

Memorandum



Date: March 22, 2018

Agenda Item No. 2(B)7

April 10, 2018

To: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", is written over the "From:" line.

Subject: Response to Resolution No. R-226-16 regarding Accepting Payments through Mobile Payment - Directive 160118

The following information is provided pursuant to Resolution No. R-226-16, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on March 8, 2016. This resolution requested the County Mayor or designee to study the issue of accepting payments through mobile payment and digital wallet systems, and to provide a report to the Board on the cost and feasibility of accepting such payment methods and whether the Mayor recommends the implementation of such a policy.

The Information Technology Department (ITD) and the Finance Department have been working collaboratively with departmental representatives and private-sector credit card authorization vendors on digital payment systems. Currently, many of the Miami-Dade County departments that accept in-person credit card transactions are able to process contactless, or Near Field Communication (NFC) mobile payment methods, such as ApplePay, Google Wallet and Samsung Pay. The standalone point-of-sale terminals used by departments through our main credit card merchant provider also have the capability of accepting NFC payment transactions. Finance and ITD have validated that those currently deployed and any new standalone terminals issued are configured to accept NFC methods by default.

As departments upgrade or purchase new equipment for current cashiering systems, mobile communication payment options will be sought out. Language has been included in all Request for Proposals and contracts requiring new vendor credit card applications to include the capability for mobile payments/digital wallet communication capability on all near field payment equipment. The implementation of these alternative payment acceptance channels will be performed in accordance with Payment Card Industry - Data Security Standards (PCI – DSS).

The Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) has already deployed a mobile application that can accept payment cards. By the end of the second quarter of 2018, the mobile application will be enhanced to accept ApplePay and Samsung Pay. DTPW will have completed the required infrastructure upgrades to accept near-field payments at fare gates and fare boxes by the second quarter of 2018. Most of the County's web applications accept both credit card and electronic check payments (e-checks).

The County also accepts direct transfer of funds from all Financial Institutions (Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, etc.). Transfer of funds via mobile communication devices are electronic payments made by customers as Automated Clearing House transactions directly to the County. Other NFC payment applications such as PayPal, Square, Venmo, etc., would require processing of credit cards through multiple merchant providers. Using multiple merchant providers would not be cost-effective as we currently handle the majority of our services through one main provider to obtain reduced County rates and costs based on volume discount.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will appear on the next available Board agenda.

If you require additional information, please contact Edward Marquez, Deputy Mayor/Finance Director, at 305-375-1451.

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, First Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Edward Marquez, Deputy Mayor/Finance Director
Angel Petisco, CIO/Director, Information Technology Department
Blanca Padron, Deputy Finance Director
Lars Schmekel, Chief Security Officer
Vivian Delgado, Chief, Finance Compliance & Internal Controls
Cathy Jackson, Interim Commission Auditor
Christopher Agrippa, Director, Clerk of the Board Division
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator