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INCINERATOR

known as Airport West and Dunn's site in Medley.

While the Levine Cava administration had previously dismissed the Medley site as too costly to acquire and develop, Commission Chair Oliver Gilbert on Tuesday secured another 60 days to consider a deal with Dunn.

The landowner told commissioners he's interested in turning the county-owned Airport West site into a rock quarry and would be open to swapping his Medley site south of Northwest 106th Street so the county could use it for the incinerator. Dunn said he would be willing to trade the Medley site for other county land, too.

Medley is an industrial hub with a city leadership that has already said it welcomes Miami-Dade building an incinerator there. That's far from the reaction in Doral, which had been fighting to move the incinerator for years before the fire, and in Miramar, which rented five buses to send more than 100 residents in green "Not in Our Backyard" T-shirts to Tuesday's meeting in opposition to the Airport West site.

"We cannot afford to compromise on air and water quality in the city that we call home," said Kerri-Ann Nesbeth, who described herself as a third-generation Miramar resident. "I urge you all to keep looking for alternative solutions."

Once called the Opa-locka West Airport, the 416-acre airfield that the administration now calls Airport West sits off North Okeechobee Road and north of Northwest 186th Street. That's about three miles outside of the county's Urban Development Boundary (UDB), which serves as a buffer between suburban construction and the county's wetlands, agricultural belt and other sensitive areas.

Environmental groups, including the Tropical Audubon Society and the Everglades Foundation,

have opposed Levine Cava's plan to build the incinerator at Airport West and instead urged Miami-Dade to pursue waste reduction through recycling, composting and other measures that they insisted could eliminate the need to burn garbage.

"Make your grandchildren and children proud," said Kaatje Bernabei, a Miami resident wearing a Sierra Club Miami T-shirt, told commissioners. "Look for another solution."

She was one of about 100 people who spoke on the issue during two hours of public comments, one of the strongest turnouts for a commission meeting in 2024.

Miami-Dade had been burning roughly half of the county's garbage at the Doral facility since its construction in the early 1980s. Without the incinerator since the February 2023 fire, Miami-Dade has been shipping garbage north by truck and by train to landfills, including one in Central Florida.

"The simple truth is: We need a solution," Levine Cava told commissioners. "Choosing not to choose would only kick the can farther down the road."

With Doral residents demanding an end to wafting garbage smells and smokestack exhaust, Levine Cava insisted clean-burning technology from a modern facility would all but eliminate those gripes.

She has visited modern incinerators in Japan, and Miami-Dade commissioners saw them on a recent trip to Europe. The mayor predicted a future Miami-Dade incinerator would be a non-issue for residents, citing examples of a Copenhagen incinerator with a public grass ski slope on its roof and one in Japan with a heated pool atop.

"I've dedicated my life and career to doing what is best for our people and for the planet," Levine Cava said. "I take that responsibility extremely seriously."

This month, her office released a consultant's report that ticked off prob-



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Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said Tuesday: 'I've dedicated my life and career to doing what is best for our people and for the planet.'

lems with the Medley site. One issue is a filled-in quarry lake with "geotechnical challenges" that could make construction costly.

While Medley is open to an incinerator, the memo said the city also wants yearly fees tied to garbage shipments that would cost as much as \$15 million. The memo also noted the Medley site is near residential neighborhoods in Medley, Doral, Hialeah and Hialeah Gardens.

The current incinerator site sits within a tenth of a mile of Doral homes, and Levine Cava's pitch for the Airport West site included it being farther away from residential properties than any location under consideration. The Airport West site is about a half-mile from Miramar's Sunset Lakes neighborhood.

Wearing aqua "For Clean and Pure Air" T-shirts at Tuesday's meeting, Doral residents pleaded with commissioners to move the trash-burning facility away from their neighborhoods.

"The choice you face today is easy," Doral resident Edwin Vale said. With environmental groups opposing the Airport West site, Vale invoked the children who live and play so close to the existing incinerator. "Should we protect raccoons and frogs over kids?"

Raul Gastesi, a Doral city lawyer, said Miami-Dade leaders should side with Doral over Miramar. "Please remember who

your constituents are," he said. "They are the residents of Miami-Dade County."

After Miami-Dade commissioners voted to defer a final decision until their Nov. 6 meeting, Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam declined to say whether he's more inclined to have a new rock quarry near his city or a modern incinerator.

Instead, Messam said he predicts Dunn would be more likely to negotiate for taking over other county parcels, potentially leaving the Airport West site vacant.

