



Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners  
Office of the Commission Auditor

**Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee (PCAC) Meeting**

October 18, 2018  
9:30 A.M.  
Commission Chambers

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Research Notes**

**Item No. 1G1  
File No. 182026**

**Researcher: IL Reviewer: PGE**

ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZOO OVERSIGHT BOARD; AMENDING ARTICLE LXXXIII OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; CHANGING THE NAME OF THE BOARD; MODIFYING METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS; AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**ISSUE/REQUESTED ACTION**

Whether the Board should amend Article LXXXIII of the Code of Miami-Dade County, relating to the Zoo Oversight Board, changing the name of the Board, modifying method of appointment of Board members, and making technical changes.

**APPLICABLE LEGISLATION/POLICY**

Miami Dade County Code, Article LXXXIII, created and established by the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens Oversight Board.

[https://library.municode.com/fl/miami -  
dade county/codes/code of ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOR\\_CH2AD\\_ARTLXXXIIIMIDEZOPAGAOVBO](https://library.municode.com/fl/miami-dade-county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOR_CH2AD_ARTLXXXIIIMIDEZOPAGAOVBO)

Section 2-1151(1) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, establishes “[t]he *Creation of the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens Oversight Board*. There is hereby created and established as an agency and instrumentality of Miami-Dade County a board which shall be named and known as the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens Oversight Board (hereinafter referred to as “the Zoo Board”).

[https://library.municode.com/fl/miami -  
dade county/codes/code of ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOR\\_CH2AD\\_ARTLXXXIIIMIDEZOPAGAOVBO\\_S2-  
1151MIDEZOPAGAOVBO](https://library.municode.com/fl/miami-dade-county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOR_CH2AD_ARTLXXXIIIMIDEZOPAGAOVBO_S2-1151MIDEZOPAGAOVBO)

Section 2-1151(5) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Organization of the Oversight Board, states that “[t]he chairperson of the Zoo Board shall be the Board Designee and the vice-chairperson of the Zoo Board shall be a representative of the Zoological Society selected by the Zoological Society. The Zoo Board shall designate a secretary who may or may not be a member of the Zoo Board, and such other officers as the Zoo Board may determine to be necessary. In addition, the Zoo Board shall make, adopt and amend bylaws, rules and regulations for its own governance and for the operation, governance, restoration, preservation and maintenance of designated facilities”.

[https://library.municode.com/fl/miami -  
dade county/codes/code of ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOR\\_CH2AD\\_ARTLXXXIIIMIDEZOPAGAOVBO\\_S2-  
1151MIDEZOPAGAOVBO](https://library.municode.com/fl/miami-dade-county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOR_CH2AD_ARTLXXXIIIMIDEZOPAGAOVBO_S2-1151MIDEZOPAGAOVBO)

Ordinance No. O-98-168, adopted on November 24, 1998, creates the Miami MetroZoo oversight Board; providing for membership, purpose, organization and procedure, appointment and tenure, powers, duties and functions of the Board, and staff support; providing for related operating agreement; providing severability, inclusion in the code, and an effective date.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/matter.asp?matter=990329&file=false&fileAnalysis=false&yearFolder=Y1999>

Resolution No. R-329-10, adopted on April 6, 2010, approves the renaming of the Miami Metrozoo to “Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens” after a public hearing.

<http://intra.gia/matter.asp?matter=100594&file=true&yearFolder=Y2010>

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**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

**Prime Sponsor: District 9, Commissioner Dennis C. Moss**

**Department/Requester: None**

The ordinance was adopted on first reading at the September 5, 2018 Board meeting and set for public hearing before the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee (PCAC) on October 18, 2018.

**ANALYSIS**

The proposed ordinance requests that the Board amend Article LXXXIII of the Code of Miami-Dade County relating to the Zoo Oversight Board to: (1) change the name of the Board; (2) modify the method of appointment of Board members; and (3) make technical changes.

