

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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

**DATE:** June 2, 2020

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging Florida Chief  
Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis  
and the Office of Insurance  
Regulation to intervene and halt  
any salary increases for Citizens  
Property Insurance Corporation  
in the wake of coronavirus  
disease 2019 (COVID-19) and  
resulting economic impacts;  
urging Citizens Property  
Insurance Corporation to rescind  
recent salary increases given to  
its executives while many  
Floridians are unemployed  
as a result of COVID-19

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor  
Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.



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 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)(5)  
6-2-20

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING FLORIDA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER JIMMY PATRONIS AND THE OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION TO INTERVENE AND HALT ANY SALARY INCREASES FOR CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION IN THE WAKE OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND RESULTING ECONOMIC IMPACTS; URGING CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION TO RESCIND RECENT SALARY INCREASES GIVEN TO ITS EXECUTIVES WHILE MANY FLORIDIANS ARE UNEMPLOYED AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

**WHEREAS**, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a novel coronavirus that was first identified in December 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez declared a state of emergency for Miami-Dade County as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the disease has since spread globally, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, as of May 26, 2020, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide is over 5.5 million, with more than 1.7 million of those in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of this pandemic, including business closures, have resulted in a massive and rapid increase in the number of individuals who are seeking unemployment assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, overall, this pandemic has resulted in the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, the unemployment rate in the United States soared to 14.7 percent in April 2020, according to the United States Department of Labor; and

**WHEREAS**, according to data revealed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the unemployment rate in Florida went from 4.4 percent in March 2020 to 12.9 percent in April 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, this data further revealed that as of May 28, 2020, 1.9 million unique claims for unemployment have been received, which represents 21.6 percent of the workforce in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the extremely high unemployment rate and staggering amount of unemployment claims that have been made in Florida as a result of COVID-19, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (“Citizens”) just approved \$159,000 in significant pay raises to certain executives of Citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Citizens was created by the Florida Legislature as a non-profit, tax-exempt, government entity charged with providing insurance protection to Floridians who are unable to find property insurance coverage in the private market; and

**WHEREAS**, operated by a board of political appointees, its only source of revenue is from the insurance premiums policyholders pay; and

**WHEREAS**, section 627.351(6), Florida Statutes, states that the purpose of Citizens is to increase the availability of affordable property insurance in Florida, while achieving efficiencies and economies of scale; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board is concerned about the impact the COVID-19 emergency has had and is continuing to have on unemployment in Miami-Dade County and Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board believes that the salary increases given to executives of Citizens are inappropriate at this time when more than a million Floridians just lost their jobs and are suffering from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board believes that such salary increases need to be limited while the severe economic impacts of COVID-19 persist,

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

**Section 1.** Urges Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and the Office of Insurance Regulation to intervene and halt any salary increases given to executives and staffers of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation in the wake of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the resulting economic impacts.

**Section 2.** Urges Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to rescind the recent salary increases given to its executives.

**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation.

**Section 4.** Directs the County's lobbyist to advocate for the legislative action set forth in sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

RC

Ryan Carlin