

**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(36)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners


**DATE:** March 4, 2008

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving  
funding in the amount of  
\$1 million for construction of  
a Comfort Home on grounds  
of the VA Hospital

**Resolution No. R-273-08**

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/bw



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 4, 2008

FROM:   
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(36)

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("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
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(36)

03-04-08

RESOLUTION NO. R-273-08

RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTION OF A COMFORT HOME ON THE GROUNDS OF THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO IDENTIFY AND INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPOSED APPROPRIATION IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET PREPARED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

**WHEREAS**, the Fisher House Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization ("Fisher House") which has as its mission the construction, furnishing and donation of "Comfort Homes" which are built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers for the purpose of enabling family members to be with and assist their service member or veteran while simultaneously receiving support and encouragement from others in similar circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fisher House program is a unique public-private partnership that supports America's military by providing humanitarian needs beyond that provided by the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, while there is a Comfort House at every major military center, there is not one in the Miami-Dade County area and, recognizing this in 2006, Fisher House and the VA found there was a need for a Comfort Home at the Miami VA Healthcare System ("VAHS") and recommended the site for a new 15,000 square foot Comfort Home containing 21 private guest suites; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami VAHS treats over 55,000 veterans every year with more than 6,000 inpatient admissions and 565,000 outpatient visits each year and has enrolled over 3,400 local returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan for medical care; and

**WHEREAS**, annually, over 400 military and veteran families have been required to expend unreimbursed personal funds to stay in Miami area hotels in order to be close to and assist loved ones during extended recuperative illnesses and rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS**, a local Task Force has been formed to generate interest, provide the fund-raising focus and expedite the construction of the Comfort Home in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami Comfort Home needs seed capital to augment the initial construction costs and in that regard seeks the financial support of Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government will provide the land located on the campus of the VAHS facility near Jackson Memorial Hospital and the Fisher House will fund the remaining \$4-6 million necessary to design, construct and furnish the Comfort Home and once completed, title to the Comfort Home will be transferred to the VAHS-Miami, which will maintain and operate the facility in perpetuity; and

**WHEREAS**, a robust committee of Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe County citizens will comprise the various Sub-Committees that will engage in the formal campaign that will commence in 2008 with a goal of raising \$2 Million Dollars with projected ground breaking in 2009,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that the Board approves funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for purposes of construction of a Comfort Home on the grounds of the Veteran's Administration Medical Center. Further, the Board directs the County Mayor or his designee to identify and include in the proposed budget prepared for fiscal year 2008-2009 a proposed appropriation from the general fund or such other fund as they deem appropriate in the amount of \$1,000,000.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto and offered by Commissioner **Jose "Pepe" Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

**Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
	Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	<b>aye</b>	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	<b>aye</b>	Audrey M. Edmonson	<b>aye</b>
Carlos A. Gimenez	<b>aye</b>	Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>
Joe A. Martinez	<b>aye</b>	Dennis C. Moss	<b>aye</b>
Dorrin D. Rolle	<b>aye</b>	Natacha Seijas	<b>aye</b>
Katy Sorenson	<b>absent</b>	Rebeca Sosa	<b>aye</b>
Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>aye</b>		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK



By: **Kay Sullivan**  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency. ES

Eugene Shy, Jr.