation, and all services subsidized by our general fund.

The requested reimbursement includes costs for aerial spraying, ground spraying, and outreach and education efforts, including distribution of insect repellents, which is estimated to be at \$6 million based on current activities. These efforts are ongoing and will likely fluctuate due to changes in demand and market costs. We are engaging community participation to help deliver services. I also urge you to consider an economic recovery package for our businesses in the Wynwood community that have been impacted.

Miami-Dade County will continue to protect the public health and safety of its residents and those who visit our community at whatever cost. We continue to work in tandem with the FDOH and CDC to address the needs of our community, and I remain committed to ensuring that Miami-Dade County is successful in its efforts to aggressively fight the Zika virus.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

- c: Dr. Celeste Philip, Surgeon General and Secretary, State of Florida
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners,
Miami-Dade County
- Dr. Lisa A. Conti, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Science Officer, Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Dr. Lillian Rivera, Administrator/Health Officer, Florida Department of
Health in Miami-Dade County
- Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
- Jennifer Moon, Director, Office of Management and Budget
- Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board