



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 8

July 28, 2020

Mayor Carlos Gimenez
Carlos.Gimenez@miamidade.gov

Dear Mayor Gimenez:

I am deeply concerned that lack of transparency and continued efforts to stall aid to municipalities, has led to anger, frustration and failure to meet our cities' needs in this pandemic. I appreciate that many countywide programs have been funded, but earlier this month, you made clear that \$135 million was being put aside for pass-through aid to cities. In fact, in a July 9th story in the Miami Herald, it was cited that "Cities would get \$135 million under the summary that CFO Ed Marquez presented". This number changed greatly on Tuesday during the special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on COVID-19, where you shared that the new projected number would be 25-percent of that figure.

The County needs to embrace our city mayors as partners, and as I said yesterday, communicating with them should not replace consultation and collaboration. Throughout this crisis, the County has often been at odds with our municipalities, fostering confusion and a go-at-it-alone approach that only hurts the constituents we represent. Given that this has resulted in failure to properly address the CARES Act funds for cities, it's time that you call on your relationship with President Trump and our two U.S. Senators to immediately pass emergency supplemental aid for local governments, with dedicated funding allocated to our cities.

On Tuesday, I voted against your CARES Act funding report in large part because the County cannot go back on its approach of coordinated aid with our cities. They too are on the front-line of the crisis, providing invaluable support and relief, and they need full access to these funds.

By embracing collaborative approaches, versus a combative one, I am confident the County can better survey what programs are already being administered by cities, and which additional ones they could effectively deliver, and where the gaps exist in unincorporated parts of the County. We can avoid duplication of relief, aid and services if we all work together, and it's time that we convene a true working group of mayors, county commissioners and your administration so we can finally all work deliver relief through a shared approach.

I urge you to prepare a detailed briefing on how these funds will get distributed immediately to municipalities, and the outreach efforts you will take to ensure the President of the United States and the leadership of the United States Senate does not abandon our local governments during this unprecedented crisis.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Daniella Levine Cava
Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 8

CC: Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners