



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission
Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

FROM: Raul Aguila, City Attorney *RA*

DATE: October 22, 2014

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RELATING TO URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO ENACT REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE AND MANDATORY LABELING OF ALL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD PRODUCTS; AND IN THE INTERIM, URGE THE COMPANIES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION, MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION CROPS OR FOOD PRODUCTS TO VOLUNTARILY LABEL THE CROPS AND FOOD PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the request of Commissioner Micky Steinberg, a resolution was prepared urging the state legislature and the federal Food and Drug Administration to enact regulations requiring the disclosure and mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered food products; and in the interim, urge the companies that provide for the distribution, manufacturing and production of genetically engineered crops or food products to voluntarily label the crops and food products that have been genetically engineered.

The Mayor and Commission are concerned with the quality of life of the residents of Miami Beach and understand that there may be long-term health risks to the general public and the environment due to genetically engineered foods. The ramifications of genetic engineering of our food are unknown, and as such the public should have the knowledge and ability to decide whether to consume such genetically engineered foods. Genetically engineered crops are engineered by transferring genetic material from one organism into another to create specific traits, such as making a plant resistant to treatment with herbicides, or enabling a plant to produce its own pesticide to repel insects. The genetic altering can lead to unintended consequences to the environment, and to our health.

Knowing what is in our food is incredibly important.

Conclusion

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission adopt the attached Resolution, which urges the state legislature and the federal Food and Drug Administration to enact regulations requiring the disclosure and mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered food products; and in the interim, urge the companies that provide for the distribution, manufacturing and production of genetically engineered crops or food products to voluntarily label the crops and food products that have been genetically engineered.



MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jimmy Morales, City Manager
FROM: Micky Steinberg, Commissioner
DATE: October 15, 2014

SUBJECT: Agenda item for the October 22, 2014 Commission Meeting

Please add to the October 22, 2014 Commission Agenda a Resolution regarding genetically engineered food items, urging the State Legislature and the Federal Food and Drug Administration to enact regulations requiring the disclosure and mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered food products. Please see the attached.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call our office.

Thank you.

Tathiane Trofino
On behalf of Commissioner Micky Steinberg

MIAMIBEACH

Commissioner Micky Steinberg

OFFICE OF MAYOR AND COMMISSION

1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Tel: 305-673-7103 / Fax: 305-673-7096 / www.miamibeachfl.gov

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

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RELATING TO URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO ENACT REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE AND MANDATORY LABELING OF ALL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD PRODUCTS; AND IN THE INTERIM, URGE THE COMPANIES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION, MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION CROPS OR FOOD PRODUCTS TO VOLUNTARILY LABEL THE CROPS AND FOOD PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach, a World-Class City values progress, innovation and technology and recognizes that consumers desire to have accurate and thorough information about the food they feed their families at their fingertips; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commission are concerned with the quality of life of the residents of Miami Beach and understand that there may be long-term health risks to the general public and the environment due to genetically engineered foods; and,

WHEREAS, the ramifications of genetic engineering of our food are unknown, and as such the public should have the knowledge and ability to decide whether to consume such genetically engineered foods; and

WHEREAS, genetically engineered crops are engineered by transferring genetic material from one organism into another to create specific traits, such as making a plant resistant to treatment with herbicides, or enabling a plant to produce its own pesticide to repel insects; and

WHEREAS, genetically engineered corn and soybeans are the building blocks of the industrialized food supply, ending up in products ranging from livestock feed to hydrogenated vegetable oils to high-fructose corn syrup; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 International Journal of Biological Sciences study found that rats that consume genetically engineered corn for 90 days developed a deterioration of liver and kidney functioning; and

WHEREAS, certain genetically engineered foods altered to produce their own pesticide have enabled the creation of weeds resistant to the "pesticide", thus requiring farms to use additional toxic pesticides while growing crops; and,

WHEREAS, the labeling of food and food products to correctly reflect whether the foods are genetically engineered is a "right-to-know" issue; and

WHEREAS, there are over 64 countries that enforce labeling laws for genetically engineered food; and

WHEREAS, a 2012 poll reflected that 91 percent of persons polled favor having the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) require labels of genetically engineered foods or foods containing genetically engineered ingredients; and of those polled, 81 percent strongly favored the labeling proposal; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 New Your Times poll found that 93 percent of U.S. consumers want all genetically engineered ingredients to be labeled; and

WHEREAS, as of June 2014, more than 60 bills have been introduced in over 20 states in the United States to require genetic engineering labeling; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission urge the state legislature and the federal Food and Drug Administration to enact regulations requiring the disclosure and mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered food products; and in the interim, urge the companies that provide for the distribution, manufacturing and production of genetically engineered crops or food products to voluntarily label the crops and food products that have been genetically engineered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, urge the state legislature and the federal Food and Drug Administration to enact regulations requiring the disclosure and mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered food products; and in the interim, urge the companies that provide for the distribution, manufacturing and production of genetically engineered crops or food products to voluntarily label the crops and food products that have been genetically engineered.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2014.

ATTEST:

Philip Levine, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

10/15/14

Date