

Memorandum

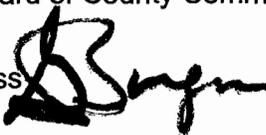
MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Date: October 6, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Supplement to
Agenda Item No.
11(A)13

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager



Subject: Resolution Directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's Designee to Cease the
Purchase of Furniture by County Departments for a Period of One Year

Item 11A2, sponsored by Commissioner Sosa, imposes a one-year moratorium on the purchase of furniture by all County departments. Planned purchases include several library projects (Shenandoah, Miami Springs, Villa Aurora, Miami Beach, South Dade Regional, and Doral) requiring shelving, children's furniture, computer tables, and seating for staff and the public which is not currently available. These purchases are funded through Building Better Community Bond funds (BBC) and Capital Asset Acquisition Special Obligation Bonds Series 2007 (Series 2007). Furnishings will likewise be required for the new Northside Police Station (BBC funding), as well as for a series of Fire Rescue facilities, including Village of Sunny Isles Beach Fire Rescue Station 10, Doral North Fire Rescue Station 69, Homestead Fire Rescue Station 16, and the Training Complex, which are funded through a combination of fire impact fees, Sunshine State Financing, Capital Asset Acquisition Bonds, and Fire Rescue District Bonds. We must also outfit the 300,000 square foot second Overtown Tower for occupancy by current 140 West Flagler tenants and the State's Child Support Enforcement function currently operating out of leased space. This will enable the County to collect approximately \$1,874,745 annually in revenue from the State which is currently being paid to a private landlord. This new facility will also house Corrections and Rehabilitation and other County operations currently in private leased space, paying an estimated value of \$670,000 annually for rent. The Board authorized the approved budget for the second Overtown Tower, including furniture, fixtures and equipment, via resolution R-1192-06 on October 10, 2006. These purchases are also funded through the Series 2007 bonds.

The furniture currently used in the 140 Building is more than 20 years old and is not compatible with current electrical code. It is uncertain if the necessary replacement parts are available for the retrofit. However, the furniture that is still usable will be stored for use in future reconfigurations at the Stephen P. Clark Center. Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that the County provide reasonable accommodations to employees upon request, which often includes special seating or desks which are not kept in stock and would require access to the furniture contract. Additionally, the Aviation Department must order counters, podiums, seating, etc. for new gates to be opened as part of the North Terminal Development and renovations to Concourse E, Satellite E and Concourse H. Those projects are funded through a combination of Special Revenue Bonds; Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding; tenant financing; and passenger facility charges.

While I understand the Board's desire to reduce expenditures, the above mentioned purchases are necessary to meet operational needs. To the extent possible, furniture is re-used; however, this re-use often requires the purchase of replacement parts which would not be possible under the proposed moratorium. A complete furniture moratorium would also prevent us from replacing furniture that breaks beyond repair due to normal wear and tear. It is important to note that only one percent of the projected expenditures is budgeted in our tax supported operations. Nearly all of the purchases are funded through bond proceeds or other restricted funds which cannot be used for operating expenses.