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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 6, 2018

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact S. 116, H.R. 936 or similar legislation that would permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the Space-A Program

Resolution No. R-249-18

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
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 ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous _____) 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)(19)
3-6-18

RESOLUTION NO. R-249-18

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT S. 116, H.R. 936 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PERMIT VETERANS WHO HAVE A SERVICE-CONNECTED, PERMANENT DISABILITY RATED AS TOTAL TO TRAVEL ON MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE SPACE-A PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Space Available ("Space-A") Program permits U.S. service members, retired U.S. service members, and their families to fly, for little or no cost, on unused seats on Department of Defense owned or controlled aircraft once all the space-required (duty) passengers and cargo are accommodated; and

WHEREAS, active duty service members and their accompanying family are extended the highest priority category, while retired service members and their accompanying family are offered the lowest priority category; and

WHEREAS, veterans with a service-connected permanent disability rated as "total" are not eligible for the Space-A Program; and

WHEREAS, allowing veterans with a service-connected permanent disability rated as "total" to travel on Space-A military flights would not cause any new burden on the no-cost program; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2017, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-Nevada) introduced S. 116 to amend Title 10 of the United States Code to permit veterans who have a service connected, permanent disability rated as "total" to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2017, U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-Florida) introduced H.R. 936, a bill that directs the Department of Defense to provide transportation on scheduled and unscheduled military flights within the continental U.S. and on scheduled overseas flights on a space-available basis for veterans with a service-connected, permanent disability rated as "total" on the same basis as such transportation is provided to members of the Armed Forces entitled to retired or retainer pay; and

WHEREAS, our nation's disabled veterans live every day coping with their service-connected disability, and we owe a great deal of gratitude to these selfless veterans; and

WHEREAS, veterans that were honorably discharged and received a service-connected permanent disability rated as total are eligible for all of the military service programs and privileges offered to disabled retirees with less than 20 years of service, with the exception of the Space-A Program and retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports allowing veterans with a permanent disability rated as total and their accompanying families to fly on a space-available basis aboard any scheduled or non-scheduled military flights,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to enact S. 116, H.R. 936, or similar legislation that would permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on the Space-A Program.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of Veteran Affairs.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2018 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman **aye**
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman **aye**

Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Sally A. Heyman	**aye**
Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**	Joe A. Martinez	**absent**
Jean Monestime	**aye**	Dennis C. Moss	**aye**
Rebeca Sosa	**aye**	Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**
Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of March, 2018. 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: Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. MJM for

Suzanne Villano-Charif