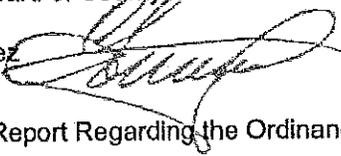


Memorandum



Date: May 15, 2012

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
County Mayor 

Subject: County Mayor's Report Regarding the Ordinance Creating the Military Affairs Board

Supplement to
Agenda Item No. 5(A)

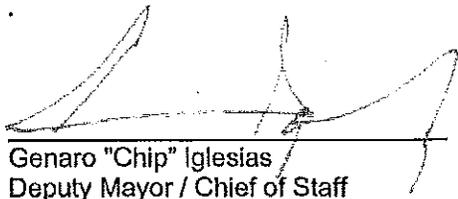
In accordance with Section 2-11.37 of the Miami-Dade County Code, the following information is provided regarding the proposed creation of the Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board.

1. Whether the establishment of the board will create sufficient betterment to the community to justify the Board of County Commissioners' delegation of a portion of its authority.
2. Whether another board or agency, either public or private, which is already in existence, could serve the same purpose.
3. The costs, both direct and indirect, of establishing and maintaining the board.
4. Whether the board is necessary to enable the County to obtain State or federal grants or other financing.
5. Whether the board should have bonding authority.
6. Whether the board should have final authority to enter into contracts and spend County funds, or whether its contracts and expenditures must be ratified by the Board of County Commissioners.
7. Whether the creation of a new board is the best method of achieving the benefit desired.

The overall mission of this new board is to work with all the branches of the Armed Forces to help improve the lives of active, reserve, retired, and disabled military personnel and their families in Miami-Dade County by promoting outreach services to assist with veteran affairs, housing, healthcare, education, pension and unemployment benefits, and financial services; in addition to working on maintaining a strong relationship with the U.S. Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, the Red Cross, and any other entity that interacts with the Armed Forces. The Military Affairs Board would also be responsible for the Medal of Valor Program which is currently supported by the Office of the Chair Protocol Division and coordinate County activities regarding Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

Presently, no other Miami-Dade County board or agency serves this same purpose therefore creation of the Military Affairs Board is the best method for achieving the desired results. However, any services provided by the Military Affairs Board will help supplement veteran services currently provided by the Community Action and Human Services Department Veteran Services Division which acts as a liaison between Miami-Dade County veterans and the U.S. Veterans Administration Office assisting with filing of benefit claims as well as minimal social service case management.

Costs to establish and support the Military Affairs Board may be absorbed by existing County staff resources and members will serve without compensation. However, given the scope, additional funding may be required and requested to staff this Board. The Military Affairs Board will not have bonding authority; cannot enter into contracts; expend County funds or, incur any financial obligations.


Genaro "Chip" Iglesias
Deputy Mayor / Chief of Staff

mayor10812