The Zoo Oversight Board was created in 1998 and codified in Article LXXXIII of the Code of Miami-Dade County. According to Section 2-1151 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the Zoo Oversight Board shall have the following purpose as well powers and limitations:

- The Zoo Board shall be a governing advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners and have such rights and responsibilities as set forth in this ordinance and in the Operating Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Zoological Society. In addition to overall policy and operational guidance, the Zoo Board shall be responsible for establishing long and short term strategic and program plans for Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens, including the establishment of goals and objectives guiding all activities and for overseeing the preparation of a consolidated (Zoological Society and County) budget for Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens for adoption by the Zoological Society and Board of County Commissioners.

Section 2-1151(5)(e) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, states [t]hat Neither the Zoo Board nor any of its members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to, or his removal from, their position by the County Zoo Director or Zoological Society Executive Director or any of their subordinates, or take part in the appointment or removal of Miami-Dade or Zoological Society employees at Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens; provided, however, that the Zoo Board and its members may render advisory assistance regarding the removal and appointment of the Directors as provided in this section. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the Zoo Board and its members shall deal with the employees at Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens solely through the Executive Directors of the Zoological Society and the County Zoo Director and neither the Zoo Board nor any members thereof shall give orders to any subordinates of the Executive Directors of the Zoological Society and the County Zoo Director, either publicly or privately. Any willful violation of the provisions of this section by a member of the Zoo Board shall be grounds for his or her removal from the Zoo Board by an action brought in the Circuit Court by the State Attorney of this County.

The chairperson of the Zoo Board shall be the Board Designee and the vice-chairperson of the Zoo Board shall be a representative of the Zoological Society selected by the Zoological Society. The Zoological Society changed its name to the Zoo Miami Foundation in 2015. The proposed ordinance allows the Zoo Miami Foundation Inc. to nominate a person to serve on the Zoo Board, subject to approval by the remaining members, in the event the immediate past president is unable or unwilling to serve.

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The table below shows the original Section 2-2105 of the Code of Miami-Dade County and the proposed changes to this section of the Code. Words ~~[[double bracketed]]~~ shall be deleted. Words underscored and >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed.

Section 2-1151 (current language)	Section 2-1151 (proposed changes)
<p><b>ARTICLE LXXXIII. - MIAMI-DADE ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND GARDENS OVERSIGHT BOARD</b></p> <p><b>Sec. 2-1151. - Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens Oversight Board.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Creation of the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens Oversight Board.</i> There is hereby created and established as an agency and instrumentality of Miami-Dade County a board which shall be named and known as the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens Oversight Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Zoo Board").</li> </ul> <p>2. <i>Purpose.</i> The Zoo Board shall be a governing advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners and have such rights and responsibilities as set forth in this ordinance and in the Operating Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Zoological Society. In addition to overall policy and operational guidance, the Zoo Board shall be responsible for establishing long and short term strategic and program plans for Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens, including the establishment of goals and objectives guiding all activities and for overseeing the preparation of a consolidated (Zoological Society and County) budget for Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens for adoption by the Zoological Society and Board of County Commissioners.</p> <p>3. <i>Designated facilities.</i> Facilities designated as Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens. As used herein, the term "Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens" shall include certain real property owned by Miami-Dade County at the zoological park located at 12400 SW 152 Street subject to certain restrictive covenants and its related personal property utilized to support the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens.</p> <p>4. <i>Board membership.</i></p> <p>A. <i>Members.</i> Oversight of the policy and operation of the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens shall be performed by an Oversight Board composed of the following nine (9) members:</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE LXXXIII. - <del>[[MIAMI-DADE ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND GARDENS]]</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami&lt;&lt; OVERSIGHT BOARD</b></p> <p><b>Sec. 2-1151. - <del>[[Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami&lt;&lt; Oversight Board.</b></p> <p>1. <i>Creation of the <del>[[Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami&lt;&lt; Oversight Board.</i> There is hereby created and established as an agency and instrumentality of Miami-Dade County a board which shall be named and known as the <del>Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami&lt;&lt; Oversight Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Zoo Board").</p> <p>2. <i>Purpose.</i> The Zoo Board shall be a governing advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners and have such rights and responsibilities as set forth in this ordinance and in the Operating Agreement between Miami-Dade County and <del>the Zoological Society</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation")&lt;&lt;. In addition to overall policy and operational guidance, the Zoo Board shall be responsible for establishing long and short term strategic and program plans for <del>Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami&lt;&lt;, including the establishment of goals and objectives guiding all activities and for overseeing the preparation of a consolidated (<del>[[Zoological Society]]</del> &gt;&gt;Foundation&lt;&lt; and County) budget for <del>[[Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami&lt;&lt; for adoption by the <del>[[Zoological Society]]</del> &gt;&gt;Foundation&lt;&lt; and Board of County Commissioners.</p> <p><i>Designated facilities.</i> <del>[[Facilities designated as Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]</del>. As used herein, the term <del>[[ "Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens" ]]</del> &gt;&gt;"Zoo Miami"&lt;&lt; shall include certain real property owned by Miami-Dade County at the zoological park located at 12400 SW 152 Street subject to certain restrictive covenants and its related personal property utilized to support <del>[[the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]</del> &gt;&gt;Zoo Miami&lt;&lt;.</p> <p>4. <i>Board membership.</i></p>

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- (a) The County Mayor and in his absence, a designee;
- (b) The Miami-Dade County Manager or designee;
- (c) The Sitting President of the Zoological Society;
- (d) The immediate past president of the Zoological Society;
- (e) The Executive Director of the Zoological Society;
- (f) The Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens;
- (g) The Director of the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department;
- (h) A member of the Board of County Commissioners to be designated by the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners ("Board Designee"); and
- (i) A member of the Executive Committee of the Zoological Society.

Members of the Zoo Board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. Each member must sign and abide by a code of ethics modeled after the most recent American Association of Zoos and Aquariums Code of Ethics.

**5. Organization of the Oversight Board.**

\* \* \*

(e) *Restriction on the Zoo Board.* Neither the Zoo Board nor any of its members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to, or his removal from, their position by the County Zoo Director or Zoological Society Executive Director or any of their subordinates, or take part in the appointment or removal of Miami-Dade or Zoological Society employees at Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens; provided, however, that the Zoo Board and its members may render advisory assistance regarding the removal and appointment of the Directors as provided in this section. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the Zoo Board and its members shall deal with the employees at Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens solely through the Executive Directors of the Zoological Society and the County Zoo Director and neither the Zoo Board nor any members thereof shall give orders to any subordinates of the Executive Directors of the Zoological Society and the County Zoo Director, either publicly or privately. Any willful violation of the provisions of this section by a member of the Zoo Board shall be grounds for his or her removal from the Zoo Board by an action brought in the Circuit Court by the State Attorney of this County.

A. *Members.* Oversight of the policy and operation of the ~~[[Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]~~ >> Zoo Miami << shall be performed by an Oversight Board composed of the following nine (9) members:

- (a) << Two members to include or be appointed by the <<[[The]] County Mayor and in his absence, a designee;
- (b) ~~[[The Miami-Dade County Manager or designee;]]~~ The Sitting President of the ~~[[Zoological Society]]~~ >> Foundation <<;
- (c) ~~[[d]]~~ The immediate past president of the ~~[[Zoological Society]]~~ >> Foundation, provided however, that if the immediate past president of the Foundation is unable or unwilling to serve as a member of the Zoo Board, then the Foundation shall nominate a person to serve as a member of the Zoo Board and said nomination shall be subject to the approval of the Zoo Board <<;
- (d) ~~[[e]]~~ The Executive Director of the ~~[[Zoological Society]]~~ >> Foundation <<;
- (e) ~~[[f]]~~ The ~~[[Executive]]~~ Director of the ~~[[Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]~~ >> Zoo Miami <<;
- (f) ~~[[g]]~~ The Director of the Miami-Dade Park >>, << ~~[[and]]~~ Recreation >> and Open Spaces << Department >>, or its successor department with oversight over the Zoo <<;
- (g) ~~[[h]]~~ A member of the Board of County Commissioners to be designated by the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners ("Board Designee"); and
- (h) ~~[[i]]~~ A member of the Executive Committee of the ~~[[Zoological Society]]~~ >> Foundation <<.

**5. Organization of the Oversight Board**

\* \* \*

(e) *Restriction on the Zoo Board.* Neither the Zoo Board nor any of its members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to, or his removal from, their position by the County Zoo Director or ~~[[Zoological Society]]~~ >> the Foundation << Executive Director or any of their subordinates, or take part in the appointment or removal of Miami-Dade or Zoological Society employees at ~~[[Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]~~ >> Zoo Miami <<; provided, however, that the Zoo Board and its members may render advisory assistance regarding the removal and appointment of the Directors as provided in this section. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the Zoo Board and its members shall deal with the employees at ~~[[Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]~~ >> Zoo Miami << solely through the

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\* \* \*

*7. Liberal construction to effectuate public purpose.* This section, being for the public purpose and for the long-term welfare of the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens facilities and the present and future citizens of Miami-Dade County, Florida, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes hereof.

Executive Directors of the ~~[[Zoological Society]]~~ >>Foundation<< and the County Zoo Director and neither the Zoo Board nor any members thereof shall give orders to any subordinates of the Executive Directors of the ~~[[Zoological Society]]~~ >>Foundation<< and the County Zoo Director, either publicly or privately. Any willful violation of the provisions of this section by a member of the Zoo Board shall be grounds for his or her removal from the Zoo Board by an action brought in the Circuit Court by the State Attorney of this County.

\* \* \*

*7. Liberal construction to effectuate public purpose.* This section, being for the public purpose and for the long-term welfare of ~~[[the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens]]~~ >>Zoo Miami<< facilities and the present and future citizens of Miami-Dade County, Florida, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes hereof.

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**Research Notes**

**Item No. 3A**  
**File No. 182250**

**Researcher: JFP Reviewer: PGE**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF 35 GRANTS FOR A TOTAL OF \$180,000.00 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM FIRST QUARTER FOR VARIOUS ENTITIES; WAIVING RESOLUTION NO. R-130-06; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE GRANT AGREEMENTS AND TO EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS, INCLUDING THE CANCELLATION PROVISIONS, CONTAINED THEREIN

**ISSUE/REQUESTED ACTION**

Whether the Board should approve the funding of 35 grants, totaling \$180,000, from the First Quarter funds of the Department of Cultural Affairs Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Community Grants Program, and allow waiver of R-130-06 so that the proposed Resolution may be placed on the commission agenda even though the grant agreement has yet to be executed by the other parties and the grant process may be expedited.

**APPLICABLE LEGISLATION/POLICY**

Resolution No. R-130-06, adopted January 24, 2006, clarifies that proposed agenda items seeking approval of a contract or conveyance and authority to execute same shall not be placed on any committee or commission agenda unless the underlying contract or conveyance is completely negotiated, in final form, and executed by all non-County parties. The proposed resolution seeks waiver of this provision.

<http://intra/gia/matter.asp?matter=060239&file=false&yearFolder=Y2006>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

**Prime Sponsor: None**

**Department/Requester: Department of Cultural Affairs**

The proposed resolution has no procedural history.

**ANALYSIS**

The proposed resolution recommends a total of \$180,000 in grant funding from the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2018-2019 Community Grants Program (First Quarter) to the following grantees:

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>	<b>District Location(s) of Project Activity</b>
Algo Nuevo, Inc.	\$4,710	6, 12
Art Creates US, Inc. d/b/a ProjectArt	\$5,435	2, 3
Arts Connection Foundation, Inc.	\$5,435	3, 5, 7, 11, 12
Center Street Projects, Inc.	\$5,435	7
Community Performing Arts Association, Inc.	\$7,245	12
Cuatrogatos Foundation, Inc.	\$5,435	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13
Fire Haus Projects, Inc.	\$3,623	6
Florida Dance Education Organization, Inc.	\$5,435	5
Friends of South Florida Music, Inc.	\$5,435	3, 9
Funcionarte Corp.	\$4,348	3, 5, 6, 7
Girasol Foundation, Inc.	\$5,072	5, 7



