

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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

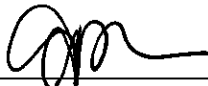
**DATE:** April 9, 2019

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the  
United States Congress and  
Florida Legislature to support  
President Donald J. Trump's  
Executive Order on a National  
Roadmap to Empower Veterans  
and End Suicide

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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)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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 \_\_\_\_, 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

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

4-9-19

Override \_\_\_\_\_

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON A NATIONAL ROADMAP TO EMPOWER VETERANS AND END SUICIDE

**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 United States Armed Forces, and during times of peace; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of veterans suffer from a wide range of mental or physical conditions, including, but not limited to, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder ("PTSD"), burns, loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries, intermittent explosive disorder, suicidal thoughts and a host of other mental or physical disabilities, illnesses or disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that veterans suffer from some mental illnesses at higher rates than the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, for instance, while PTSD is not unique to veterans, veterans comprise a disproportionate amount of the population living with PTSD because of their increased exposure to traumatic situations; and

**WHEREAS**, statistics compiled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") indicate that 11 to 20 percent of veterans that served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, 12 percent of veterans that served in Desert Storm and 15 percent of veterans that served in the Vietnam War have PTSD, as compared to 7 to 8 percent of the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, although veterans constituted 8.5 percent of the population, they accounted for 18 percent of all deaths from suicide among adults in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2016 report published by the VA, which reviewed records from every state in the nation and analyzed 55 million veterans' records from 1979 to 2014, approximately 20 veterans die from suicide every day; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, the VA has increased efforts to prevent suicide among current service members and veterans; unfortunately, the staggering number of such preventable deaths has remained constant; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order calling for federal, state, local, territorial and tribal governments as well as private and non-profit entities to coordinate resources for the development and implementation of a comprehensive and holistic plan to better address and prevent veterans who may be suicidal; and

**WHEREAS**, further, the Executive Order recognizes that collective and innovative intervention efforts must be utilized as well the need for advancements in understanding the underlying causal factors of veteran suicide in order to end said self-inflicted deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, additionally, the Executive Order calls for the development of the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide ("PREVENTS"), which includes establishment of the Veteran Wellness, Empowerment, and Suicide Prevention Task Force ("Task Force"); and

**WHEREAS**, within 365 days of the date of the Executive Order, no later than March 4, 2020:

- the Task Force is charged with developing and submitting to the President a roadmap to empower veterans to pursue an improved quality of life, prevent suicide, prioritize related research activities, and strengthen collaboration across the public and private sectors;

- state and local governments are charged with submitting legislative proposals that establish a grant program for local communities, which would enable them to increase their capacity to collaborate and allow for service delivery integration and resource coordination for veterans; and
- the Task Force, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall also develop a national research strategy to improve the coordination, monitoring, benchmarking, and execution of public- and private-sector research related to factors that contribute to veteran suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board recognizes the sacrifices veterans have made in service to our country and supports measures designed to prevent their deaths by suicide,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the United States Congress and Florida Legislature to support President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order on a National Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End Suicide.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, the Chair and Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and the Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation and the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2019 Federal and State Legislative Packages 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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