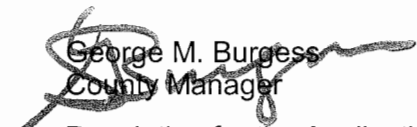


# Memorandum



**Date:** May 20, 2008

**To:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:**   
George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**Subject:** Resolution for the Application of Funds for Florida Inland Navigation District  
Waterways Program for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(9)

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to apply for \$11,900 in grant funds from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Waterways Assistance Grant Program. The grant will supplement county funding for a VHF communication system for the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) Marine Operations Bureau.

## **Scope**

Florida Legislature created F.S 374.976 F.S. which authorizes and empowers each inland navigation district to fund and undertake programs intended to alleviate the problems associated with its waterways. The Florida Inland Navigation District receives its operational funding through ad-valorem taxes levied on property within the eleven Florida counties that border the Intra-Coastal Waterway, from Duval County to Miami-Dade County. These funds are made available to eligible local governments, member counties and navigation districts for waterways related projects.

## **Fiscal Impact/Funding Source**

The grant is a matching grant that requires a fifty percent match from the applicant. The total cost of the Marine VHF Communication Radio System is \$23,800. The project was initially approved for funding under MDFR's Marine Operations Bureau's operating budget. MDFR will provide a fifty percent match of \$11,900 and FIND will fund the remaining fifty percent or \$11,900. This grant from FIND will allow the Marine Operations Bureau to supplement the cost of this valuable project and reduce the financial impact to MDFR's Marine Bureau's operating budget.

## **Track Record/Monitor**

MDFR Marine Operations Bureau will administer this grant. This award will be tracked and monitored by MDFR Grants Management Bureau for consistency with applicable OMB Circulars, audit requirements and award directives.

## **Background**

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Marine Operations Bureau has developed an all inclusive, all threat, marine waterways fire rescue response plan. This plan addresses the fire rescue needs for the entire waterways of Miami-Dade County.

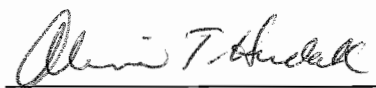
Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and  
Members, Board of County Commissioners  
Page 2

The Emergency Response plan encompasses the Port of Miami, areas of Biscayne Bay and adjacent waterways, public beaches and off shore areas up to 20 miles.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Marine Operations Bureau determined that the current Marine Radio System has limited capabilities, and a more comprehensive VHF Marine Radio communication system is needed to strengthen the marine waterways fire rescue plan. The Marine VHF radio system is a line of site system which is reliant on antenna height for performance. Currently, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Marine Operation's access to the VHF Marine band is a base radio located at Fire Station 73. The antenna height is 30' feet and the coverage area is limited to (7-10) miles from the Port of Miami. This grant funding will allow MDFR to increase the height of the antenna to allow for improved communication throughout the county.

MDFR's current Marine base antenna configuration is unable to relay emergency distress calls from stranded vessels. The majority of emergency transmissions from distressed vessel are received by the US Coast Guard or Commercial tow companies because they both operate VHF high site systems. Marine Operation has to rely on US Coast Guard and commercial tow companies to relay communications to MDFR on the free band radio system. The deficiency in communications creates difficulty in our response and operations. This technology is essential to MDFR's effective waterway safety protection because MDFR is the first responder agency for emergency medical services on the waterways.

The implementation of the VHF radio system will improve the Marine Operation Bureau's communication capabilities, response time, and prevent the department from losing calls during the most critical emergencies. This system will also increase coordination with other emergency agencies during major Homeland Security emergencies.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alina T. Hudak  
Assistant County Manager



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 20, 2008

FROM:   
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(9)

Please note any items checked.



"4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised

6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing

4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing

Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget

Budget required

Statement of fiscal impact required

Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation

Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing

Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)

No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(9)  
5-20-08

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND EXPEND FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT WATERWAYS GRANT FUNDS FOR A MARINE VHF COMMUNICATION RADIO SYSTEM FOR MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE MARINE OPERATIONS BUREAU; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MODIFY OR AMEND THE APPLICATIONS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS OR TO EXTEND THE PERFORMANCE PERIOD

**WHEREAS**, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum and attachments, copies of which are incorporated herein by reference,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board authorizes the Mayor or his designee to apply for, receive, and expend grant funds from the Fiscal Year 2007- 2008 grant application for Florida Inland Navigation Waterways Assistance to be used for a project to improve a Marine VHF Communication Radio System for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Marine Operations Bureau; and authorizing the Mayor or his designee to modify or amend the applications in order to receive additional funds or to extend the performance period.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman  
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman

Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Carlos A. Gimenez  
Joe A. Martinez  
Dorrin D. Rolle  
Katy Sorenson  
Sen. Javier D. Souto

Audrey M. Edmonson  
Sally A. Heyman  
Dennis C. Moss  
Natacha Seijas  
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

D.F.

Daniel Frastai