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Greater South Dade/South Miami/Kendall Chamber of Commerce d/b/a Chamber South	\$10,869	7
Hispanic Heritage Literature Organization Corp.	\$5,435	5, 12
Illuminarts, Inc. a/f/a/ Juraj Kojis	\$5,435	3, 7
Italian Film Festival, Inc.	\$3,623	5
Kuyayky Foundation, Inc.	\$5,435	3
Lemon City Cemetery Community Corp.	\$5,435	3
Love the Everglades Movement, Inc.	\$5,435	5
Macaya Foundation, Inc.	\$2,100	1, 3
MAIACA, Inc.	\$5,435	5
Merrick Festival, Inc.	\$7,245	6
Miami Center for Architecture & Design, Inc.	\$3,986	6
Music in Miami, Inc	\$3,623	3, 4, 7
Polish Film Festival Miami	\$3,623	5
Pridelines Youth Services, Inc.	\$3,624	3
Prizm Projects, Inc.	\$5,435	5
Push to Open, Inc.	\$5,435	6
Richmond Heights Community Association, Inc.	\$5,435	9
Sundari Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Lotus House	\$5,435	3
Sunflower Society, Inc.	\$5,435	3, 5
The German School of South Florida, Inc.	\$4,348	7, 9, 10
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Kunya Rowley	\$4,348	3
Urban Oasis Project, Inc.	\$5,435	3
What if Works, Inc.	\$4,348	5, 6, 9, 11
Zunzun Arts & Education, Inc.	\$5,435	5, 9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	

The Community Grants Panel reviewed 35 applications requesting \$268,492, and ultimately recommended funding for all 35, but at the total amount of \$180,000.

Funding for the Community Grants Program comes from Department of Cultural Affairs' approved departmental revenues, as adopted in the Fiscal Year 2018-19 County budget ordinance. In the FY 2018-19 ordinance, a total of \$650,000 is allocated for FY 2018-19 Community Grants, under Grants to/Programs for Artists and Non-Profit Cultural Organizations. A remaining balance of \$470,000 is to be used in the subsequent quarters of the program.

The requested waiver of Resolution No. R-130-06 requiring that contracts with non-governmental entities be signed by the other parties before being placed on the commission agenda is for the purpose of expediting the grant agreements, saving one to two months' time in an already lengthy grant process. The Cultural Affairs Council approved these recommendations at their September 14, 2018 meeting.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Community Grants (CG) Program is responsive on a quarterly basis to not-for-profit organizations developing small and large-scale community-based cultural (dance, theater, music, visual arts) programs, as well as projects and events, such as fairs, parades, neighborhood festivals and publications that have a strong artistic component.

The CG panel considers projects with strong community involvement and/or outreach component. The CG Program is particularly sensitive to the needs of indigenous cultural neighborhood activities and projects encouraging the

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preservation of heritage, traditions and culture, as well as social service organizations and cultural groups developing collaborative intervention projects using the arts.

Each applicant organization was evaluated specifically based on the following competitive review criteria:

- 1) quality of the program;
- 2) administrative capability;
- 3) marketing strategy
- 4) fundraising efforts; and
- 5) geographic location of event

<http://www.miamidadearts.org/community-grants-cg-program>

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**Item No. 3B**  
**File No. 182257**

**Researcher: MF Reviewer: PGE**

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD TO CONTINUE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT SEARCH; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AND TO EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

**ISSUE/REQUESTED ACTION**

Whether the Board should retroactively authorize a cooperative agreement between Miami-Dade County and the School Board of Miami-Dade County to continue the Project SEARCH program that provides disabled students employability and job skills.

**APPLICABLE LEGISLATION/POLICY**

Resolution No. R-1036-09, adopted by the Board on July 21, 2009, authorized a cooperative agreement with the Miami-Dade County Public School Board for a term from July 22, 2009 to July 21, 2010 to form the basis for implementation of Project SEARCH.

<http://intra/gia/matter.asp?matter=092169&file=true&yearFolder=Y2009>

Resolution No. R-550-12, adopted by the Board on July 3, 2012, authorized a cooperative agreement with the Miami-Dade County Public School Board for a term from July 22, 2012 to June 30, 2015 to continue the implementation of Project SEARCH.

<http://intra/gia/matter.asp?matter=121051&file=true&yearFolder=Y2012>

Resolution No. R-572-15, adopted by the Board on June 30, 2015, approved a cooperative agreement with the School Board of Miami-Dade County for a term from July 31, 2015 to June 30, 2018 to continue the implementation of Project SEARCH.

<http://intra/gia/matter.asp?matter=151150&file=true&yearFolder=Y2015>

Miami-Dade County Code, Chapter 26, Article III, requires background checks for child event workers, park vendors, and programming partner or community-based organization employees and volunteers, as well as Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department employees and volunteers.

