

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)


TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 1, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to design a vocational training pilot program for current and future tenants, participants and applicants in the public housing, Rental Assistance Demonstration, and the Section 8 programs; and requiring a report

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and Co-Sponsors Senator Rene Garcia and Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 1, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

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)(1)
9-1-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DESIGN A VOCATIONAL TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE TENANTS, PARTICIPANTS AND APPLICANTS IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING, RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION, AND THE SECTION 8 PROGRAMS; AND REQUIRING A REPORT

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County ("County"), which is one of several public housing agencies in the County, is the owner and operator of more than 7,000 units of public housing funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") in accordance with the Housing Act of 1937 and federal regulations promulgated by HUD; and

WHEREAS, public housing is limited to low-income families and individuals, whose eligibility is determined, in part, by a public housing agency, such as the County, based on such families' or individuals' annual gross income; and

WHEREAS, for instance, according to the annual median income published by HUD for Miami-Dade County, a family of four, whose income does not exceed 30 percent of annual median income, cannot earn more than \$27,120.00 to qualify for public housing; and

WHEREAS, the County is in the process of converting 7,718 public housing units to Rental Assistance Demonstration ("RAD program") units, which uses a funding platform similar to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program's ("Section 8") Project Based Voucher program; and

WHEREAS, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-429-21, which, in part, authorized the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to open the Section 8 waiting list to eligible families and individuals on May 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, as of the May 27, 2021 deadline, over 93,000 Section 8 applications were received by the County's Public Housing and Community Development Department; and

WHEREAS, this number reflects the great need amongst low-income families and individuals in our community; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic dealt a tremendous economic blow to the residents of this County, as well as to the country as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that 2020 was the worst year for United States job losses in records tracing back to 1939, with layoffs disproportionately affecting Black and Latino workers, and, more specifically, women; and

WHEREAS, it is also reported that 42 percent of the jobs lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic will likely be gone for good; and

WHEREAS, to assist the community's economic recovery, this Board believes that tenants in public housing, participants in the Section 8 program, and those impacted by the conversion of public housing to Section 8 project-based units through HUD's RAD program should be provided with tools, such as vocational training, and incentives that assist and provide them with opportunities to obtain financial independence and security, improve their lives, and move out of public housing or RAD program housing; and

WHEREAS, various institutions like Miami-Dade College and the Florida International University offer vocational or workforce development programs that provide instruction for students to acquire the educational and technical skills required for vocational certification; and

WHEREAS, such certification is essential to achieve marketable skills and sustainable occupations in a variety of positions, including massage therapists, cosmetologists, nail technicians, HVAC technicians, electricians, plumbers, paralegals, and pharmacy technicians; and

WHEREAS, in addition, digital skills are increasingly critical to entry level and middle skill jobs, such as receptionists, sales people, and IT support; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of the new jobs created in the United States since 2010 required medium or advanced levels of digital skills, however, only a third of Americans have such skills; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that 50 percent of Black and 57 percent of Latino workers have limited or no digital skills; and

WHEREAS, many low-income Americans, especially those served by HUD's public housing program, have little access to broadband internet or devices, or the training to use them; and

WHEREAS, Google offers a Google Career Certificates program, through which they have trained more than 6 million Americans on digital skills in the fields of information technology support, data analytics, project management, and user experience design; and

WHEREAS, through the Google Career Certificates program, individuals without a college degree or prior experience in the digital field can earn a certificate in three to six months, and seek employment opportunities through Google's consortium of more than 140 employers; and

WHEREAS, Google also has certain grant opportunities, such as Grow with Google, that might be available to offset costs of their certification program; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, HUD provided guidance as to how public housing funds can be used to support access to broadband internet and devices; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that a vocational training program deployed by the County that is available to current and future tenants, participants and applicants participating in the County's public housing, the RAD, and the Section 8 programs, would improve accessibility to skills programs and would benefit these individuals by increasing their earning potential and their ability to purchase and maintain affordable homes,

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

Section 1. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to design a pilot program providing for vocational training available to current and future tenants, participants and applicants in the County's public housing, the Rental Assistance Demonstration, and the Section 8 programs, including, but not limited to, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee should explore potential partnerships or collaborations with entities like Google, Miami-Dade College, and Florida International University as well as any grant opportunities available to assist with the costs of the program. The pilot program should be accessible to non-native English speakers and, as allowed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, incentivize the vocational training program through the various programs offered by the County that enhance affordable homeownership opportunities, including, but not limited to, the Homebuyer Loan Program, the Infill Housing Program, and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Option Program.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to submit a report to this Board within 120 days of the effective date of this resolution describing the vocational training pilot program. The report should include, at a minimum, the following information: (i) possible partners for implementing the program; (ii) time frame for implementation; (iii) legally available funding source(s); (iv) plan to ensure that each current and future tenants, participants, and applicants in the County’s public housing, Rental Assistance Demonstration, and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs be provided with information concerning the pilot program established pursuant to this resolution, for the duration of said program. The completed report shall be placed on the Board’s agenda pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and the Co-Sponsors are Senator Rene Garcia and Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee. 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:

Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	
Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Joe A. Martinez
Kionne L. McGhee	Jean Monestime
Raquel A. Regalado	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of September, 2021. 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.

LCK

Leigh C. Kobrinski
Terrence A. Smith