

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** June 7, 2016

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing the County Mayor to incorporate into the Animal Services Department's proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 fee schedule a fee waiver allowing Qualifying Veterans to adopt and spay/neuter a pet without charge; providing a definition of "Qualifying Veteran" for the purpose of this resolution; and directing the County Mayor to include information about this benefit in marketing materials and identify its availability in price lists displayed to the public

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Juan C. Zapata.



Abigail Price-Williams *for*  
County Attorney

APW/smm

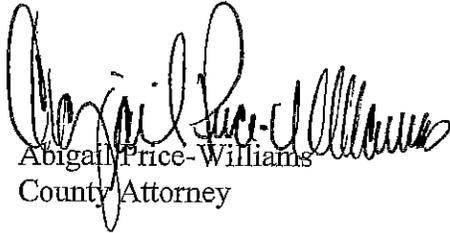


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(Revised)

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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
- Statement of social equity 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)

6-7-16

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO INCORPORATE INTO THE ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2017-18 FEE SCHEDULE A FEE WAIVER ALLOWING QUALIFYING VETERANS TO ADOPT AND SPAY/NEUTER A PET WITHOUT CHARGE; PROVIDING A DEFINITION OF "QUALIFYING VETERAN" FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS BENEFIT IN MARKETING MATERIALS AND IDENTIFY ITS AVAILABILITY IN PRICE LISTS DISPLAYED TO THE PUBLIC

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the veteran population in Miami-Dade County was 60,168 in the years between 2009 and 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Edward Creagan, an oncologist at the Mayo Clinic, speaking as to the health benefits of pet ownership, has commented that when patients advise his medical staff of their trip to an animal shelter to rescue an animal, "in effect, that dog or a cat really rescues" the patient; and

**WHEREAS**, while post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is not unique to veterans, because of their increased exposure to traumatic situations, veterans comprise a disproportionate amount of the population living with PTSD; and

**WHEREAS**, statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs indicate that 11-20 percent of veterans that served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, 12 percent of veterans that served in Desert Storm, and 15 percent of veterans that served in the Vietnam War have PTSD, as compared to 7-8 percent of the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, researchers have begun to accumulate evidence that bonding with animals has desirable biological effects, such as elevating oxytocin levels which, in turn, and among other things, improves trust, the ability to interpret facial expressions, and assists with the overcoming of paranoia—all challenges for persons with PTSD; and

**WHEREAS**, an opportunity for mutual benefit as between the Animal Services Department and Miami-Dade County veterans exists, given the anticipated health benefits of pet ownership and the availability of adoptable animals at the Animal Services Department, along with the Animal Services Department's spay/neuter program; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to facilitate veterans' access to the animals and services at the Animal Services Department, this Board desires to allow qualifying veterans to adopt and spay/neuter their pets at the Animal Services Department,

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

**Section 1.** The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to incorporate into the Animal Services Department's proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 fee schedule a fee waiver allowing Qualifying Veterans to adopt and spay/neuter up to one pet per fiscal year from the Animal Services Department without charge.

**Section 2.** For the purpose of this resolution, a "Qualifying Veteran" is an individual who (1) resides in Miami-Dade County; (2) served in the U.S. Armed Forces (i.e., the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve); (3) was not punitively discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces, in the case of enlisted personnel, or dismissed, in the case of commissioned officers; and (4) has no unresolved fines or violations with the Animal Services Department.

**Section 3.** The County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee is directed to include information concerning the benefit set forth in Section 1 of this Resolution in relevant marketing materials concerning adoption and/or spaying/neutering services by the Animal Services Department and to further list said benefit in any price lists displayed to the public.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Juan C. Zapata. 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:

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jean Monestime, Chairman            |                      |
| Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman |                      |
| Bruno A. Barreiro                   | Daniella Levine Cava |
| Jose "Pepe" Diaz                    | Audrey M. Edmonson   |
| Sally A. Heyman                     | Barbara J. Jordan    |
| Dennis C. Moss                      | Rebeca Sosa          |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto                | Xavier L. Suarez     |
| Juan C. Zapata                      |                      |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

MAG

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Miguel A. Gonzalez