[https://library.municode.com/fl/miami\\_-\\_dade\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_CH26PAREDERURE\\_ARTIIIITHSHMEAC](https://library.municode.com/fl/miami_-_dade_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH26PAREDERURE_ARTIIIITHSHMEAC)

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

**Prime Sponsor: Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, District 9**

**Department/Requester: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces**

This proposed Resolution has no procedural history.

**ANALYSIS**

The proposed resolution requests that the Board retroactively authorize a cooperative agreement with the Miami-Dade County Public School Board (MDCPS) to continue the implementation of Project SEARCH.

Project SEARCH was established in 2009 through Resolution No. R-1036-09. This project, a cooperative effort between Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade County Public School Board, provides students with disabilities

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between the ages of 18 and 22 with appropriate educational and vocational experiences in a work-appropriate setting at Miami MetroZoo. The cornerstone of the one school-year program is immersion into Miami MetroZoo. Through the project the students learn job skills while participating in a variety of worksite rotations which may lead to competitive employment in the community.

The following are the eligibility criteria for Project SEARCH. The students must:

- Desire to work competitively in the community at the end of the program;
- Be 18-22 years of age;
- Have completed high school credits necessary for graduation with a Special Diploma;
- Meet eligibility requirements for Florida Vocational Rehabilitation;
- Have independent hygiene and grooming skills;
- Maintain appropriate work behaviors and social skills in the workplace;
- Be able to access public transportation;
- Be able to take re-direction form Project SEARCH and Zoo Miami staff; and
- Be able to communicate effectively.

MetroZoo has played an important role in the project. Its employees have mentored the students through “on the job” training in tasks deemed appropriate for the students’ skill levels. MDCPS has provided a Special Education Instructor with Transition experience to coordinate/teach the program, and one para-professional to work with the students at work sites throughout Miami MetroZoo.

At the inception of the program, the Parks and Recreation Department received a \$10,000 grant from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council to fund training for both MDPR and MDCPS employees involved in the project, as well as supplies and materials that were to be used on site.

The project has been very successful in teaching the students employability skills, as several of the students have been hired by numerous businesses during or shortly after the school year. In 2012, six out of the eleven students obtained employment; in 2013 seven out of the eleven students obtained employment; in 2014 five out of the ten students obtained employment; in 2016, six out of the eleven students obtained employment; in 2017 four out of the eight students obtained employment; and in 2018, eight out of the ten students obtained employment.

The term of the original agreement was from July 22, 2009 to July 21, 2010. Upon expiration, the agreement was extended by mutual consent of the parties for two additional one-year periods ending on July 21, 2012. The agreement was renewed through Resolution No. R-550-12 with a term from July 22, 2012 to June 30, 2015; and Resolution No. R-572-15 with a term from July 31, 2015 to June 30, 2018. If the proposed resolution is approved, the term of the agreement will be from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021. The agreement was received from MDCPS in August 2018; therefore, the approval of the agreement is retroactive.

The annual fiscal impact to Miami-Dade County is estimated to be approximately \$250 per year for the value of identification badges and Zoo Volunteer T-Shirts issued for the Project SEARCH staff and students, and \$100 for any photocopy and telephone line usage expenses to be funded from Zoo Miami code PREMETS58000.

Key responsibilities of the parties under the agreement are as follows:

Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department shall:

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- Provide classroom space for one hour in the morning and a half hour in the afternoon;
- Provide work space, and access to telephone, fax, photocopy equipment, computer and e-mail access to Project SEARCH staff
- Provide a liaison that is available on a frequent basis to assist with job site development, to introduce Project SEARCH staff to PROS staff, and to work with the instructor to reinforce workplace procedures; and
- Be an active participant in the Project SEARCH Advisory Committee and evaluate program progress.

MDCPS shall:

- Provide a Special Education Instructor with Transition experience to coordinate/teach the program, and provide one para-professional to work with students at work sites throughout Miami Metro Zoo;
- Develop and provide curriculum and instructional materials that encompass functional academics, transition, job development and job readiness;
- Assist PROS staff on development of worksites, create job and task analysis and identify appropriate accommodations; and
- Facilitate student recruitment activities.