

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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

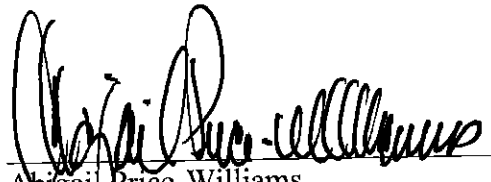
**DATE:** June 4, 2019

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution reappointing Judge  
Steven Leifman to the Miami-  
Dade County Homeless Trust  
Board; waiving by a two-thirds  
vote of its full membership the  
term limit restrictions of section  
2-752(c) and section 2-11.38.2(b)  
of the Code

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor  
Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.

  
Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/Imp



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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

**DATE:** June 4, 2019

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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 present \_\_\_\_, 2/3 membership , 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)(18)

6-4-19

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

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JUDGE STEVEN LEIFMAN TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HOMELESS TRUST BOARD; WAIVING BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ITS FULL MEMBERSHIP THE TERM LIMIT RESTRICTIONS OF SECTION 2-752(C) AND SECTION 2-11.38.2(B) OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, Judge Steven Leifman’s (“Judge Leifman”) dedication, service and experience as Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade County Court Criminal Division from 2007-2010 and his service as Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health for the Supreme Court has significantly contributed to Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leifman has served with distinction as a member of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (“Homeless Trust”) since 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leifman has also served as the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Homeless Trust since 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leifman is an appointment to the Homeless Trust Board by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leifman has been instrumental and nationally recognized for his work in decriminalizing mental illness in Miami-Dade County and serves as a Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health for the Supreme Court of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leifman has also served as Chairman of South Florida Behavioral Health Network which oversees funding designated by the State of Florida to help individuals with mental disorders and addiction problems; and

**WHEREAS**, data shows that a large percentage of homeless individuals in Miami-Dade County suffer from mental illness and addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leifman's continued service ensures the representation of an expert in the area of criminal justice and mental health on the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Board, which serves as the lead agency for the Continuum of Care, as it works to coordinate with a network of partners and providers to end homelessness in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 2-752(c) of the Miami-Dade County Code (the "Code"), this Board by a two-thirds vote of its full membership is authorized to waive the established term limits; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 2-11.38.2(b) of the Code, this Board is authorized to waive term limits for advisory board members by a resolution adopted by a two-thirds vote of members present; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of Judge Leifman's biography and a letter from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce recommending his reappointment are attached hereto,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board, pursuant to sections 2-752(c) and 2-11.38.2(b) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, waives the established term limits by a two-thirds vote of its full membership, thereby approving the reappointment of Steve Leifman to the Homeless Trust Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. 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.  
Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Eileen Higgins  
Joe A. Martinez  
Dennis C. Moss  
Xavier L. Suarez

Daniella Levine Cava  
Sally A. Heyman  
Barbara J. Jordan  
Jean Monestime  
Sen. Javier D. Souto

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> of June, 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.



Shannon Summerset-Williams



**Homeless Trust**  
111 NW 1st Street • 27th Floor  
Miami, Florida 33128  
T 305-375-1490

[miamidade.gov](http://miamidade.gov)

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Dennis C. Moss  
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioner, District 9  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 220  
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Commissioner Moss:

As Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners' Housing, Social Services and Economic Development Committee, the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust respectfully requests your assistance in obtaining a Term Limit Waiver for Homeless Trust Board Member Judge Steven Leifman.

Judge Leifman is one of seven (7) representatives appointed to the Homeless Trust by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. He represents the judicial sector. He also serves as the Chairman of our Finance and Audit Committee. A term limit waiver would allow Judge Leifman to serve through May 2022.

Attached you will find Judge Leifman's biography and a letter from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce supporting his reappointment. Thank you for your consideration and support of our efforts to end homelessness in Miami-Dade County.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to have a member of your staff contact me at 305-375-1491.

