


Memorandum



Date: December 2, 2014

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

From: Commissioner Sally A. Heyman
Chairwoman Public Safety and Animal Services Committee
on behalf of the Committee 

Subject: *Committee Report of the Public Safety and Animal Services Committee on Item 2F regarding the Miami-Dade County Civil Courthouse*

Agenda Item No. 6(B)(1)

At the November 12, 2014 Public Safety and Animal Services Committee members offered amendments to Item 2F titled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CLOSE THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT 73 WEST FLAGLER STREET IN THE EVENT OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS, CORRECT OR REPAIR SUCH HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS USING BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROGRAM FUNDS, IF AVAILABLE, OR OTHER FUNDS IDENTIFIED BY THE MAYOR AND SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL, DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND A PLAN FOR THE TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF COURT FACILITIES, AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS

At the request of the sponsor, the Committee members then withdrew the proffered amendments and indicated that they would reintroduce the amendments for consideration at the December 2, 2014 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. The Committee directed that this Committee Report be prepared setting forth the amendments as offered at the Committee and then placed along with the item on the agenda for the December 2, 2014 meeting of the Board. The amendments are as follows:

Commissioner Bovo offered an amendment to add Sections 4 and 5:

Section 4. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall conduct a thorough inspection of all court facilities located in Miami-Dade County and identify any hazardous conditions at those facilities. The Mayor is further directed to identify all County owned buildings which have vacant space suitable for the temporary relocation of court operations for those facilities deemed to presently contain hazardous conditions. The County Mayor or county Mayor's designee shall present such findings in a report to the Board within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Resolution. Such report shall be placed on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Section 5. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee, in consultation with the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, is directed to study the feasibility of decentralizing the civil division of the County's courts by distributing court operations to existing branch courthouses situated throughout Miami-Dade County. The County Mayor or county Mayor's designee shall present such findings in a report to the Board within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Resolution. Such report shall be placed on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Commissioner Edmonson offered an amendment to add Section 6:

Section 6. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to study and propose alternative funding mechanisms for the construction of a new civil courthouse in Miami-Dade County and shall present such findings in a report to the Board within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Resolution. Such report shall be placed on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Commissioner Heyman offered an amendment to add in the Resolution and the proposed amendment adding Section 4 to the Resolution that the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall perform as directed "in consultation with the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit" and to add Section 7:

Section 7. The Miami-Dade County Inspector General is requested to conduct an audit and investigation of all inspections done or required by law to have been done of the 1928 Courthouse and shall provide a report to the Board.