

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

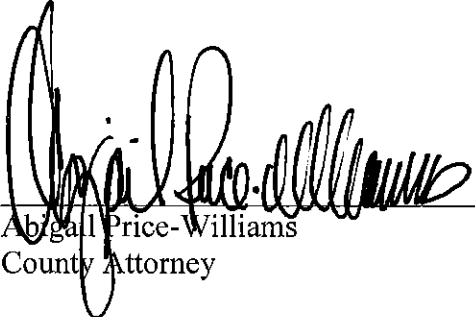
TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 20, 2019

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act, Senate Bill 8 or similar legislation that would improve and protect a program between the United States Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development designed to help veterans find permanent housing

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/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 20, 2019

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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 ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____) 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)(3)
2-20-19

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE PRESERVING OUR COMMITMENT TO HOMELESS VETERANS ACT, SENATE BILL 8 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD IMPROVE AND PROTECT A PROGRAM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DESIGNED TO HELP VETERANS FIND PERMANENT HOUSING

WHEREAS, according to the most recent information available from the United States Census Bureau, in 2017, there were approximately 18.2 million veterans living in the nation; and

WHEREAS, these courageous men and women served in the Korean War, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and every other operation that has involved members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and also served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”), led by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (the “Secretary”), is responsible for providing vital services to America’s veterans, which include health care services, community intervention programs, homelessness programs, benefits programs and access to national cemeteries to former military personnel and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, approximately 38,000 of the veterans living in the nation were homeless or did not have safe and stable housing; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the nation’s homeless veterans are predominantly single men who live in urban areas, and who suffer from mental illness, alcohol or substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders; and

WHEREAS, further, about 11 percent of the adult homeless population are veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) collaborate and provide the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (“HUD-VASH”) Program, which combines HUD housing vouchers and VA supportive services to help homeless veterans and their families find and sustain permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, funding for the HUD-VASH program was threatened; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect the program from future budget cuts, on January 3, 2019, during the 116th Congress, Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida) reintroduced the Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act, Senate Bill 8 (“S. 8”), which was first introduced as S. 2750 during the 115th Congress; and

WHEREAS, S. 8, among other things:

- (1) restricts the Secretary’s ability to convert HUD-VASH program funds to a general purpose program;
- (2) prohibits the concurrent assignment of more than 35 veterans to a case manager in each fiscal year unless waived by the Secretary;
- (3) requires case managers to be located within a reasonable distance of each veteran they are assigned to assist;
- (4) requires the Secretary to enter into contracts with local service providers to fill case manager positions left vacant for more than 180 days; and
- (5) requires the Secretary to provide case management support to a local housing authority, upon request; and

WHEREAS, this Board urges the United States Congress to protect HUD-VASH and other programs that help homeless veterans find stable, permanent housing,

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

Section 1. Approves the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Urges the United States Congress to enact the Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act, S. 8, or similar legislation that would improve and protect a program between the United States Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development designed to help veterans find permanent housing.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to United States Senator Marco Rubio, the Chair and Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Section 4. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in Section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2019 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

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:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Sally A. Heyman
Eileen Higgins	Barbara J. Jordan
Joe A. Martinez	Jean Monestime
Dennis C. Moss	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

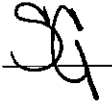
The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of February, 2019. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override 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