

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

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

DATE: February 4, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide disaster aid to assist the earthquake relief efforts in Puerto Rico and wildfire relief efforts in Australia; authorizing and directing the County Mayor to immediately allow County employees to donate leave time, and County employees and members of the public to donate money, clothing, household goods, and other supplies for the purpose of assisting such relief efforts in Puerto Rico and Australia; directing the County Mayor to provide a report

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney



APW/smm



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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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 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)(22)
2-4-20

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE DISASTER AID TO ASSIST THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS IN PUERTO RICO AND WILDFIRE RELIEF EFFORTS IN AUSTRALIA; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO IMMEDIATELY ALLOW COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO DONATE LEAVE TIME, AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DONATE MONEY, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, AND OTHER SUPPLIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING SUCH RELIEF EFFORTS IN PUERTO RICO AND AUSTRALIA; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, over a period from late-December 2019 through mid-January 2020, the southwestern part of the island of Puerto Rico was struck by a sequence of earthquakes, including six that were of magnitude 5 or greater, the largest and most damaging of which was a magnitude of 6.4 which occurred on January 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the earthquakes caused island-wide loss of power and extensive damage to homes, with 3,000 homes being reported destroyed or significantly damaged as of January 13; and

WHEREAS, by January 14 more than 8,000 people were homeless and camping outdoors in various types of shelters, with 40,000 others camping outside their homes, just in the city of Ponce only; and

WHEREAS, damage to government structures was calculated in the hundreds of millions, and financial losses were estimated to be at least \$3 billion; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has still not fully recovered from the impacts of the devastating Hurricane Maria in 2017; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, Australia continues to be ravaged by the worst wildfires seen in decades, with large swaths of the country devastated since the first season began in late July 2019; and

WHEREAS, blazes have torn through bushland, wooded areas, and national parks like the Blue Mountains; and

WHEREAS, at least 28 people have died nationwide, and in the state of New South Wales alone, more than 3,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged; and

WHEREAS, some of Australia's largest cities have also been affected, including Melbourne and Sydney, where fires have damaged homes in the outer suburbs and thick plumes of smoke have blanketed the urban center; and

WHEREAS, earlier in December 2019, the smoke was so bad in Sydney that air quality measured 11 times the "hazardous" level; and

WHEREAS, Australian state and federal authorities are struggling to contain the massive blazes, even with firefighting assistance from other countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, as such, there have been and will continue to be significant emergency relief needs in the areas affected by the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico and wildfires in Australia; and

WHEREAS, residents of Miami-Dade County have family members, friends, and business relationships with our neighbors in Puerto Rico and Australia; and

WHEREAS, to provide a mechanism for providing assistance to other communities, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-1071-05 for the purpose of establishing an Emergency Disaster Relief Fund so that County employees may contribute earned annual and holiday leave time and anyone could contribute money to benefit victims of natural disasters and in rebuilding communities affected by natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has previously adopted resolutions to assist other communities devastated by natural disasters, including communities in: Florida (Resolution No. R-1091-18), Guatemala (Resolution No. R-654-18), Florida, Texas and the Caribbean (Resolution No. R-880-17), Colombia (Resolution No. R-460-17), Haiti and the Bahamas (Resolution No. R-923-16), Ecuador (Resolution No. R-531-16), the Bahamas (Resolution Nos. R-883-19 and R-956-15), Louisiana, New Jersey, and New York (Resolution No. R-977-12), Haiti (Resolution No. R-01-10), Texas (Resolution No. R-1103-08), various Caribbean countries (Resolution No. R-972-08), and Jamaica (Resolution No. R-1031-07); and

WHEREAS, generous County employees took advantage of the fund established by Resolution No. R-1071-05 and contributed their earned holiday and annual leave to the victims of these natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to permit contributions toward recovery and reconstruction efforts undertaken as a result of the impacts of the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico and wildfires in Australia; and

WHEREAS, this Board further wishes to urge the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide aid to assist the earthquake relief efforts in Puerto Rico and the wildfire relief efforts in Australia,

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

Section 1. This Board urges the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide disaster aid to assist the earthquake relief efforts in Puerto Rico and wildfire relief efforts in Australia.

Section 2. This Board authorizes and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to immediately: (a) allow the donation by County employees of accrued annual and holiday leave time to the County's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund authorized by Resolution No. R-1071-05 for the purpose of assisting in the Puerto Rico earthquake relief efforts and Australia wildfire relief efforts; and (b) allow the donation of money by County employees and members of the public to the County's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund authorized by Resolution No. R-1071-05 for the purpose of assisting in the Puerto Rico earthquake relief efforts and Australia wildfire relief efforts.

Section 3. This Board authorizes and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to immediately allow the donation of household goods, clothing, and other relief supplies by County employees and members of the public for the purpose of assisting in the Puerto Rico earthquake relief efforts and Australia wildfire relief efforts. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall designate a specific location or locations within the Stephen P. Clark Center for the deposit of said items for a period of 120 days.

Section 4. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall publicize and make available forms for employees to complete in order to authorize said earned annual and holiday leave contributions. The authorization forms to be distributed by the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall include: (a) an explanation of the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul; and (b) a statement that the Board of County Commissioners has approved contributions of earned annual and holiday leave time, money, clothing, household goods and other supplies to the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the purpose of assisting in the Puerto Rico earthquake relief efforts and Australia wildfire relief efforts.

Section 5. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to arrange for the allocation of funds from the various departments whose employees contributed leave time and money to the County's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund, and authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to make the donation of such funds to the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the name of the employees of Miami-Dade County and to designate such donations to be used exclusively to assist in the Puerto Rico earthquake relief efforts and Australia wildfire relief efforts. This Board further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to make the donation of any funds, clothing, household goods and other supplies received from the public pursuant to this resolution to the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the name of the residents of Miami-Dade County and to designate such donations to be used exclusively to assist in the Puerto Rico earthquake relief efforts and Australia wildfire relief efforts.

Section 6. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to, within 60 days, provide this Board with a status report of the actions that have been taken pursuant to this resolution and to place the completed report on the next available agenda thereafter pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Section 7. This Board directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker of the State of Florida, and the Chair and members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 8. This Board directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 Federal Legislative Package and 2020 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson. 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 the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of February, 2020. 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.

MSM

Michael J. Mastrucci