



Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

Committee Members

Clare McCord, Chair
Curt Dyer, Vice Chair
Ronald Starkman
Karin Matos
Julie Basner
Barbara Montero
Seth Cohen

TO: Members of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

DATE: June 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee on June 17, 2025, Meeting

Present: Curt Dyer, Karin Matos, Ron Starkman, Julie Basner, Barbara Montero

Absent: Clare McCord

City Staff: Amy Knowles, Sabrina Batlle, Samantha Sliger, Lys Desir, Albert Rosales, Rodney Knowles, Mackenzie Carr

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

C. Dyer calls meeting to order.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

C. Dyer moved to approve May 14, 2025, minutes. R. Starkman seconds. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS RAINY SEASON/ STORM PREPARATION

C. Dyer welcomed the committee and reviewed topics discussed at the last Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee meeting discussed with T. Mooney, the Planning Director.

The committee voted to recognize B. Montero's online presence as virtual attendance. A motion to approve her virtual participation was made by C. Dyer and seconded by J. Basner. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

C. Dyer introduced Lys Desir, Director of the Infrastructure Division, noting that he was present to provide a presentation on public works storm preparedness and rainy season planning.

L. Desir then introduced himself and gave his presentation which outlined the strategies and preparations by the Public Works Operations Division to ensure the city's readiness for hurricane season. The division is responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure, water distribution, wastewater collection, stormwater systems, streets and lighting. Emergency preparedness involves continuous review and updates of plans, coordination with Emergency Management, and preparation for various emergencies. Annual inspections and maintenance ensure all systems are operational, and critical equipment is tested and ready. Emergency equipment and communication systems are maintained, and essential supplies are stocked to support continuous emergency response work. Preparedness is emphasized as a year-round

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effort, with regular updates to emergency plans and coordination with vendors and agencies to ensure a smooth response.

J. Basner expressed her gratitude to the Public Works Department, acknowledging the significant impact of their efforts in storm and rainy season preparation.

C. Dyer agreed, adding that he has observed the positive effects of their work in his neighborhood, noting the department's effective measures and the visible improvements resulting from their efforts.

A. Knowles gave a presentation on Miami Beach's flood communication efforts, highlighting tools like bilingual magazines, emergency alerts, and insurance-saving outreach programs. She also shared lessons from past flood events, including how residents can stay informed through emergency notifications and access preparedness resources. Informing the committee that the City offers reduced towing rates for Miami Beach residents during flooding events, allowing vehicles impacted by high water to be towed anywhere within city limits for a flat fee of \$50.

R. Starkman asked when these towing services began and whether the City subsidizes the cost

A. Knowles replied that the program began last summer, but she wasn't certain if the City subsidizes the cost. Noting that residents are required to show proof of residency to participate.

J. Basner noted she receives flood events alerts on her phone but expressed concern that not everyone has that access, and in emergencies, people may not think to check the website. She asked whether an automated message system could be implemented.

A. Knowles responded that many people follow news broadcasts during emergencies, such as hurricanes. While the City does send text and email alerts, they currently require residents to subscribe. Mentioning the distribution of physical materials like the MB newspaper is how those residents are being reached.

The Committee then discussed additional emergency alert methods, such as sirens or Amber Alerts.

A. Knowles clarified that Amber Alerts are controlled by law enforcement and not within jurisdiction.

J. Basner suggested making text alerts more detailed.

A. Knowles explained that messages must remain brief due to regulations but will work with communications to explore some of the ideas discussed today.

FUTURE MEETING DATES/TOPICS

C. Dyer moved the discussion to future meeting dates and topics, reminding the committee that the next meeting would focus on the Private Property Adaptation Program.

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A. Knowles suggested inviting Vince Seijas, Building Director who has been working closely with the Environment and Sustainability Department on the Private Property Adaptation Program.

J. Basner expressed concern about the committee's intended advisory role.

C. Dyer responded by highlighting tangible progress from the committee, referring to LTCs available on the City of MBRisingAbove.com.

R. Starkman commented that identifying meaningful topics has become more difficult and many discussions feel less urgent, though he acknowledged there are meetings where committee feedback is valuable.

J. Basner added that while she appreciates gaining knowledge from the meetings, it doesn't feel like the committee is responsible for public outreach, especially given the City's existing communication efforts.

R. Starkman asked A. Knowles for her opinion on the current state of the committee.

A. Knowles responded by outlining the committee's history and purpose, adding that the committee continues to play a role in identifying areas for improvement. She emphasized that the City's communication efforts have strengthened over time, in part due to committee recommendations.

C. Dyer noted the next meeting is scheduled for July 15th and asked members to consider future dates.

A. Knowles mentioned that August is typically a break period since the commission is in recess.

R. Starkman made a motion to shift the committee to a quarterly meeting schedule, suggesting that due to fewer pressing topics, future discussions could be held less frequently. He proposed moving the next meeting to September instead of July to align with the new schedule.

C. Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The committee then agreed to schedule the next meeting for September 9th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Dyer makes a motion to adjourn. B. Montero seconds.