



## Town of Miami Lakes Memorandum

---

**To:** Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers  
**From:** Honorable Councilmember Bryan Morera  
**Subject:** Neighborhood Service Districts  
**Date:** October 8, 2024

---

### **Recommendation:**

The Neighborhood Service Districts (“NSD’s”) in our Town have been a hot-button issue for several years since the Town took over the administration of these Districts from the County. I recently had the opportunity to host a workshop with residents in the affected areas to hear their concerns and discuss how the Town Council, as the governing body of the NSD’s, can best serve the Districts.

During the discussion it became apparent that the NSD Advisory Boards, while established with the best of intentions, are not fulfilling their purpose of acting as conduit between the Council and the residents of the respective NSD’s, but rather, have at times been the source of frustration and resentment among the NSD Residents. As the governing body of the NSD’s, it is the Town Council’s duty to listen to the NSD residents and act as stewards for the NSD’s. **For these reasons, I would like to have a discussion with my colleagues about dissolving the NSD Advisory Boards for the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD, the Royal Oaks Section 1 NSD, and the Royal Oaks East NSD.**

That being said, at this time, I do not see a reason (or a call from the residents) to dissolve the NSD Advisory Boards for Loch Lomond, Lake Hilda, or Lake Patricia. In the case of these NSD’s, the Advisory Boards appear to be accomplishing their intended purpose because, in the case of Loch Lomond, all members of the Advisory Board are *elected* members of the Loch Lomond HOA, and in the case of Lake Hilda and Lake Patricia, because these districts are solely for lake maintenance, and are naturally limited in that role to measures that are *needed* for the maintenance and preservation of the lake.

Additionally, in order to ensure transparency, open dialogue, and that the Town Council is doing its job as governing body of the NSD’s, **I would like to discuss with my colleagues the idea of establishing quarterly NSD workshops open to all NSD’s** (including those who still have advisory boards) wherein our Town Council can listen to feedback and concerns from the NSD residents directly.

Moreover, to ensure that their non-ad valorem tax dollars are budgeted wisely and with the input of those that ultimately pay the assessments, **I would like to propose to my colleagues that we establish, by ordinance, that**

**the Town Council is required to hold a budget workshop or special call meeting in or around late-spring/early-summer specifically aimed at the NSD budgets.**

Finally, as discussed at a prior Council Meeting and during my various meetings with the NSD residents, the Council had License Plate Reader cameras (“LPR’s”) installed at the entrance to some of the NSD’s to enhance the existing network of LPR’s placed throughout the Town. These LPR’s benefit not only the residents of the respective NSD’s, but the entire Town, whose overall security infrastructure is bolstered by a having a robust network of LPR’s throughout the Town. However, the burden of bearing the cost of these LPR’s was placed solely on the NSD residents. It should be noted that the costs associated with these LPR’s is not trivial; by my calculation, the LPR’s make up 19.6% of the Miami Lakes Section 1 operating costs (excluding staffing and administrative costs), 30.9% of the Royal Oaks Section 1 operating costs (excluding staffing and administrative costs), and 33.4% of the Royal Oaks East operating costs (excluding staffing and administrative costs).

To remedy this, and to account for the fact that the NSD’s get preferential pricing and payment plans on the LPR’s than the Town, **I would like to propose to my colleagues that we amend the FY24-25 budget for the Miami Lakes Section 1, Royal Oaks Section 1, and Royal Oaks East NSD’s, respectively, to add a revenue line-item from the Town’s overall budget (source fund TBD), thereby reimbursing the NSD for its expenses relating to the LPR’s, and simultaneously increasing the contingency reserve line items by a reciprocal amount.** This way, (1) the assessment rate remains the same; (2) the NSD’s contingency reserves are properly funded, (3) we benefit from the preferential pricing and payment plan available only to the NSD’s, and (4) we avoid imposing a cost burden on the NSD residents for something from which all Town of Miami Lakes residents benefit.

Fiscal Impact: \$32,500 / year

Funding Source for Implementation: General Fund

Timeline for Implementation: TBD

Guiding Principles: 3, 4, 14

Goals: 9

Objectives: 2