"I'm encouraged by the fact that there is flexibility that would avoid mass incineration at the Airport West site," Messam said.

The delay could put Doral in a challenging position, given the Medley site is only two miles north from the existing site. County commissioners have already passed a resolution calling for Do-

ral to contribute property-tax dollars toward the cost of building an incinerator elsewhere, with the idea that the city will enjoy a windfall in real estate values from homes that were built up around the existing site.

Doral was open to a deal when the decision seemed to be between keeping the current incinerator site or moving it as far north as possible to the Airport West location, about eight miles from Doral. Commissioners want \$200 million or more over decades from Doral. Now that moving the incinerator only two miles is on the table, Doral might not be so willing to approve big subsidies for the project, Mayor Christi Fraga said.

"I think it's unfair," she said after the vote to defer. "It's asking Doral to write a blank check."

Part of the deferral vote included a requirement that the Levine Cava administration negotiate a

subsidy deal with Doral so it could be considered in the final incinerator vote. That could give county commissioners who are inclined to keep the incinerator in Doral the opportunity to point to a weak subsidy offer as justification. "I think there are seven votes to put this back in Doral if the financial contribution is not right," Gilbert said near the end of the meeting. The commission has 13 seats.

During the next 60 days, Fraga needs to win approval from Doral council members for a long-term tax contribution to Miami-Dade — without knowing which location the city would be subsidizing.

"I think if the vote today was for Airport West, we could have had a better start," she said.

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CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **WEDNESDAY, October 9, 2024** the City of Doral will hold a **Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.** The Meeting will take place at the **City of Doral Government Center Council Chambers, located at 8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, Florida 33166.**

The following Ordinance(s) will be considered for **FINAL ADOPTION on SECOND READING:**

Ordinance #2024-27

"Amending Chapter 14 Elections"

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, Florida; telephone number (305) 593-6730, no later than three (3) business days prior to such proceedings.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk, City of Doral



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Miramar residents show support on Tuesday for a speaker urging Miami-Dade commissioners not to build an incinerator at the Airport West site near Miramar.

BUDGET SUMMARY CITY OF CORAL GABLES - FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Millage per \$1,000 General Fund: **5.5590**

	GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUNDS	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	ENTERPRISE FUNDS	TRUST FUNDS	TOTAL
CASH BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD	5,600,450	-	7,928,119	5,224,894	99,466	18,852,929
ESTIMATED REVENUES						
Taxes - Millage per \$1,000	5.5590					
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 129,944,446	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	129,944,446
Sales & Use Taxes	-	-	4,323,224	-	-	4,323,224
Franchise Taxes	8,811,043	-	-	-	-	8,811,043
Utility Services Taxes	12,825,000	-	-	-	-	12,825,000
Licenses & Permits	17,101,125	-	-	1,000	-	17,102,125
Intergovernmental Revenue	7,607,000	-	383,783	2,381,782	-	10,372,565
Charges for Services	17,159,666	-	-	43,444,304	-	60,603,970
Fines & Forfeitures	1,013,000	-	-	1,300,000	-	2,313,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	9,481,842	749,614	2,188,800	5,623,388	-	18,043,644
Proceeds from Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers In	11,822,326	8,051,043	16,787,629	1,892,178	99,467	38,652,643
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	215,765,448	8,800,657	23,683,436	54,642,652	99,467	302,991,660
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND BALANCES	221,365,898	8,800,657	31,611,555	59,867,546	198,933	321,844,589
EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES						
General Government	52,138,410	-	6,599,457	-	198,933	58,936,800
Economic Environment	1,739,730	-	-	-	-	1,739,730
Public Safety	94,842,701	-	3,580,925	-	-	98,423,626
Physical Environment	27,252,232	-	-	23,732,937	-	50,985,169
Transportation	3,995,064	-	9,927,903	13,082,718	-	27,005,685
Culture & Recreation	12,182,912	-	11,503,270	7,275,678	-	30,961,860
Debt Service	-	8,800,657	-	2,215,433	-	11,016,090
Interfund Transfers Out	26,636,863	-	-	10,460,780	-	37,097,643
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES	218,787,912	8,800,657	31,611,555	56,767,546	198,933	316,166,603
RESERVES	2,577,986	-	-	3,100,000	-	5,677,986
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES AND RESERVES	\$ 221,365,898	\$ 8,800,657	\$ 31,611,555	\$ 59,867,546	\$ 198,933	\$ 321,844,589

AS A PUBLIC RECORD, THE TENTATIVE AND ADOPTED (FINAL) BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY.