

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

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

**DATE:** May 19, 2020

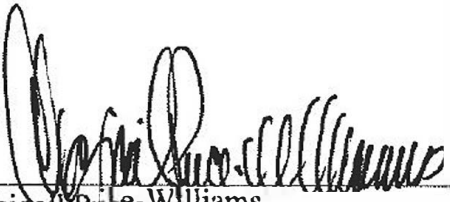
**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the United States Congress to include funding for rental assistance in a future stimulus package to assist renters experiencing financial hardship as a result of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and associated illness, job loss, furlough, and decreased work hours

Resolution No. R-516-20

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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

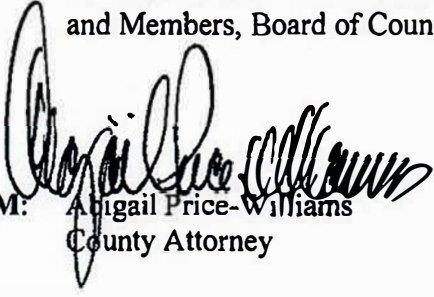
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**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

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)(15)  
5-19-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-516-20

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN A FUTURE STIMULUS PACKAGE TO ASSIST RENTERS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AS A RESULT OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND ASSOCIATED ILLNESS, JOB LOSS, FURLOUGH, AND DECREASED WORK HOURS

**WHEREAS**, a new coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, causes an infectious disease named coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) that has spread rapidly since its initial identification in Wuhan, Hubei province, China; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”; and

**WHEREAS**, given the alarming levels of spread and the severity of the virus, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of COVID-19, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, to combat the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, state and local governments throughout the country ordered non-essential businesses to close and also issued “safer at home” or “shelter in place” orders requiring residents to remain in their residences, subject to limited exceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these orders and business closures, many retail businesses have shut down nearly overnight as has the hospitality industry, including hotels, restaurants, cruise lines, and theme parks; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has had devastating economic ripple effects that have impacted employees, from airline and automotive industry employees to hair stylists and domestic workers; and

**WHEREAS**, workers throughout the country have been laid off, furloughed, or left with severely reduced work hours; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 30 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits from mid-March through April 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, recent data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that several cities in Florida, including the City of Hialeah and the City of Miami, are among those in the United States that have seen the biggest spikes in unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, many residents and families are struggling to make ends meet and are unable to pay for basic necessities such as food and rent; and

**WHEREAS**, in a 2019 study, Apartment List, a real estate listing agency, reported that nearly half of renter households in America were cost-burdened in 2018, meaning they spent 30 percent or more of their income on housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the study showed that nearly one in three cost burdened renters lived in California, New York, or Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic is further exacerbating the existing affordable housing crisis in such states as households face new economic hardships and fall behind on their rent; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Rental Home Council (“NRHC”), a non-profit trade association of the single-family rental home industry, reports that there are 43 million renter households in the United States, comprised of 23 million single-family rental homes and 20 million apartment rentals; and

**WHEREAS**, the NRHC reports that more than 95 percent of single-family rental homes are owned by individual “mom and pop” landlords who own one to four single-family rental homes; and

**WHEREAS**, without the receipt of rental payments, it is projected that many of these owners will have immediate liquidity issues and there will be a wave of foreclosures and defaults; and

**WHEREAS**, House of Representatives bill (H.R.) 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), was approved by the United States Congress on March 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the CARES Act provides eligible Americans with a one-time stimulus check, or Economic Impact Payment; and

**WHEREAS**, the CARES Act also placed a 120-day moratorium on eviction proceedings and prohibits landlords from imposing fees, penalties, or other charges on tenants with respect to late payment of rent in buildings that receive certain government subsidies or are backed by federal loans; and

**WHEREAS**, similarly, many states, counties, and cities are taking steps to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on tenants, including placing moratoriums on evictions, prohibiting utilities from shutting off service due to nonpayment, and prohibiting rental late fees; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these temporary protections, rent, utility costs and possible late fees could continue to accrue during the relief period to be payable at the end of the moratoriums; and

**WHEREAS**, as the country continues to face this unprecedented public health and economic crisis, this Board believes that the federal government should further alleviate the financial hardships felt by renters who have experienced job loss, furlough, reduced work hours, or illness related to COVID-19 by including financial assistance in the next stimulus package,

**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 include funding for rental assistance in a future stimulus package to assist renters experiencing financial hardship as a result of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and associated illness, job loss, furlough, and decreased work hours.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation.

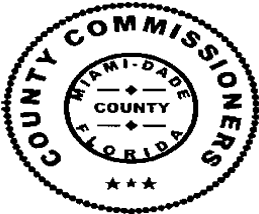
**Section 3.** Directs the County's federal lobbyist to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 Federal Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2021 Federal Legislative Package.

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 **Daniella Levine Cava** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

6

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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: Melissa Adames  
 Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
 to form and legal sufficiency.

LCK

Leigh C. Kobrinski