

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

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

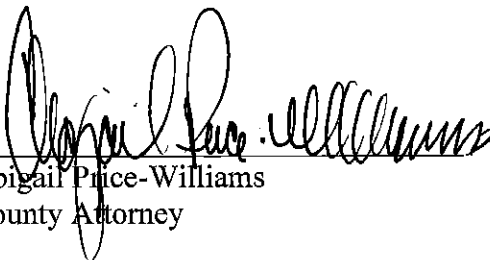
**DATE:** February 4, 2020

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to enact Senate Bill  
1044, House Bill 621, Allie's  
Law, or similar legislation that  
would require veterinarians or  
other animal treatment providers  
to report suspected animal  
cruelty

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor  
Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

  
Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/lmp



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson  
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 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)(23)

2-4-20

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SENATE BILL 1044, HOUSE BILL 621, ALLIE'S LAW, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE VETERINARIANS OR OTHER ANIMAL TREATMENT PROVIDERS TO REPORT SUSPECTED ANIMAL CRUELTY

**WHEREAS**, animal cruelty is a despicable crime that poses a serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida law provides that veterinarians may report suspected animal cruelty crimes to law enforcement officers or animal control officers, but the law does not require veterinarians to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill (SB) 1044 and House Bill (HB) 621, both entitled Allie's Law, were filed for consideration during the 2020 session of the Florida Legislature by Senator Jason Pizzo (D – Miami) and Representative Dan Daley (D – Sunrise), respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Allie's Law would require veterinarians who know, or who have reasonable cause to suspect, that a dog or cat showing visible signs of cruelty has been or is being subjected to animal cruelty by its owner or under its owner's care shall report such knowledge or suspicion to a local law enforcement or animal control agency for investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, Allie's Law would require veterinary technicians and employees and volunteers of animal treatment providers who have knowledge or suspicion of animal cruelty to report such knowledge or suspicion to a veterinarian, who must then take further action to investigate the matter; and

**WHEREAS**, Allie's Law would further provide criminal penalties for the knowing alteration or destruction of medical records for the purpose of concealing cruelty to a dog or cat; and

**WHEREAS**, to further encourage reporting of suspected animal cruelty, Allie's Law would also provide that veterinarians and employees and volunteers of animal treatment providers would be held harmless from civil or criminal liability for any decisions made to report suspected animal cruelty; and

**WHEREAS**, for the health, safety, and welfare of the animals and people of Miami-Dade County, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to enact Allie's Law or similar legislation that would require veterinarians or other animal treatment providers to report suspected animal cruelty,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to enact SB 1044, HB 621, Allie's Law, or similar legislation that would require veterinarians or other animal treatment providers to report suspected animal cruelty.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Senator Jason Pizzo, Representative Dan Daley, and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl