

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

Office of the City Manager
Tel: 305-673-7010, Fax: 305-673-7782

September 21, 2016

Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Zika Virus in Miami Beach, Florida

Dear Secretary Burwell,

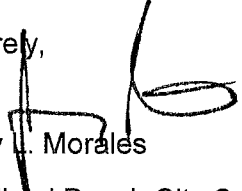
On September 14, 2016, the City of Miami Beach Commission adopted a resolution authorizing me, as City Manager, to send this letter requesting permission from the Food and Drug Administration to explore the prospect of using genetically modified mosquitos to combat mosquitos carrying the Zika virus in the City of Miami Beach. A copy of the resolution is attached. The City Commission is making this request in the wake of the first identified, non-travel related cases of the Zika virus within our country's borders. As you are aware, the Zika virus poses a serious risk to our community, particularly to pregnant women and their unborn children. Despite relentless efforts by the City and Miami-Dade County to combat the spread of the virus, the recent discovery of another pool of mosquitoes that has tested positive for Zika reinforces the need for us to continue being as aggressive as we can be against Zika.

With this in mind, we are specifically requesting that your office utilize its "emergency use" authorization pursuant to Section 564 of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, as amended by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2013 ("Section 564"). As Secretary of Health and Human Services, you may use the "emergency use" provisions of Section 564 to allow the City of Miami Beach to utilize the mosquitoes (OX 513A) that have been approved for the proposed pilot program in Monroe County, Florida. As you know, the FDA released its findings last month, which conclude that the proposed field trial in Monroe County would have no significant impact on the environment. Scientific studies also indicate that the use of the mosquitoes (OX513A) is more than 91 percent effective in eliminating the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that carries the Zika virus.

We want to ensure that our City has every tool at its disposal to combat the spread of the Zika virus and, therefore, we request that our City Commission be authorized under Section 564 to utilize the mosquitoes (OX513A), without any undue delay, should the Commission deem it appropriate to employ this strategy. Pending your response to this request, the City will continue working closely with State of Florida and County officials to ensure that we are doing everything in our power to protect the health and well-being of our residents, businesses, and visitors against the spread of the Zika virus in our community.

Thank you for your immediate attention and consideration to this request.

Sincerely,



Jimmy L. Morales

CC: Miami Beach City Commission,
County Mayor, Carlos A. Gimenez
Deputy Mayor, Alina T. Hudak

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work, and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.