


CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Zika: Front Line Response Through Local Partnership

Zerry Ihekwaba, Ph.D., P.E.
Assistant City Manager
City of Miami


Florida League of Cities: Research Symposium
Embassy Suites Hotel, Orlando, Florida
December 7, 2016



CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami


Zika Virus – Local Time Capsule

- ▶ Vectors: Aedes Aegypti mosquito, human and breeding sites
- ▶ February 2016: Governor Rick Scott declare Zika Emergency
- ▶ City of Miami: response through citywide cleanup campaign
- ▶ February 12, 2016: Governor Scott directed the State Surgeon General to activate a Zika Virus Information Hotline, 1-855-622-6735 managed by the Department of Health



Zika in City of Miami

- ▶ July 2016: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announce Zika Virus transmitted locally in Miami Wynwood area
- ▶ City activates Zika Zone Response Task Force
- ▶ July 15: Wynwood Zika zone announcement
- ▶ July 29: Reports of business closures in Wynwood area
- ▶ August 1: CDC issue first travel warning ever issued for the continental United States for pregnant women to avoid Wynwood
- ▶ September 29: Little River Zika zone announcement



Zika Zones in City of Miami

- ▶ **Wynwood Zika zone:** first neighborhood where CDC declared a travel advisory for pregnant women because of Zika; between NW 5 Ave and Biscayne Blvd and NW/NE 20 St and NW/NE 36 St
- ▶ **Little River Zika zone:** between N.E. 79 and 63 streets from N.W. 10 Ave to North Miami Ave
- ▶ “Keep Miami Beautiful” is our vehicle for Zika response




**Goal: Keep Miami Beautiful,
Healthy and Safe**

- ▶ Address Code compliance, illegal dumping, enhanced citywide surveillance, slum and blight
- ▶ Develop community partnerships to spearhead neighborhood pride




The slide features a header with the City of Miami logo and a skyline image. The main heading is "Goal: Keep Miami Beautiful, Healthy and Safe". Below this is a bulleted list of two items. To the right is the "Keep Miami Beautiful" logo, which includes a stylized city skyline and the text "Keep America Beautiful Affiliate".




Zika Zone Response Task Force

- ▶ Weekly Schedule
- ▶ Strategy Sessions: Mon / Wed / Fri
- ▶ Zika Zone and adjoining hotspots outside boundary
- ▶ Mandate: F.S. 162.06 Enforcement procedure.— (1)
It shall be the duty of the code inspector to initiate enforcement proceedings of the various codes...
- ▶ Task-force work



The slide features a header with the City of Miami logo and a skyline image. The main heading is "Zika Zone Response Task Force". Below this is a bulleted list of five items, including a specific legal mandate. The slide has a blue and white geometric design at the bottom.



CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Zika Zone Response Task Force

- ▶ Miami Police
- ▶ Code Compliance
- ▶ Solid Waste
- ▶ Public Works
- ▶ Building
- ▶ Fire Rescue
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Parks and Recreation
- ▶ Neighborhood Enhancement Team



CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Local Stakeholder Collaboration


- ▶ Florida Department of Health
- ▶ Miami-Dade County Mosquito Control
- ▶ Florida Department of Transportation
- ▶ Downtown Development Authority
- ▶ Miami Parking Authority
- ▶ Business Improvement Districts
- ▶ HOAs, CBOs, FBOs, etc.



CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Task Force Response Plan 1

- ▶ Miami Police Department: public safety, distribute repellent and outreach to officers and homeless population
- ▶ Code Compliance: investigate overgrown lots, illegal dumping, open dumpsters, outdoor storage, etc.
- ▶ Solid Waste: illegal dumping, bulk pickup, remote recycling and coordination of commercial solid waste franchisees
- ▶ Public Works: street inspections, standing water, public drains and trash holes



CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Task Force Response Plan 2

- ▶ Building: building sites, construction storage bins, open trenches, abandoned swimming pools, and standing water
- ▶ Fire Rescue: Public outreach; emergency response
- ▶ Neighborhood Enhancement Team: Public outreach, educational programs, public meetings with HOAs, CBOs, and BIDs, etc.
- ▶ Communications: information dissemination thru TV, Website and Social Media
- ▶ Parks: parklands and playgrounds; outreach to users, parents and children; Landscape improvement

 CITY OF
Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Removal of Bromeliads at Regatta Park




 CITY OF
Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Public Outreach

- ▶ Social Media, TV & Websites – posted Zika information from City, CDC, FDOH
- ▶ Distributed informational flyers thru NET, FIRE, MPD, HOAs, CBOs and BIDs
- ▶ Share information: print and electronic media; Street Bus Shelters and Ad Panels
- ▶ Visit to Schools and Parks
- ▶ Promote Recycling






CITY OF
Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Operational Challenges – 1


- ▶ Better and prompt communication needed between all agencies
- ▶ Lack of transparent information on where to concentrate initial efforts in designated Zika zones
- ▶ Limited community in-person meetings in designated Zika transmission zones
- ▶ Public outreach is done by multiple agencies in the same areas; this could be better coordinated through strategy sessions



CITY OF
Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Operational Challenges – 2

- ▶ Large scale rapid response is difficult due to number of storm water inlets and time required to clean them and apply larvicides
- ▶ Potholes and damaged swale areas may hold standing water
- ▶ Paved swales, turf blocks, and erosion control structures in parking areas and swales hold small puddles that are slow to drain
- ▶ Illegal Dumping – Abandoned structures, Mattresses, and Buckets/Containers
- ▶ Vacant and/or abandoned lots with restricted access



Operational Challenges – 3

- ▶ Vacant properties and roof with planters that hold stagnant water
- ▶ Backyards without access
- ▶ Absentee landlords
- ▶ Multi-ethnic city with conflicting cultural issues and sensitivity
- ▶ Information dissemination in different languages (English, Spanish and Creole) for materials, cards, flyers, PSAs, etc.



Operational Challenges – 4

- ▶ Legislative Restraints: Code enforcement officers have to wait for seven (or ten) days to correct property violations though Zika virus infestation is public health threat
- ▶ Illegal storage or dumping of tires, mattresses, buckets and other containers that store water or act as mosquito breeding sites
- ▶ Overgrown lots that pose public health concern
- ▶ Uncontrolled plantings and landscape improvements in private properties – plantings that hold water and flower pots



CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Auto-Repair and Body Shops

- ▶ Auto-Repair and Body Shops:
Public display of tires, storage areas and undocumented disposal process



CITY OF Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

LESSONS LEARNED: Operational, Legal and Public Health

 CITY OF **Miami**
Official website of the City of Miami

Design and Policy Changes

- ▶ Revise landscape design standards: No structures that hold water outdoors; prescribe self-draining systems
- ▶ Update prohibited plant specie inventory: No **Bromeliads**, etc., in public spaces and streets
- ▶ Code Enforcement: adopt a realistic compliance period



 CITY OF **Miami**
Official website of the City of Miami

Citizen Self-Surveillance is helpful

- ▶ My backyard is my private property; but it is not an approved storage
- ▶ Good neighbors are your brother's keeper
- ▶ Citizen participation and Google Image Search
- ▶ Code Enforcement is key to safe and healthy neighborhood




 CITY OF **Miami**
Official website of the City of Miami

Law Enforcement at Hotspots


- ▶ MPD Environmental Crimes Unit
- ▶ Illegal Dumping: Install cameras in public places and Street hotspots
- ▶ Code Enforcement: escalate process and compliance
- ▶ Waste or Used Tires




 CITY OF **Miami**
Official website of the City of Miami

Title XXIX, Ch. 403, Public Health, Environ Control, F.S.

- ▶ *403.718* Waste tire fees.
 - (1) For the privilege of engaging in business, a fee for each new motor vehicle tire sold at retail...is imposed on any...retail sales of new motor vehicle tires within this state... **Such fee shall be imposed at the rate of \$1 for each new tire sold.**
 - (2) The fee imposed by this section shall be reported to the Department of Revenue...**The proceeds of the waste tire fee, less administrative costs, shall be transferred by the Department of Revenue into the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.**



Title XXIX, Ch. 403, Public Health, Environ Control, F.S.

- ▶ 403.717(3)(b) *"It is unlawful for any person to dispose of waste tires or processed tires in the state except at a permitted solid waste management facility..."*
- ▶ 403.717(5)(a) *"The department shall encourage the voluntary establishment of waste tire collection centers at retail tire-selling businesses, waste tire processing facilities, and solid waste disposal facilities, to be open to the public for the deposit of waste tires."*
- ▶ 403.717(5)(b) *"The department may establish an incentives program to encourage individuals to return their waste tires to a waste tire collection center. The incentives may involve the use of discount or prize coupons, prize drawings, promotional giveaways, or other activities the department determines will promote collection, reuse, volume reduction, and proper disposal of waste tires."*
- ▶ 403.031(2) *Definitions.—In construing this chapter, or rules and regulations...(2) "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection.*




Legislative Changes

- ▶ Auto-Repair and Body Shops:
Display tires, and audit of waste or used tire disposal
- ▶ Review provisions of Ch. 403.717, F.S. regarding Waste Tires









Recommendation

- ▶ Identify gaps in existing laws and regulations that would impede recovery in new situations such as emerging diseases
- ▶ Review Ch. 162 and Ch. 403, F.S. to address enhanced/rapid response to Code violations that threaten public health
- ▶ Recommend Exemption Clause in case of emergencies and threats to public health
- ▶ Fiscal Impact – make realistic budgetary provision
- ▶ **Funding...partnership of local, state and federal agencies needed**



Is Miami Zika Free?

- ▶ **Wynwood Zika zone: lifted September 19th**
- ▶ **Little River Zika zone: lifted December 2nd**
- ▶ **Zika zone is lifted if 45 days have passed without local transmission of the mosquito-borne virus in the zone**
- ▶ Florida DOH and Gov Rick Scott declarations a relief but effort to be sustained



Zika: the fight is not over

- ▶ Unfortunately, the vectors are here to stay
- ▶ “We can’t take this for granted. We have to understand that we’re going to have to continue to fight this until we get a vaccine.” – Gov. Rick Scott
- ▶ CDC says “don’t let down guard”



Zika: But the fight is not over!

**Miami Zika Task Force
is now a permanent feature of
municipal service delivery**



CITY OF
Miami
Official website of the City of Miami

Zika: Yes, the fight is not over



Aedes aegypti mosquito

The image is a slide from a presentation. At the top left is the official logo of the City of Miami, featuring a palm tree and the text 'THE CITY OF MIAMI FLORIDA'. To the right of the logo is the text 'CITY OF Miami' in a large, bold font, with 'Miami' in a larger, stylized font. Below this is the text 'Official website of the City of Miami'. The background of the top section is a photograph of the Miami skyline at dusk. The main body of the slide is white. In the center, the text 'Zika: Yes, the fight is not over' is written in a bold, red font. Below this text is a square photograph of an Aedes aegypti mosquito on human skin. The mosquito is dark with white markings on its body and legs. Below the photograph, the text 'Aedes aegypti mosquito' is written in a black font. The bottom left corner of the slide has a blue and white geometric design.