

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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


DATE: May 4, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Resolution establishing County
policy to fund the full time
operation of Miami-Dade Fire
Rescue Station 15

This item was amended at the Health, Public Safety and Intergovernmental Committee to remove the requirement that the funds be obtained by closing down the Fire Department's Internal Affairs Unit, the cafeteria at the Department's headquarters, and the Department's Wellness Center. Instead the funding will be obtained by utilizing realized savings that the department has made this year.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Senator Javier D. Souto.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

Please note any items checked.

- "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
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)
5-4-10

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COUNTY POLICY TO FUND THE FULL TIME OPERATION OF MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE STATION 15; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO FUND SUCH OPERATION FOR BALANCE OF FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 FROM WITHIN APPROPRIATIONS TO MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT BY MAKING NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN SUCH APPROPRIATIONS TO EFFECTUATE THIS POLICY; AND DIRECTING COUNTY MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORT

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Station 15 located in Key Biscayne currently provides fire rescue services to certain areas in Key Biscayne outside of the municipal boundaries of the Village of Key Biscayne and the City of Miami; and

WHEREAS, Station 15 is currently in operation from Thursday to Monday during the hours of 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; and

WHEREAS, this Board has determined that it is in the best interests of Miami-Dade County to have Station 15 operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week with at least one fully staffed engine; and

WHEREAS, it currently costs \$400,000 to \$450,000 per year to fund the part time operation of Station 15; and

WHEREAS, it would cost approximately \$2.5 million to fund a fully staffed engine on a 24/7 shift for 365 days a year; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to fund the operation of Station 15 twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days a week with at least one fully staffed engine within funds appropriated in Fiscal Year 2009-10 to the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (the "Department"); and

~~[[**WHEREAS**, eligible funding sources to fund such operating level include the elimination of the Department's Internal Affairs unit and closing the cafeteria and Wellness Center at the Department's headquarters; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, the Department's Internal Affairs unit costs \$1.29 million a year to fund and this year's budget for the Wellness Center at the Department's headquarters is \$818,000; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the projected costs of operating the cafeteria at the Department's headquarters during the fiscal year 2009-10 will exceed revenues by \$130,000; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, elimination of the Department's Internal Affairs unit and the closing of the employee cafeteria and the Wellness Center at the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue headquarters would provide sufficient funds to operate Station 15 full time; and]]¹~~

WHEREAS, this Board desires to direct the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to fund the full time operation of Station 15 from within funds appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget to the Department by >>utilizing realized savings<< ~~[[making adjustments to the Department's Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget in the following order of priority to the extent necessary to fund such operation: elimination of the Department's Internal Affairs unit; closing the employee cafeteria; and closing the Wellness Center]]~~,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

¹ Committee amendments are indicated as follows: words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed.

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated in this resolution and are approved.

Section 2. It shall be the policy of this Board to fund operation of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Station 15 in Key Biscayne on a 24/7 shift 365 days a year with a fully staffed engine and directs the County Mayor or the Mayor's designee to carry out such policy. This Board directs the County Mayor or the Mayor's designee to >>utilize realized savings from<< ~~[[make the following adjustments to]]~~ the Department's Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget >>for the necessary funding<< ~~[[in the following order of priority to the extent necessary to fund such operation: elimination of the Department's Internal Affairs unit; closing the employee cafeteria; and closing the Wellness Center]]~~.

Section 3. The County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee shall submit a written report to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting after the effective date of this Resolution to inform the Board of the actions taken.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Senator Javier D. Souto. It 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:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of May, 2010. 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

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR**



Legislative Notes

Agenda Item: 11(A)3
File Number: 101073
Committee(s) of Reference: Board of County Commissioners
Date of Analysis: April 22, 2010
Type of Item: Funding of Fire Rescue Station 15

Summary

This resolution establishes the County policy to fund the full-time operations of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) Station 15, located on Key Biscayne.

In addition, this resolution directs the County Mayor or his designee to fund such operations for the balance of FY 2009-10 from within appropriations to MDFR by making the necessary adjustments within such appropriations to effectuate this policy, and to submit a written report at the next scheduled Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting after the effective date of this resolution to inform the BCC of such action.

At the April 15, 2010, Health and Public Safety Committee meeting, this item was amended to direct Administration to restore services to the MDFR Station 15 and to provide a list of funding alternatives.

Background and Relevant Legislation

Historically, MDFR Station 15 has operated as both a part-time and full-time station. According to Administration, from 1982 to 2005, MDFR Station 15 operated as a part-time fire rescue station. Then in 2005, it became a full-time station, housing one (1) fire-engine requiring four (4) firefighters when in operation.

In December of 2009, MDFR Station 15 full-time fire services were discontinued due to budget cuts.¹ The station reduced its hours to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays. Firefighters, who were stationed to work at Station 15, were reassigned to other stations throughout the County and the fire-engine became part of the surplus inventory.

Currently, there are three (3) firefighters assigned to Station 15. When Station 15 is not in service, South Miami fire-rescue responds to emergency calls. Station 15 receives approximately 300 calls a year.

¹ Key Biscayne Times, December 26, 2009.

Policy Change and Implication

This resolution proposes the restoration of MDRF Station 15 to a full-time fire rescue station. According to Administration this would mean increasing the firefighters assigned to Station 15 from three (3) to eighteen (18) and returning the one (1) fire-engine that is currently part of the surplus inventory.

Budgetary Impact

In order to fund a full-time operation at Station 15, this resolution proposes the following:

- Elimination of the MDRF Internal Affairs unit - \$1.29 million (cost per year to fund);
- Closing of the Cafeteria: \$130,000 (cost exceeding revenues);
- Closing of the Wellness Center - \$818,000 (FY 2009-10 budget).

The revenue stream of the Wellness Center is complex in that it is composed of public funding, payments from private insurance, worker's compensation claims, and funding for services from other governmental agencies such as the City of Miami and the Drug Enforcement Administration. In FY 2007-08, the total revenue for the Wellness Center was \$1,749,042 with an additional \$694,641 of in-kind services from Miami-Dade County.²

Comments / Questions

The MDRF Internal Affairs Bureau

The MDRF Internal Affairs Bureau (Internal Affairs) is tasked with impartially investigating customer complaints, whether internal or external. This bureau reviews all complaints with the main objective of gathering the facts to determine the disposition of the complaint. This bureau also tracks all complaints of a less serious nature delegated to MDRF personnel for investigation.³

There are a total of 7 personnel assigned to Internal Affairs: five (5) Investigators, one (1) Supervisor, and one (1) Administrative Sergeant.

Over the last three years, Internal Affairs has handled over 800 investigations.⁴

Prior to this item going before the BCC, the Office of the Commission Auditor will provide information regarding best practices for internal affairs in large fire departments.

The Wellness Center

The Wellness Center is located at the MDRF headquarters, 8000 N.W. 21st Street, Miami, Florida; and is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is managed by the MDRF through the

² Metro-Dade Firefighters Wellness Center Business Plan Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010, dated January 9, 2009.

³ www.miamidade.gov/mdfr/inside_org_chief.asp

⁴ Letter - MDRF Director Herminio Lorenzo to IAFF Local 1403 President Dominick Barbera, dated Dec. 29, 2009.

Wellness Manager and is staffed with 14 positions (11 County positions and 3 University of Miami positions).

The Wellness Center, a not-for-profit organization, was created as part of the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative, to improve the quality of life of all uniformed fire personnel.⁵ According to MDFR⁶, the Wellness Center is a partnership between MDFR and the International Association of Firefighters Union, Chapter 1403 (IAFF Local 1403 Firefighters Union).

During FY 2007-08, the Wellness Center provided the following services⁷:

- 283 Pre-employment medical evaluations;
- 1,339 annual physicals for firefighters;
- 1,520 Private patient appointments as the primary care center for MDFR firefighters and their dependents;
- 1,168 rehabilitation and physical therapy sessions as a Workers' Compensation Center; and
- 228 Exercise stress tests as a Fitness Center.

Other jurisdictions that have instituted Wellness Centers include San Diego, Phoenix, Los Angeles County, New York City, Seattle, and Indianapolis.⁸

In January 2010, a bicyclist was fatally struck by a car while cycling on the Rickenbacker Causeway. This tragic incident raised concerns among members of the BCC about response times of emergency rescue.

Prepared by: Elizabeth N. Owens

⁵ Metro-Dade Firefighters Wellness Center Business Plan Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010, dated January 9, 2009.

⁶ www.maimidade.gov/mdfr/inside_org_admin.asp

⁷ Metro-Dade Firefighters Wellness Center Business Plan Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010, dated January 9, 2009.

⁸ The City of San Diego Manager's Report No. 05-010, dated January 7, 2005