

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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

**DATE:** July 6, 2016

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution declaring Miami-Dade County's commitment to the principles of inclusion for individuals with disabilities, including autism and other special needs

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, and Co-Sponsors Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo Jr., Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Juan C. Zapata.

  
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Abigail Price-Williams     *for*  
County Attorney

APW/lmp



# MEMORANDUM

(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)(19)  
7-6-16

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

RESOLUTION DECLARING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S  
COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSION FOR  
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING AUTISM  
AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to expand its longstanding support of disability related causes, including autism and other special needs, this Board desires to focus on the importance of inclusionary practices and accommodations for children and adults with disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum, as well as those with other special needs in all aspects of daily life; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1 in 68 American children are on the autism spectrum – a statistic that represents a tenfold increase in prevalence over the last 40 years, and according to the 2010 U.S. Census approximately 1 in 5 individuals has a disability; and

**WHEREAS**, disabilities and special needs can be physical, intellectual or mental, and they can be visible or unseen; and

**WHEREAS**, autism and autism spectrum disorder are general terms that are used to describe brain developmental disorders that are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County has demonstrated its commitment to inclusion and shown itself to be a strong supporter of causes that recognize or assist those with disabilities, such as establishing the Commission on Disabilities Issues, the County's advisory board that advises this Board on issues and concerns facing people with disabilities (Ordinance No.77-23);

declaring the month of April as Autism Awareness Month (Resolution No. R-444-09); promoting Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Awareness and declaring the third week of July as ADA Awareness Week (Resolution No. R-902-09); requiring compliance with the ADA and other laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability as a condition of any County contract award (Resolution No. R-182-00); waiving the annual application for veteran’s disability discount on property tax assessments, upon satisfaction of certain requirements (Resolution No. R-1223-10); providing free transit services for disabled veterans who receive Veterans’ Administration benefits through the Patriot Passport program (Resolution No. R-994-14); urging Congress and the Florida legislature to increase funding for autism spectrum disorder research (Resolution No. R-238-15); enacting legislation in support of the wallet card, which will help facilitate better communication between persons with autism spectrum disorder and law enforcement officers and first responders (Resolution No. R-1112-15); annually hosting the Miami International Agriculture, Horse and Cattle Show, which benefits the South Florida Autism Charter School; and providing in-kind support for various events in support of causes related to autism, other special needs and disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, additionally, the United States of America is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which intends to protect the rights and dignity and supports inclusion and accommodation of persons with disabilities, including autism and other special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Convention identified the following core principles of inclusion:

- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons;
- b. Non-discrimination;

- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- e. Equality of opportunity;
- f. Accessibility;
- g. Equality between men and women; and
- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board supports the principles identified by the Convention and is dedicated to further promote inclusionary practices and accommodations throughout Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, inclusion is an attitude, an approach, and a mindset, which welcomes and facilitates participation by those with disabilities and other special needs, and encourages accommodations beyond those required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board strongly supports inclusionary practices and embraces the resulting diversity that enriches our community,

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

**Section 1.** Incorporates and approves the foregoing recitals as if fully set forth herein.

**Section 2.** Declares Miami-Dade County's commitment to the principles of inclusion for individuals with disabilities, including autism and other special needs.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, and the Co-Sponsors are Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 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

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

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Shanika A. Graves