



George Burch
MAYOR

Miami Shores Village

10050 N.E. SECOND AVENUE
MIAMI SHORES, FLORIDA 33138-2382
TELEPHONE: (305) 762-4870
FAX: (305) 756-8972

MEMORANDUM

To: Village Council

From: Mayor George Burch

CC: Village Manager Esmond Scott, Village Clerk Ysabely Rodriguez, and Village Attorney Chanae Wood

Date: February 10, 2025

Topic: Water Table and Ground Levels

1. It takes 4.5 feet of dry soil to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from drain field effluent.
2. Nitrogen and phosphorus act to fertilize algae on the Bay bottom and cause algae blooms. The growing algae removes oxygen from the water, which can result in fish kills.
3. Many coastal cities have already dealt with this problem.
4. As time goes by these systems cost more money. Costs for septic-to-sewer (S2S) conversion have increased per home. Approximated amounts in 2018 were \$32,000; in 2024 this increased to \$50,000.
5. Legislators, including the Senate President, have stated recently that preferred projects will be the ones in which cities are participating.
6. The 2018 Coastal Risk Consulting Vulnerability Study identifies two areas that must have completed S2S by 2023, and those areas are Shores Estates and the area from NE 12th Avenue to the Bay.
7. Each homeowner has a choice; raise their yard and drain field (usually with a lift station) or hook up to sewer.
8. A sewer installation will require a Special Taxing District.
9. It is time, therefore, for a survey of our residents in these areas, because septic tanks on NE 104th Street and NE 94th Street are starting to fail, with sewage in yards during king tides.