



Town of Miami Lakes Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers

From: Honorable Councilmember Luis Collazo

Subject: Boating and Personal Watercraft Safety Education and Enforcement in Lake Ruth, Loch Doon and Loch Ness and Adjoining Bodies of Water

Date: April 21, 2020

Recommendation:

During this time, where by we have been reinforcing social distancing and “safer at home” orders, many of our residents have taken to the outdoors to enjoy many of our Town’s amenities .

While many of our lakes are closed to motorized vehicles, we do have 3 larger lakes which adjoin each other that from time to time are utilized for motorized boating and recreational watercraft. I have received numerous reports from the Windmill Gate, Celebration Point, and Lochness community, that motorized watercraft are being operated irresponsibly, placing individuals and property in harms way. We also know that this lake system is the only lake system in the Town which connects to Biscayne Bay and is home to manatees and other wildlife. Many residents have also expressed concern about the safety of the wildlife in the lakes, particularly the potential for manatees to be injured.

While the Town does not actively enforce the operation of motorized watercraft on these waterways due to its jurisdictional limitations, I wanted to have a discussion with my colleagues, directing the Town manager to seek input from any agency which has jurisdiction and collaborate with the impacted property owners on an education and enforcement campaign with the intention to protect human life, wildlife, and property from potential harm caused by unsafe watercraft operation.

I would also like for the Town manager to explore the installation of signage around the Miami Lakes marina, and where ever else deemed necessary indicating a “No Wake Zone, and “Manatee Zone”.

Fiscal Impact: Minimal

Funding Source for Implementation:

Timeline for Implementation:

Guiding Principles: 1,2,3,4, 14

Objectives: 6