MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Health and Public Safety Committee (HPSC)

Board of County Commissioners
Stephen P. Clark Center
Commission Chambers
111 N.W. First Street
Miami, Florida 33128

July 19, 2007
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Sullivan, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Mary Smith-York, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-1598

Stephen P. Clark
Government Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

FINAL OFFICIAL

Meeting Minutes

Health and Public Safety Committee

Dennis C. Moss (9) Chair; Rebeca Sosa (6) Vice Chair; Commissioners Jose "Pepe" Diaz (12), Carlos A. Gimenez (7), Sally A. Heyman (4), and Javier D. Souto (10)

Thursday, July 19, 2007 **2:00 PM** **COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

Members Present: Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Carlos A. Gimenez, Sally A. Heyman, Dennis C. Moss, Rebeca Sosa, Javier D. Souto.

Members Absent: None.

Members Late: None.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent County Business: None.

1 MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Report: *Mary Smith-York, Commission Reporter*
(305) 375-1598

1A INVOCATION

1B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1C ROLL CALL

Report: *The following staff members were present: Assistant County Managers Alina Hudak and Mae Bryant; Assistant County Attorney Valda Clark Christian; and Deputy Clerks Doris Dickens and Mary Smith-York.*

Chairman Moss called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and noted that reports would be heard pending the attainment of a quorum.

Assistant County Attorney Christian noted the following changes were requested by the County Manager in his memorandum entitled "Requested Changes to the Health and Public Safety Committee Agenda," dated 7/19/2007: that Agenda Items 2A Supplement, 2B Supplement, and 2G Supplement be added.

Commissioner Gimenez asked that Agenda Item 2F be deferred to no date certain.

Commissioner Heyman asked that a discussion item regarding the Unified Family Court Building be added to today's agenda to address a correction on behalf of the County Manager.

It was moved by Commissioner Sosa that today's agenda be approved with the requested changes noted by the Assistant County Attorney and the Commissioners. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Diaz, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 6-0.

2 COUNTY COMMISSION

2A

071196 **Ordinance** **Dennis C. Moss, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Carlos A. Gimenez, Joe A. Martinez, Dorrin D. Rolle, Rebeca Sosa, Sen. Javier D. Souto, Barbara J. Jordan, Katy Sorenson, Audrey M. Edmonson, Sally A. Heyman**

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 18-25 AND 18-30 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT; ELIMINATING MUNICIPAL OPTION TO OPT OUT OF DISTRICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE ORIGINAL ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 071138]

Forwarded to the BCC by the BCC Chairperson with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Sosa
Seconder: Heyman
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed ordinance into the record.*

Prior to opening the public hearing, Commissioner Moss asked that any elected officials in the audience who wished to speak on this issue come forward.

Councilman Isaac Salver, Town of Bay Harbor Islands, and former President, Miami-Dade County League of Cities, appeared before the Committee and expressed his support of the Miami-Dade County Firefighters. He referenced the new property tax reform legislation mandating that most municipalities roll back millage rates to the FY2006 level, and reduce that amount by an additional nine percent (9%). He requested on behalf of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, that no changes be made in the contract between the cities and the County. He also asked that this amendment be tabled until such time that the cities directly affected by this legislation would be able to discuss it with the County, the Firefighters, and any other interested parties.

Vice Mayor Gail Serota, Village of Pinecrest, 12645 Pinecrest Parkway, appeared and noted the foregoing proposed ordinance would unilaterally take away municipalities' right to "opt-out" of the County's Fire Rescue Service District. Commenting that although she was not aware of any dissatisfaction with the Fire Rescue service, it was expensive for the residents, and the Village Council needed time to consider these costs along with all other fees paid by its residents. Vice Mayor Serota expressed concern that this Committee's request to have this ordinance heard by the County Commission on Tuesday (7/24) by

virtue of a waiver of Committee Rules and Procedures, would take away from the residents of Pinecrest the right to determine for themselves who would provide their fire rescue service and at what cost. She asked that the Committee defer this ordinance until the municipalities and their residents could conduct a more thorough analysis of this issue.

There being no other elected official wishing to appear, Chairman Moss opened the public hearing. Seeing the large number of individuals registered to speak in support of this item, he asked that a select few come forward and speak, indicating that everyone in support would be asked to stand in recognition following those speakers.

The following individuals appeared in support:

Mr. Stan Hills, President, Miami-Dade Association of Firefighters, appeared and stated the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR) was recognized as a premier system worldwide, and referenced the Broward County fire system as an example of what could happen if fire departments within the County were broken up. He asked Ms. Michelle Steel to provide additional information regarding this matter.

Ms. Michelle Steel, Safety Captain, MDFR, and Cutler Bay resident, appeared and explained that she was responsible for ensuring the safety of firefighters, as well as responding to fire rescue events that required three or more units. She noted her position provided the opportunity to work alongside other fire departments and observe many challenges that occurred. She indicated that consolidating services between the West Hialeah Fire Department and MDFR would have improved efforts to move a concrete mixer off of a seventeen-year-old boy.

An unidentified speaker appeared and stated he was a former Broward County Fire Rescue firefighter working at the Pembroke Pines Station, which he noted was a fragmented system. Commenting that fire rescue should be a regional system with no boundaries, he pointed out that when seconds counted, the closest unit should respond to the call. He further suggested that all departments should be under one radio system to facilitate communication.

Mr. Wilfredo Fleites, 7811 SW 29th Street,

Firehouse 47, Westchester, appeared and pointed out the importance of regionalization and unified radio systems within the fire rescue system.

Ms. Maria Chin, Captain, MDFR, appeared and provided a brief overview of the benefits of regionalization of the fire rescue system from the recruitment standpoint.

Chairman Moss clarified that today's discussion concerned "opting out" rather than consolidating resources.

Ms. Bridget Keating, MDFR Firefighter, appeared and noted adoption of this ordinance would provide many benefits, including the creation of one common public radio system, elimination of fragmented fire and emergency medical service systems, and provision of the highest quality of services the citizens of Miami-Dade County deserved.

There being no other persons to appear, Chairman Moss closed the public hearing.

Commissioners Heyman, Diaz, Gimenez, Sosa, and Seijas spoke in support of the foregoing ordinance and concurred that saving lives was the major concern in creating a unified system.

Chairman Moss pointed out this was about eliminating fragmentation of fire departments in this community, especially with the tax reform and other issues.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote.

Chairman Moss asked staff to prepare the appropriate memorandum requesting that the County Commission Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro waive the Committee's rules and allow the foregoing proposed resolution to be heard at the July 24, 2007 County Commission meeting.

2A SUPPLEMENT

072230 **Supplement**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REGARDING ELIMINATING MUNICIPAL OPTION TO OUT OF COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT — ***Presented***

Report: *(See report under Agenda Item 2A; Legislative File No. 071196.)*

2B

072026 **Resolution** **Katy Sorenson**

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE JULY 4, 2007 CELEBRATION AT BLACKPOINT PARK AND MARINA SPONSORED BY THE PERRINE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC., A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $13,700.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE COUNTYWIDE IN-KIND RESERVE FUND

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Gimenez
Seconder: Diaz
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed resolution into the record.*

There being no questions or comments regarding the foregoing issue, the Committee proceeded to vote.

2B SUPPLEMENT

072265 **Report**

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO THE JULY 4, 2007 CELEBRATION AT BLACKPOINT PARK AND MARINA SPONSORED BY THE PERRINE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Presented

Report: *(See report under Agenda Item 2B; Legislative File No. 072026.)*

2C

072050 **Resolution** **Sally A. Heyman**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF INCREASING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Forwarded to the BCC by the BCC Chairperson with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Heyman
Seconder: Diaz
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed resolution into the record.*

Commissioner Heyman noted the intent of the foregoing proposed resolution was to address the issue of road rage and enhance police officers' flexibility and maneuverability in accessing traffic situations. She requested that this item be placed on the agenda of the July 24th County Commission meeting.

Commissioner Gimenez asked Mr. Robert Parker, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department, to investigate and bring back a report outlining the increased degree of officers' exposure to injury, the average cost per injury, and the average cost for medical attention per injury that would result from increased use of motorcycles.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote.

Chairman Moss asked staff to prepare the appropriate memorandum requesting that the County Commission Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro waive the Committee's rules and allow the foregoing proposed resolution to be heard at the July 24, 2007 County Commission meeting.

2D

071934 **Resolution** **Sen. Javier D. Souto**

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT FOR THE JULY 21-22, 2007 XVI COLOMBIAN INDEPENDENCE FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY READ2SUCCEED, INC., A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $62,560.00 TO BE FUNDED IN PART FROM THE COUNTYWIDE IN-KIND RESERVE FUND AND IN PART FROM THE NON-AD VALOREM PORTION OF THE FIRE RESCUE IN-KIND RESERVE FUND

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Souto
Seconder: Diaz
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed resolution into the record.*

There being no questions or comments regarding the foregoing issue, the Committee proceeded to vote.

2E

071989 **Resolution** **Sen. Javier D. Souto**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO STUDY THE CREATION OF AN ANTI-TERRORISM AND SECURITY PROGRAM WITH ALL OUR SISTER SEAPORTS AND AIRPORTS, INCLUDING THE FEASIBILITY OF SHARING SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND PROVIDING MUTUAL AIDE IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR EVENT AT SISTER AIRPORT OR SEAPORT

Deferred to next committee meeting
Mover: Souto
Seconder: Gimenez
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed resolution into the record.*

It was moved by Commissioner Souto that the foregoing proposed resolution be deferred to the next committee meeting.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to defer.

2F

072174 **Resolution** **Carlos A. Gimenez**

RESOLUTION CREATING "CHILD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK" AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED THEREWITH AND PREPARE BOTH A BROCHURE DETAILING CURRENT LAW AND SAFE PRACTICES AND A REPORT REGARDING WHETHER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SHOULD OPT OUT UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 316.2123, FLORIDA STATUTES

Deferred to no date certain
Mover: Diaz
Seconder: Sosa
Vote: 6-0

2G

072220 **Resolution** **Audrey M. Edmonson,**

Sally A. Heyman, Barbara J. Jordan, Dorrin D. Rolle

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT FOR THE JULY 4, 2007 ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $517.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE NON-AD VALOREM PORTION OF THE FIRE RESCUE IN-KIND RESERVE FUND

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Heyman
Seconder: Diaz
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed resolution into the record.*

There being no questions or comments regarding the foregoing issue, the Committee proceeded to vote.

2G SUPPLEMENT

072234 **Report**

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE JULY 4, 2007 ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI

Presented

Report: *(See report under Agenda Item 2G; Legislative File No. 072220.)*

3 DEPARTMENT

3A

071901 **Resolution**

CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION FOR PRE-TRIAL DETENTION CENTER 40-YEAR RE-CERTIFICATION REPORT/OPTION TO REPAIR THE EXISTING FACILITY OR TO DESIGN AND BUILD A NEW PRE-TRIAL DETENTION CENTER AND EXPANSION OF SUPPORT FACILITIES - PROJECT NO. A05-GSA-01 GOB195-70311; CONTRACT NO:Z00018-195D (General Services Administration Department)

Deferred to next committee meeting
Mover: Sosa
Seconder: Heyman
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the foregoing proposed resolution into the record.*

Noting she had several concerns regarding this item, Commissioner Sosa moved that the foregoing proposed resolution be deferred to the next Committee meeting.

Assistant County Manager Hudak acknowledged Commissioner Sosa's concerns and stated she would meet with her. She further noted that this was a 40-year recertification issue and could be deferred to address Commissioner Sosa's concern.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to defer.

3B

071968 **Resolution**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PLANNING FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEXTEL OPERATIONS, INC. (NEXTEL) AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WHICH SETS THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES CONCERNING THE PLANNING ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO RECONFIGURE THE COUNTY'S 800 MHZ RADIO EQUIPMENT PURSUANT TO FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION ORDERS; WAIVING FORMAL BID PROCEDURES DUE TO THE MANDATES OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ORDER (Enterprise Technology Services Department)

Forwarded to the BCC by the BCC Chairperson with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Heyman
Seconder: Souto
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed resolution into the record.*

Chairman Moss asked staff to prepare the appropriate memorandum requesting that the County Commission Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro waive the Committee's rules and allow the foregoing proposed resolution to be heard at the July 24, 2007 County Commission meeting.

There being no questions or comments regarding the foregoing issue, the Committee proceeded to vote.

3C

072127 **Resolution**

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GATEWAY ESTATES PARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC. AND LAKES OF ACADIA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC LAWS ON PRIVATE ROADS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE SAME FOR AND ON BEHALF OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXERCISE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS CONFERRED THEREIN (Miami-Dade Police Department)

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Heyman
Seconder: Souto
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed resolution into the record.*

There being no questions or comments regarding the foregoing issue, the Committee proceeded to vote.

4 COUNTY MANAGER

5 COUNTY ATTORNEY

6 CLERK OF THE BOARD

6A

071800 **Report**

CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MINUTES FOR HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR MAY 17, 2207 (Clerk of the Board)

Approved
Mover: Souto
Seconder: Heyman
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed report into the record.*

There being no questions or comments regarding the foregoing issue, the Committee proceeded to vote.

7 REPORTS

7A

071802 **Report**

ORAL REPORT RE: JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM FINANCIAL (PER. THE ORDINANCE REVISING 25-A)

Report Received
Mover: Sosa
Seconder: Gimenez
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the foregoing proposed report into the record.*

Mr. Frank J. Barrett, Executive Vice President, Public Health Trust (PHT), appeared and provided a brief overview of the current financial activities of the PHT. He provided a hand-out outlining the Jackson Health System Quarterly Report and highlighted the following points:

- FY 06/07 Year End Net Income/(Loss): Audited = $57,265; Projected = ($18,424);
- FY 06 Audit Summary – no auditor adjustments were required;
- Fiscal Update – Project Re-Create implemented and increased sales tax and County maintenance of
effort payments; and
- Current and Future Challenges.

Commissioner Gimenez asked that all future financial reports for committee review be presented in standard County format.

Chairman Moss asked his colleagues to provide staff with their recommendations for additional information they would like included in future Public Health Trust financial reports.

Commissioner Sosa advised that a format for submitting financial reports to the Commission was developed last year for other departments and noted she would provide Mr. Barrett with a copy.

Commissioner Souto concurred that financial reports needed to conform to the standard format established by the Commission.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote.

7B

071804 **Report**

ORAL REPORT RE: THE JAIL CELL SUICIDE OF MR. WALTAIRE CHOUTE (ACCUSED OF KILLING THE BURGER KING MANAGER IN NORTH MIAMI) AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AND DEATHS IN VARIOUS MIAMI-DADE JAILS SINCE LAST FALL.

Report Received
Mover: Sosa
Seconder: Moss
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the forgoing proposed report into the record.*
Mr. Timothy Ryan, Director, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR), provided a comparison between the health and mortality rates of inmates in the MDCR operations and systems nationwide and the general public. Mr. Ryan noted MDCR operated the sixth largest jail system in America. He related that the MDCR housed, on a daily basis, just under 7,000 inmates, of which 93.6% were men, 6.4% were females, and 1.6% were juveniles; between 300 and 500 persons came in and out of the system each day; and between 110,000 and 120,000 persons were processed in 2007. He noted the majority of inmates ranged in age between 24 and 35 years; however, the youngest person was 13 and the oldest was 78.
Mr. Ryan related the following information regarding inmate health and mortality rates on a medical acuity level as it pertained to the MDCR:

- Of 7,000 inmates, 44% would be diagnosed with a disease requiring some form of medication;
- Over 9,000 pills were distributed each day by nurses who handed the pills and watched the inmates swallow;
- Over 16% (approximately 1,000) of inhabitants were diagnosed with a mental illness.

Mr. Ryan advised 120 inmates were infected with AIDS, 20 were pregnant, several hundred were diabetic, and an unknown number were infected with hepatitis C, hypertension, heart disease, STDs, and other illnesses. He referenced a recent conversation between himself and an MDCR physician who had been in private practice for 20 years, who was amazed at the amount of diseases he saw in the jails. He quoted the physician as stating he had not seen this amount of disease in his practice and only remembered seeing a marginal amount during his residency. Mr. Ryan noted he believed correctional medicine was at the cutting edge of healthcare in America. He noted that 1,000 of the 24,000 meals were

therapeutically prepared to address health needs, and 24-hour a day access to medical care and emergency transportation to hospitals was provided, as well as hospital coverage if necessary. Mr. Ryan noted that Ward D at Jackson Memorial Hospital provided an average of 10 people full and complete medical care for every disease 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Pertaining to the mortality rate, Mr. Ryan noted that with the high medical acuity levels, it should be understood that it was not unusual to have deaths occur in the jails. He noted the number of in-custody deaths for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006 were fourteen (14), sixteen (16), and eighteen (18) respectively. Mr. Ryan advised eight (8) in-custody deaths had occurred since January 1, 2007 and fifteen (15) deaths were projected for 2007. He stated that, fifteen of the top fifty jails in America had a higher in-custody death rate than Miami-Dade County. Mr. Ryan noted the following statistics: Miami-Dade County ranked third of seven Florida counties in the top 50 jails in America for high mortality rates. Of the top 50 jails in America, Miami-Dade had the 13th lowest suicide rate and of the seven counties in Florida, Miami-Dade County had the third lowest suicide rate.

Mr. Ryan provided statistics comparing the jail inmates with the general population of Miami-Dade County. He noted that in 2006, 0.75% of all people in Miami-Dade County died; and 0.02% of all inmates in the jails died. Regarding suicide rates, he advised that in 2006, 207 of the 19,000 deaths countywide resulted from suicide; that same year, one (1) of the 18 inmate deaths was suicidal. He further noted no suicides occurred in the jails in 2004 and 2005. He stated that when compared against the general population, the chance of successful suicide was higher in the community than in the jails.

Following further comments by Mr. Ryan regarding suicide, Mr. Ryan stated that the MDCR seriously approached its responsibility of caring for each and every inmate. He stated staff worked extremely hard to minimize the adverse events that could occur and it was their goal to ensure that only a few such adverse events occurred; and that 100 percent of the inmates left in better condition than when they arrived.

In response to Chairman Moss' inquiry regarding what procedure was followed after a suicide

attempt at the jail, Mr. Ryan advised that an investigation involving the Police Department, the Medical Examiner's Office, and the healthcare provider was conducted, followed by an assessment by each entity.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee received this report.

7C

071991 **Report**

ORAL REPORT RE: OIG'S FINAL AUDIT REPORT ON THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFF-REGULAR DUTY PROGRAM

Report Received

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Christian read the title of the foregoing proposed oral report into the record.*

Mr. Chris Mazzella, Inspector General, provided a brief overview of the Inspector General's Final Audit on the Miami-Dade Police Department Off-Regular Duty program. He noted that the program was created by a County Ordinance and was administered by Administrative Order providing for police officers to work off-regular duty hours on non-emergency assignments. Mr. Mazzella spoke in support of this program as it provided a deterrent impact on crime. He noted the officers were compensated directly by the County and the County was then reimbursed by the users (Permittees), which included the employee's rate of pay, fringe benefits, and a surcharge of five percent to administer the program. He described the types of Permittees as Permanent, Temporary, and Film. Mr. Mazzella explained that Permanent Permittees were afforded a credit/criminal background check of both the entity and authorized agent and were invoiced by the Finance Department for services rendered. He added that Temporary and Film Permittees did not receive background checks and were required to prepay for the services requested on an estimated basis. However, he noted, the Film Permittees were processed by the Mayor's Office of Film and Entertainment while the other Permittees were processed by the Police Department. Mr. Mazzella provided a detailed description of the process utilized by the Police Department to administer this program.

Mr. Mazzella noted this program had been audited by the Audit and Management Services Department (AMS) in 1992 and 2001, and commented that many of the deficiencies noted in this audit report were also noted in those reports. He pointed out that AMS had indicated in its findings that 70% of the account receivables were more than 60 days past due. Mr. Mazzella highlighted the deficiencies in the administration and financial aspects of the program as follows:

- nineteen files containing original Permittee applications were missing;
- only four of the nineteen missing applications were resubmitted;
- annual reviews of files were not always done;
- record-keeping was lenient—rotational lists varied from station to station; and
- some districts allowed temporary services to extend beyond the established two-week period.

Mr. Mazzella advised that based upon correspondence received from the County Manager's Office, it appeared the administrative deficiencies had been resolved; however, based on the April 2007 report, he stated he could not verify whether or not the financial issues had been resolved. He pointed out that this program was not as self-sustaining as it was created to be and in the IG's audit findings, the Police Department incurred a shortfall of $420,000, with the overall shortfall to the County being $312,000; attributing the reduction of most expenses to the County being covered through the surcharge. Mr. Mazzella explained that the probable contributing factors of the shortfall were: the five percent surcharge was not sufficient, no interest was charged to delinquent users, and the collection efforts were not well coordinated. He highlighted the following regarding delinquent Permittee accounts:
- nearly $1 million in County funds were floated to pay for Permittee services
- as of February 2006, $247,000 was outstanding for more than six years;
- in February 2006, the County was owed $1.75 million; $668,000 was receivables over 60 days old;
and
- in January 2007, the amount owed increased to $1.3 million; $725,000 was over 60 days old.

Mr. Mazzella noted the County was reluctant to place the permittees on the deadbeat lists and noted instances wherein delinquent accounts were closed and reopened. He advised that the County Manager's office indicated it intended to provide the County Commission with a proposal to write off $228,000 of accounts that had been inactive before December 2005. Mr. Mazzella further noted that an April 2007 memorandum from the County Manager's office provided that 60 permittees had been discontinued. He noted potential solutions to this matter included requiring permittees to make deposits to the County from which services would be credited,

and taking an active role in collecting the money.

Commissioner Heyman asked Assistant County Manager Alina Hudak to research invoices that were written-off and to reissue the invoices for collection on those accounts that had no documented verification for the write-off.

Commissioner Gimenez spoke in support of the services the program provided to the community and asked Mr. Robert Parker, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department, to study the feasibility of establishing escrow accounts for entities that requested police services to ensure compensation was received and to provide him with recommendations. He also asked Mr. Parker to consider increasing the five percent administrative fee amount.

Commissioner Sosa expressed her support of establishing an escrow account for permittees and asked that she be listed as co-sponsor of the pending legislation by Commissioner Gimenez based upon recommendations provided by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Robert Parker, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department, advised that in response to the recommendation for better coordination, an active process was in place that provided for two coordinators: one from the Department's budget section and one from the operations section.

Chairman Moss noted the objective of this discussion was to prevent further uncollected fees and write-offs by implementing a process that would not allow anyone to bypass the system.

Mr. Parker acknowledged the issues mentioned in the IG's report that required attention and stated the department was actively addressing and correcting each issue.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote.

7D

072122 **Report**

ORAL REPORT RE: THE MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE REGARDING " THE 911 GLITCH: CELL CALLS ARE HARD TO TRACK"

Report Received
Mover: Gimenez
Seconder: Heyman
Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Clark read the title of the foregoing proposed oral report into the record.*

In response to Commissioner Souto's request that the feasibility of utilizing tourism taxes to create a division to provide public safety to tourists, Chairman Moss asked that he prepare an item for discussion regarding this issue and bring it back to the Committee.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote.

7D SUPPLEMENT

072217 **Supplement**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION RE: MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE-911 CALL CENTER

Presented

7E

072139 **Report**

URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY FIRE WELLS REPORT — ***Report Received***

Report: *Chief Herminio Lorenzo, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, noted a residential fire outside the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) on May 5, 2007 resulted in the loss of life of one occupant. He stated the fire was initially reported as fully engulfing the home and it was known that the occupant who lost her life had been outside the structure but had gone back into the home to secure her pets. Mr. Lorenzo noted the response was further hampered because the closest unit was engaged in another incident at the time, and the second closest unit took additional time to arrive at the incident. He stated some of the approximately 900 homes in Miami-Dade County located outside the UDB were equipped with existing fire wells. He explained that a fire well was simply a pipe dug into the ground, ranging from 20 to 100 feet deep, to the water source underneath. Mr. Lorenzo noted the wells were primarily used for agricultural purposes. He explained that installing fire hydrants throughout the area outside the UDB was cost prohibitive and as an alternative, tanker trucks carrying approximately three thousand gallons of water were placed in the vicinity. Mr. Lorenzo further noted that in response to Chairman Moss' request, a plan was created with the following recommendations: 1) to eliminate single-company stations having only one unit, and 2) to establish fire wells within the area. He advised that installing the fire wells and identifying a funding source would have to be decided. Mr. Lorenzo pointed out the County could require a water supply for new construction on property outside the UDB. He noted the cost of the wells ranged from $10,000 to $50,000 each and maintenance costs ranged from $500 to $1,100, stating the equipment generally required cleaning twice annually.*

Mr. Lorenzo noted the issue of assigning financial responsibility for purchasing and maintaining the wells would be a political decision. He stated that in existing structures, an assessment could be made to the property owners for installation.

Commissioner Seijas expressed concern that

installation of the fire wells would impact either the Biscayne Aquifer or the Florida Aquifer. She referenced the expiring 18-month water use permit with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and recommended this issue also be addressed through the Water and Sewer Department (WASD).

Chief Lorenzo responded to Commissioner Seijas' concerns and noted the fire wells would be exclusively for fire protection and used only during emergencies. He agreed to consult with SFWMD, WASD, and the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) regarding water consumption issues, before proceeding with this program.

Commissioner Diaz pointed out that fire hydrants were usually inaccessible to most of the residents living outside the Unincorporated Municipal Service Area whose incomes were generally limited. He spoke in support of providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the needs of the residents, but cautioned that funding needed to be in place to minimize the financial burden on taxpayers.

Commissioner Moss expressed concern regarding the recommendation to not move forward with the development of some of the proposed fire stations. Chairman Moss asked Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Herminio Lorenzo to prepare a report outlining the costs associated with the purchase and installation of Urban Development Boundary Fire Wells and bring it back to this Committee in 60 days.

There being no further questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote.

072668 **Report**
JULY 19, 2007 HPSC NON-AGENDA ITEM

Report: *Commissioner Heyman expressed concern regarding funding issues related to the family court complex and asked that Assistant County Manager Hudak be directed to advance the funds needed to finish the plans and move this project to bid. She noted a Professional Service Agreement (PSA) was needed to finish the plans in approximately six months. Commissioner Heyman advised that over $100 million was in place to fund this project and requested it be put back on track.*

Commissioner Sosa asked that an item be placed on the agenda for discussion at the September 17, 2007 Health and Public Safety Committee meeting, regarding the new proposed family court building as requested by Commissioner Heyman.

8 ADJOURNMENT

Report: *There being no further business to come before the committee, the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.*

Dennis C. Moss, Chair