

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

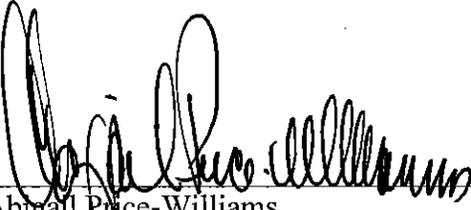
TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 6, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution commending the Military Affairs Board on its success in advocating for the establishment of and securing funding for the implementation of a Veterans Court in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida and encouraging the Military Affairs Board to continue its good work with the Veterans Court, as well as in other areas of responsibility identified in Ordinance No. 12-37; expressing support for the establishment of such a Veterans Court; and urging the Governor and Florida Legislature to provide funding for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit's Veterans Court

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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)(7)
12-6-16

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD ON ITS SUCCESS IN ADVOCATING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AND SECURING FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A VETERANS COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND ENCOURAGING THE MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD TO CONTINUE ITS GOOD WORK WITH THE VETERANS COURT, AS WELL AS IN OTHER AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY IDENTIFIED IN ORDINANCE NO. 12-37; EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A VETERANS COURT; AND URGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT'S VETERANS COURT

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2012, this Board adopted Ordinance No. 12-37 creating the Military Affairs Board and charging the Military Affairs Board with the responsibility to “[a]dvocate on behalf of military personnel in Miami-Dade County regarding . . . incarceration,” among other things; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this mission, the Military Affairs Board, working cooperatively with federal and state partners, initiated and undertook efforts to establish a Veterans Court in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County (“Veterans Court”); and

WHEREAS, these federal and state partners included the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Miami Veterans Health Administration; the Eleventh Judicial Circuit; and the South Florida Behavioral Health Network; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Court would be modeled after similar courts throughout the nation and would endeavor to provide specialized services tailored to meet veterans' unique needs, including veteran-on-veteran mentoring, all with the objective of assisting veterans encountering the criminal justice system with their healthy reintegration into civilian life, reduced likelihood of recidivism, and receipt of proper mental health care; and

WHEREAS, the approach to ensuring the success of the Veterans Court was holistic, embracing action by both the Military Affairs Board and this Board, beginning with Resolution No. R-774-14 which this Board adopted on September 3, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-774-14 resulted in the redesign of the arrest forms used by law enforcement throughout Miami-Dade County to identify veterans at the time of arrest; and

WHEREAS, the Military Affairs Board and this Board also have taken steps to ensure that veterans who are not identified at the time of arrest are identified at the time of booking into the jail, and provided with literature informing them of the benefits available to incarcerated veterans under applicable laws, which this Board adopted on September 3, 2014, through Resolution No. R-773-14; and

WHEREAS, in addition to undertaking efforts to ensure that veterans are identified at the time of arrest or booking, the Military Affairs Board has also endeavored to ensure that the Veterans Court is modeled after the most successful programs in the nation by observing the functioning of those programs and engaging in dialogue with those officials who organize and manage the programs; and

WHEREAS, through these information exchanges, the Military Affairs Board has determined that a mentorship program, designed to work hand-in-hand with the Veterans Court, was crucial to the Veterans Court's success and, as such, the Military Affairs Board used its broad network within the military community to recruit, and encourage other entities to recruit, volunteers to serve as veteran mentors; and

WHEREAS, the Military Affairs Board has also lent substantial funding support to the creation of the Veterans Court, by committing \$75,000 raised through fundraising efforts to be used as the matching component for a grant from the United States Department of Justice, under the authority the Military Affairs Board was granted pursuant to Ordinance No. 12-37; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2016, the County was notified that the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, had approved a \$350,000 grant for the establishment of the Veterans Court; and

WHEREAS, in addition to federal and local efforts, this Board would like to urge the Florida Legislature to appropriate state funds to the Miami-Dade County Veterans Court during the 2017 session; and

WHEREAS, during the 2016 session, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$2,437,032 in state funds to veterans courts in 13 counties elsewhere in Florida; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to commend the Military Affairs Board on its successful initiative and encourage the State of Florida to provide state funding to build on the Military Affairs Board's success,

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

Section 1. Commends the Military Affairs Board on its success in advocating for the establishment of and securing funding for the implementation of the Veterans Court within the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida and encourages the Military Affairs Board to continue its good work with the Veterans Court, as well as in the other areas of responsibility identified in Ordinance No. 12-37.

Section 2. Expresses its support for the establishment of a Veterans Court within the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

Section 3. Urges the Governor and Florida Legislature to provide funding for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit's Veterans Court.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, and the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

Section 5. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the funding indicated in Section 3 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2017 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. 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

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Joe A. Martinez

Rebeca Sosa

Xavier L. Suarez

Daniella Levine Cava

Audrey M. Edmonson

Barbara J. Jordan

Dennis C. Moss

Sen. Javier D. Souto

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of December, 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.

MAG

Miguel A. Gonzalez

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