



**MEMORANDUM**  
**OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN JEAN MONESTIME**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

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**TO: Mayor Carlos Gimenez,  
Vice-Chairman Esteban Bovo, Jr.  
and Members of the Board of County Commissioners**

**DATE: May 8, 2016**

**FROM: Chairman Jean Monestime**

**Subject: Immediate Action**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Monestime", is written below the "FROM" field.

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On this Mother's Day, I have learned that the administrative staff of **Inn Transition South**, intends to inform their residents tomorrow, on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, that they must make plans to live elsewhere (see attached letter). The staff of **Inn Transition North**, a domestic violence shelter that happens to be located in my commission district, is planning to inform their residents on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> that they must make alternative shelter plans by June 1st.

Between the Inn Transition North and South facilities, there are 63 women and 233 children that will be told the shelter will be closing. On behalf of this vulnerable population, victims of domestic violence, I would ask that the Mayor direct staff of these facilities to refrain from alarming the residents with news of a shelter closing. I am confident a solution will be found to enable the continuation of these vital services.

The urgency of this situation requires immediate action. We should not be disrupting the fragile lives of these vulnerable people before any briefings occur and policy decisions are made by the County Commission. Of course, all of this activity is

a consequence of the recently reported, unsuccessful US HUD grant application for transitional housing.

To that end, I concur with the specific request from the representatives of the Junior League that a working group be convened to develop a financial solution to this unexpected shortfall. We need to address the needs for the balance of Fiscal Year 2016 and identify funding sources in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2017 County Budget to provide a bridge to the next US HUD grant cycle.

I am respectfully calling upon Mayor Gimenez to extend an invitation to the representatives of the Chapman Partnership, the Homeless Trust, the Junior League and other impacted providers to define the immediate financial needs and present an emergency financial plan at our May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

*cc Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney  
Harvey Ruvin, County Clerk of Courts  
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor*



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI, INC.**

May 8, 2016

Chairman Jean Monestime, District 2  
Board of County Commissioners  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 220  
Miami, Florida 33128  
E-mail: [district2@miamidade.gov](mailto:district2@miamidade.gov)

Re: A Mother's Day Plea on Behalf of  
Residents of Inn Transition North and South,  
Formerly Homeless Women and Their Children

Chairman Monestime:

On behalf of the formerly homeless residents of Inn Transition North and South, the Junior League of Miami, the sponsor of both these life-saving programs, seeks your intervention to address the current crisis resulting from a crippling loss of expected, vital funding from U.S. HUD to continue these and other transitional housing and homeless programs in our community. The residents of these two transitional housing programs are women and their children who have been rendered homeless through acts of domestic violence. They are an extremely vulnerable, fragile population – all are working to achieve safe, independent living and move beyond the cycle of domestic violence – they are a total of 63 women and 233 children.

We were informed last week that on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, County staff will meet with the residents of Inn Transition South, and on Tuesday, May 10, County staff will meet with residents of Inn Transition North, located within your District 2, to inform them that they can no longer remain in their current homes and must make plans to relocate due to the snafu in the award of federal funding. This news will be devastating to the residents of Inn Transition North. We believe this move by County staff is premature and must be halted immediately to afford the Board of County Commissioners, the Mayor, and the Miami-Dade County community, including our organization, to explore all options to address this funding crisis, which is reported to be in the amount of approximately \$5 million. If we do not act, the residents of Inn Transition North and South will soon be in harm's way again and their lives placed at risk.

We request that you, your colleagues on Board of County Commissioners and Mayor Carlos Gimenez do the following:



713 Biltmore Way • Coral Gables, FL 33134 • Tel: (305) 443-0160 • Fax: (305) 443-3849 • [www.jlmiami.org](http://www.jlmiami.org)

*Women Building Better Communities*

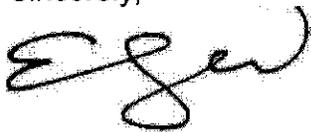
1. Immediately halt any notifications by County staff to residents of the impacted transitional housing and homeless programs including Inn Transition North and South that they can no longer remain in their homes until alternatives can be explored.
2. Immediately convene a working group to formulate (1) a short-term funding plan for the impacted homeless programs for the period June 1 – September 30, 2016 to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for action at its May 17, 2016 meeting to avoid interruption of services by these programs on June 1, 2016 and (2) a funding plan to be incorporated into the County's 2016-17 budget to provide gap funding for the balance of the year in which U.S. HUD funding appears at this time to be unavailable.

The Junior League organization requests that it be included on the working group, along with County Budget Director, Jennifer Moon, representatives of Chapman Partnership, the Homeless Trust and others, as appropriate, to formulate a short-term financing plan to be ready by Friday, May 13, 2016, for inclusion on the BCC's agenda for Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

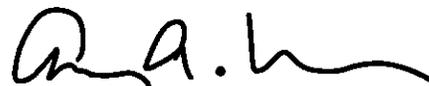
To do other than find a solution for this current funding crisis (not of the making of the most vulnerable residents of our community) is simply not acceptable – we must find a way to solve this problem. We firmly believe that there are alternatives to shutting the doors of these homeless programs that so many organizations and individuals have invested in and nurtured over many years. If we allow these vital programs to lapse, it will take years to recover this capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our community; most importantly, it will take years to rebuild the trust of the homeless population we, as a community, seek to serve.

We stand ready to work with you and other County leaders to find such a solution. Under normal circumstances, we would not contact you on a Sunday, especially on Mother's Day, but we believe that current circumstances warrant an exception – we hope that you agree with us that immediate action is required.

Sincerely,



Emilie Goldman Wernick  
President, Junior League of Miami



Amanda Altman Kessler  
President-Elect, Junior League of Miami