

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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

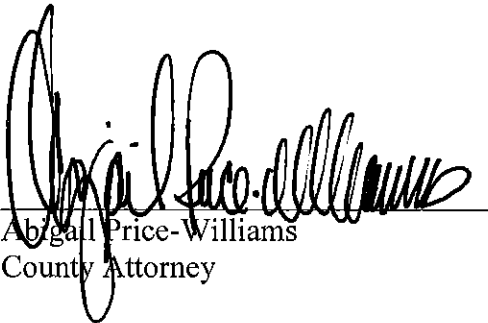
**DATE:** February 20, 2019

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act, Senate Bill 8 or similar legislation that would improve and protect a program between the United States Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development designed to help veterans find permanent housing

Resolution No. R-204-19

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)

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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 \_\_\_\_, 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)(3)  
2-20-19

RESOLUTION NO. R-204-19

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE PRESERVING OUR COMMITMENT TO HOMELESS VETERANS ACT, SENATE BILL 8 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD IMPROVE AND PROTECT A PROGRAM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DESIGNED TO HELP VETERANS FIND PERMANENT HOUSING

**WHEREAS**, according to the most recent information available from the United States Census Bureau, in 2017, there were approximately 18.2 million veterans living in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, these courageous men and women served in the Korean War, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and every other operation that has involved members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and also served in times of peace; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”), led by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (the “Secretary”), is responsible for providing vital services to America’s veterans, which include health care services, community intervention programs, homelessness programs, benefits programs and access to national cemeteries to former military personnel and their dependents; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, approximately 38,000 of the veterans living in the nation were homeless or did not have safe and stable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the nation’s homeless veterans are predominantly single men who live in urban areas, and who suffer from mental illness, alcohol or substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, further, about 11 percent of the adult homeless population are veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the VA and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) collaborate and provide the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (“HUD-VASH”) Program, which combines HUD housing vouchers and VA supportive services to help homeless veterans and their families find and sustain permanent housing; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, funding for the HUD-VASH program was threatened; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to protect the program from future budget cuts, on January 3, 2019, during the 116th Congress, Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida) reintroduced the Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act, Senate Bill 8 (“S. 8”), which was first introduced as S. 2750 during the 115th Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 8, among other things:

- (1) restricts the Secretary’s ability to convert HUD-VASH program funds to a general purpose program;
- (2) prohibits the concurrent assignment of more than 35 veterans to a case manager in each fiscal year unless waived by the Secretary;
- (3) requires case managers to be located within a reasonable distance of each veteran they are assigned to assist;
- (4) requires the Secretary to enter into contracts with local service providers to fill case manager positions left vacant for more than 180 days; and
- (5) requires the Secretary to provide case management support to a local housing authority, upon request; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board urges the United States Congress to protect HUD-VASH and other programs that help homeless veterans find stable, permanent housing,

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

**Section 1.** Approves the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2.** Urges the United States Congress to enact the Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act, S. 8, or similar legislation that would improve and protect a program between the United States Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development designed to help veterans find permanent housing.

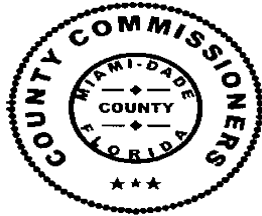
**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to United States Senator Marco Rubio, the Chair and Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**Section 4.** Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in Section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2019 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

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

	Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	<b>aye</b>	
	Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	<b>aye</b>	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	<b>aye</b>	Daniella Levine Cava	<b>aye</b>
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	<b>aye</b>	Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>
Eileen Higgins	<b>aye</b>	Barbara J. Jordan	<b>aye</b>
Joe A. Martinez	<b>aye</b>	Jean Monestime	<b>aye</b>
Dennis C. Moss	<b>aye</b>	Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>aye</b>
Xavier L. Suarez	<b>aye</b>		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019. 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: **Linda L. Cave**  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SG" with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shanika A. Graves