Sincerely,  
  
Victoria L. Mallette  
Executive Director

**Attachments**

c: Ronald L. Book, Chairman  
Maurice L. Kemp, Deputy Mayor  
Shannon Summerset-Williams, Esq., Assistant County Attorney  
Maggie Olano, Board Administrator

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# JUDGE STEVEN LEIFMAN

## Biography

Judge Steve Leifman is the Associate Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade County Court – Criminal Division. From 2007 to 2010, Judge Leifman served as Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health for the Supreme Court of Florida. In this capacity, Judge Leifman was responsible for chairing the Court’s Mental Health Subcommittee which authored a ground-breaking report entitled, *Transforming Florida’s Mental Health System*.<sup>1</sup> This report, which has received considerable state and national recognition, outlines recommendations for redesigning services, systems, and financing strategies with the goal of decreasing inappropriate and costly involvement of people with mental illnesses in the justice system by increasing access to comprehensive and cost-efficient community-based services that target specialized treatment needs.

From 2010 to 2018, Judge Leifman chaired the Florida Supreme Court’s Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Court. He currently chairs the newly created Steering Committee on Problem Solving Courts for the Supreme Court of Florida and the Mental Health Committee for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. As a result of Judge Leifman’s work, Miami-Dade County has seen significant reductions in arrests and recidivism rates among individuals with mental illnesses, the burden of providing psychiatric services through the jail has been eased, and the county is saving millions of dollars annually.

Due to his expertise in the areas of criminal justice and mental health, Judge Leifman has been appointed to serve in a variety of capacities on local, state, and national bodies, including Co-Chair of the Council of State Governments/TAPA Center for Jail Diversion Judges’ Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative, Co-Chair of the Miami-Dade County Mayor’s Mental Health Task Force, Board of Directors of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, Board of Directors of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, member of the National Leadership Forum for Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Services, member of the American Bar Association Task Force on Criminal Justice Mental Health Standards, Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Mental Health Committee, Co-Chair of the Florida Bar Mental Health Committee and a Voluntary Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami School of Medicine. In addition, Judge Leifman serves as Chair of the South Florida Behavioral Health Network and Finance Chair of the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust. He is also the past Board Chair of Florida Partners in Crisis.

Judge Leifman received the 2015 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence. One of the nation’s highest judicial honors presented by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., the Rehnquist Award is presented annually to a state court judge who exemplifies judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Judge Leifman is also the first recipient to receive the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence (2015). More recently, Judge Leifman was awarded the 2018 Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health and he was named by New Times as one of Miami-Dade’s most interesting people of 2017. He also was also named

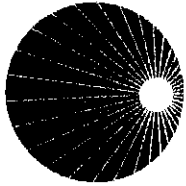
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<sup>1</sup> Available at: [http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub\\_info/documents/11-14-2007\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Report.pdf](http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/documents/11-14-2007_Mental_Health_Report.pdf)

a 2016 Governing Magazine Public Official of the Year. One of eight honorees, the award recognizes governmental leaders who exemplify the ideals of public service.

Judge Leifman has been featured in many national and local television programs, radio programs and articles regarding mental health and the criminal justice system including, The New England Journal of Medicine, the Atlantic Magazine, CBS News, USA Today, CNN: Anderson Cooper Special Report, CNN: Special Investigations Unit: The Criminally Insane, NBC Nightly News, PBS: Minds on the Edge, Facing Mental Illness, NPR: All Things Considered, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal; Governing Magazine, the Samantha Bee Show on TBS, CBS4: The Forgotten Floor, WPLG- TV10: This Week in South Florida, WPBT2 South Florida PBS, Miami Herald and Miami Today. He has also authored and published numerous articles and book chapters on mental illnesses and the criminal justice system.





greater  
miami  
chamber  
of commerce®

March 18, 2019

Ms. Victoria L. Mallette  
Executive Director  
Miami Dade County Homeless Trust  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Miami, FL 33128-1930

Dear Ms. Mallette:

The Chamber received your communication regarding the Judge Steve Leifman's term ending on the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Board. We join with you in acknowledging his invaluable service and contribution to this community. We believe that Judge Leifman's particular expertise and dedication to finding mental health alternatives to incarceration for those suffering from mental illness makes him an irreplaceable and invaluable voice on the Homeless Trust Board.

By this letter, please accept our recommendation to re-appoint Judge Steve Leifman to continue his service in support of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust.

If you have any questions, please let me know. My direct line is (305) 577-5054 or via email at [asanchez@miamichamber.com](mailto:asanchez@miamichamber.com).

Sincerely,

Alfred Sanchez  
President & CEO

**Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce**  
1601 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132-1260  
305-350-7700 • Fax 305-374-6902  
[www.MiamiChamber.com](http://www.MiamiChamber.com)