

Memorandum



Date: November 19, 2013

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 14(B)1

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", written over a faint, larger signature.

Subject: Status Report on the New Animal Services Shelter

At the November 5, 2013, Board of County Commissioner's (Board) meeting, a motion was approved requesting that a status report regarding the construction of the new Animal Services Shelter (Animal Shelter) be provided at the next Board meeting. This report also serves as a response to Resolution R-721-13, sponsored by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz and adopted by the Board on September 4, 2013, directing the administration to expedite the design and construction of the Animal Shelter.

As Mayor, I have been committed to this project and have worked diligently to ensure the Animal Shelter has sufficient funding and resources to become a reality for our community. Previously, the funding and scope for the new shelter were inadequate and would not have housed even as many animals as are in the current shelter facility, and contained none of the disease control and safety features that are now incorporated. I would like to thank the Board for all of their support in providing the needed funding for this important project.

As part of the County's Economic Stimulus Program, the Administration has authority to expedite certain aspects of this project in accordance with Ordinance 08-92. Staff from the Internal Services Department (ISD) and Animal Services Department (ASD) has worked very closely with the Architect of Record to expedite other aspects of the project in order to commence construction as soon as possible. Below is a summary of various actions that have been taken to date to expedite this project:

- Design – ISD has aggressively negotiated with the Architect of Record to expedite completion of the design and construction documents. The design of the project will be complete on December 18, 2013, when the architect will be providing all complete construction documents to the County. **This is an estimated time savings of two months from the original schedule.**

The selection of an artist for the Art in Public Places feature has been expedited to ensure there is collaboration and integration of the public art among the architectural design of the building.

- Permitting – ISD has identified options to fast-track permitting of the project parallel with the advertisement and award process. The originally anticipated date to advertise for a general contractor was May 21, 2014. However, by fast-tracking the permitting, we believe we can advertise for the general contractor on December 9, 2013. **This is an estimated time savings of five months from the original project schedule.**
- Bidding & Award – By conducting a parallel process for permitting during the bidding process, construction can begin earlier than planned. The award date for general contracting services was originally scheduled for June 28, 2014, and is now scheduled for May 5, 2014. **This is a estimated time savings of six weeks from the original project schedule.**

- Construction – The current schedule shows that construction would begin on September 6, 2014. With the efforts to expedite this project described above, construction can begin as early as July 22, 2014. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on the actual construction commencement date. Construction is planned to finish in August 2015. **This is an estimated time savings of two months from the original project schedule.**

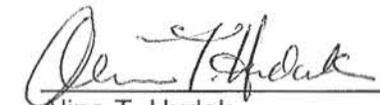
Previous project schedules were unrealistic. A review of previous project schedules shows that construction at this location was to begin as early as September 2012. However, at the time that schedule was drafted (May 2012), the project was not fully funded and the scope of the project was very limited. My office worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget to fund an improved shelter facility that would meet the needs of the community while controlling the spread of disease. Under the new scope, the construction start date was moved back in order to accommodate the redesign. Now, with the parallel efforts described above, we believe that construction can begin as early as July 2014.

Roadwork will be initiated by Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM) in the coming months for necessary improvements along the portion of NW 78 Avenue that the County owns. This road runs along the rear of the shelter facility and the roadwork will allow ASD staff easier access into and out of the area.

It must be understood that this is an extremely aggressive schedule for a construction project of this nature, and will require a well-coordinated permitting effort by both County and Doral officials in order to remain on schedule. The appropriate staff resources will be fully engaged and dedicated to ensure these coordination efforts are handled properly, and that this project is implemented in a prompt and efficient manner. Additionally, R-721-13 directs that any additional funds or delegation of authority needed be requested in this response. At this time, the project is not in need of additional funds or delegation.

It is clear that there is an urgent need for expanded and improved conditions to house our neediest animals as we work towards our goal of a No-Kill shelter. The Board will be kept apprised of the progress of the shelter construction on a regular basis, as well as the progress of ASD's implementation and expansion of No-Kill programs with the additional funding that was allocated at the last budget hearing.

I hope you will join me at a project kick-off event that will soon be scheduled at the new shelter location. Staff is currently coordinating the event and will distribute invitations in the coming weeks.



Alina T. Hudak
Deputy Mayor