

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)


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


DATE: December 2, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor
to analyze training protocols
of the Miami-Dade Police
Department for police
interactions with persons
suffering from mental illness

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney 

RAC/jls



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(Revised)

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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 Mayor'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)(16)
12-2-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO ANALYZE TRAINING PROTOCOLS OF THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR POLICE INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS AND TO CONSULT WITH LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS TO EXPAND POLICE TRAINING TO IMPROVE THE HANDLING OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County ("County") is home to the largest percentage of people with serious mental illnesses of any urban community in the United States as approximately 9.1% of County residents have a serious and persistent mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Police Department is often called upon to interact with individuals suffering from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the "Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida Criminal Mental Health Project" (Project) was established in 2000 to divert individuals with serious mental illnesses or co-occurring serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders, who do not pose significant public safety risks, away from the criminal justice system and into comprehensive community-based treatment and support services; and

WHEREAS, the "Project" collaborated with law enforcement agencies, mental health experts and the criminal justice community to establish Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) in Miami-Dade County which are uniformed patrol officers who have received special training to respond more effectively to emergency calls for persons with suspected mental illness who are in crisis; and

WHEREAS, Crisis Intervention Team trained and certified police officers evaluate emergency situations, and if needed, de-escalate and transport individuals suffering from mental illness to appropriate mental health facilities for evaluation, treatment, and referrals, instead of subjecting them to immediate arrest; and

WHEREAS, all police departments in Miami-Dade County have participated in the 40-hour CIT training and more than 1,300 officers have received special training to obtain initial certification on how to deal with individuals who may be in crisis due to mental illness; and

WHEREAS, this Board, the Miami-Dade Police Department and the community would benefit from an increase in the amount of CIT trained and certified officers to improve the handling of mentally ill individuals in crisis as well as an updated analysis on Miami-Dade Police Department training protocols when confronting mentally ill individuals in crisis,

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

Section 1. This Board directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to analyze Miami-Dade Police Department training protocols for officers confronting mentally ill individuals and to provide a report to this Board. The analysis and report shall include at a minimum:

- (A) A review of Miami-Dade Police Department training protocols for officers confronting individuals suffering from mental illness;
- (B) A review of Miami-Dade Police Department policies and procedures governing use of taser as an alternative to the use of lethal force in incidents involving individuals suffering from mental illness;

(C) A recommended increase in the amount of Miami-Dade Police Department officers that receive CIT certification as well as a recommended increase in non-CIT certified officers that receive training and attend workshops offered by the CIT program.

Section 2. The Mayor or Mayor's designee is further directed to consult with local mental health experts to expand CIT training for officers to improve the skills and techniques of officers confronting mentally ill individuals in crisis, and to improve the handling of mentally ill individuals.

Section 3. The Mayor or Mayor's designee shall consult with all appropriate persons in carrying out the directions of this resolution, including but not limited to, local mental health experts, the Miami-Dade Police Department, mental health professionals, other police agencies or departments that have addressed similar incidents, and institutions of higher learning.

Section 4. The Mayor or Mayor's designee shall provide a written report to this Board within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution and shall place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa. 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:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman

Bruno A. Barreiro
Daniella Levine Cava
Audrey M. Edmonson
Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss
Xavier L. Suarez

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman
Jean Monestime
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Juan C. Zapata

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of December, 2014. 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.

SV

Suzanne L. Villano