

Memorandum



Date: August 27, 2020

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

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Report on Financial Relief Plan for Park Vendors Adversely Impacted by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Directive 200815

Agenda Item No. 14(B)(2)
August 31, 2020

On May 5, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Resolution No. R-425-20, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to develop and implement a financial relief plan during a certain time period for park vendors adversely impacted by Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), if fiscally advisable and within legally required means.

Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) manages contracts and permits with over 150 various business partners, community-based organizations, fishing charter operators, and programming partners who operate at various County parks and marinas. To provide immediate relief, PROS implemented the following measures:

- No late fees have or will be imposed for failure to make contractually-obligated payments.
- Termination provisions for failure to make payments will not be exercised.

In order to address potential payment difficulties experienced by the department's various business partners as a result of COVID-19 PROS facility closures, on May 16, 2020, PROS in alignment with a Countywide approach, shared with partners the following vendor payment relief policy:

- For the period during which the business partner is not able to operate due to park facility closures in direct response to the COVID-19 national health emergency (Abatement Period), the entity shall not be obligated to pay any base payments due to the County.

Base payments due to the County include, but are not limited to, rent, monthly minimum guarantee payments, minimum annual guarantee payments, and dockage fee payments. PROS also provided additional prior guidance to these entities on March 21, 2020 with links to the following County and State financial resources:

- **Florida Emergency Bridge Loan**: Short-term, interest-free loans of up to \$50,000 are available to businesses with two to 100 employees affected by coronavirus. Information is available at <https://floridadisasterloan.org/> or by calling the Florida Small Business Development Center Network at 866-737-7232.
- **SBA Economic Injury Loan**: Low-interest loans of up to \$2 million are available to help small businesses and nonprofits overcome temporary loss of revenue. The loans are made available through the Small Business Administration's economic injury disaster loan program. Information is located at <https://www.sba.gov/> for further information.

- **Reemployment (unemployment) insurance:** This program is available to eligible Florida workers who have lost income as a result of efforts to stop the spread of coronavirus. Eligibility criteria and further information is available at: <http://www.floridajobs.org/>.

Supplementing the guidance above, on May 16, 2020, PROS issued a payment relief options letter to its business partners, including Fishing Charter Operators, adding the following resource:

- **Miami-Dade Beacon Council:** The Miami-Dade Beacon Council is providing information and guidance to help Miami-Dade County businesses address the COVID-19 crisis. These resources can be accessed at: <https://www.beaconcouncil.com/solutions/small-business/covid-19-updates-and-resources/>.

In the payment relief options letter that PROS sent to all partners, PROS advised partners and operators that various payment relief options had been developed to assist business partners that were experiencing difficulties in meeting their payment obligations due to the public health crisis, and provided a number to call for assistance.

For the period of 60 days, the information below provides the estimated fiscal impact of the payment relief policy by type of business partner to PROS.

- Charter Fishing Fleet dockage fee payment relief - \$22,000
- Business Partner payment relief - \$754,000
- Community Based Organizations payment relief - \$18,000
- Permittee (Entities operating under a Permit to Conduct Business) payment relief - \$60,000

The total fiscal impact resulting from the implementation of the payment relief policy is currently estimated at \$854,000. However, in the event of further PROS facility closures as a result of the pandemic, or the current closures continuing for a longer period of time, the estimated fiscal impact would increase accordingly. The estimated revenue loss has a direct impact to the department's general fund budget.

Moving forward, PROS will continue to work closely with its affected business partners to assist in the restructuring of their financial obligations, as needed. In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. If additional information is needed, please contact Maria I. Nardi, Director, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department at 305-755-7903.

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
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