

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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

DATE: December 1, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the Florida Association of Counties' ACCESS 67 initiative to increase affordable and reliable high-speed internet throughout Florida; supporting the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Office of Broadband effort to increase access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet access; and directing the County Mayor to cooperate with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in gathering information regarding broadband availability in Miami-Dade County

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Eileen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

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County Attorney

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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)(7)
12-1-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' ACCESS 67 INITIATIVE TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT FLORIDA; SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY'S OFFICE OF BROADBAND EFFORT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS; AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO COOPERATE WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN GATHERING INFORMATION REGARDING BROADBAND AVAILABILITY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable high-speed internet access is an essential service to be prosperous, compete in a global economy, and achieve a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the lack of broadband internet access impacts the residents, businesses, and visitors of small, medium, and large counties, both rural and urban; and

WHEREAS, the absence or lack of high-speed internet hinders: (1) equitable educational opportunities for school children and workforce development; (2) access to telemedicine to improve health outcomes without demanding travel and transportation needs; (3) rapid communication between the public and law enforcement agencies; and (4) economic competitiveness limiting business investment, job growth, and career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, high-speed internet can be cost prohibitive, and a lack of affordable high-speed internet options can further the gaps in access to information technology; and

WHEREAS, identifying community needs, assets, and barriers is necessary to meet the goal of universal access to high-speed internet; and

WHEREAS, local governments, states, and the federal government should utilize available resources to deliver cost-effective broadband solutions which provide a return on investment to both the public and private interest; and

WHEREAS, this Board can play a crucial role in working with public and private entities to pursue sustainable solutions to broadband access, affordability, and reliability; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Association of Counties' ACCESS 67 initiative seeks to implement a comprehensive approach to assist counties in increasing access to critical telecommunication and information technology resources in Florida communities; and

WHEREAS, during the 2020 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 2020-26, Laws of Florida (House Bill 969), which created an Office of Broadband within the Department of Economic Opportunity and requires the creation of a strategic plan to increase the use of broadband internet service in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the strategic plan be based on up-to-date and location-specific mapping that identifies broadband internet speeds at a granular, census block level to accurately assess internet access needs of the public and private sector; and

WHEREAS, during the 2021 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 2021-24, Laws of Florida (House Bill 1239), entitled the "Florida Broadband Deployment Act of 2021," which (a) found sustainable broadband internet service to be essential for all residents and critical to economic and business development, and (b) provided resources to develop a state broadband internet service map to identify connectivity gaps to end users; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County can serve a vital role in coordinating with the Office of Broadband local technology planning teams to assist them in information gathering and policy development; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties Broadband Task Force report identified specific recommendations to promote deployment of better and more affordable services, including: (1) defining a modern “minimum standard” of Broadband; (2) implementing smart “Dig Once” policies and practices including “rights of way” as public assets; (3) testing and deploying fiber, cellular, satellite and other technologies; (4) focusing on local community engagement and partnerships; (5) tackling the “Homework Gap”; (6) removing bans on municipal broadband; (7) establishing a national grants/loans clearinghouse; (8) regulating broadband as a utility; (9) committing to world-leading broadband data and mapping analytics; and

WHEREAS, broadband internet deployment solutions must be technology-agnostic to best meet the specific needs of the local community; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between Internet Service Providers and counties will ensure community needs are addressed within acceptable timeframes to best serve their communities,

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

Section 1. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to support the Florida Association of Counties’ ACCESS 67 Initiative to implement a comprehensive approach to assist counties in developing solutions to address the impacts caused by the lack of access to critical telecommunication and information technology resources.

Section 2. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to support the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s Office of Broadband in the effort to achieve access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet access to every household and business in Miami-Dade County and throughout the State of Florida.

Section 3. The County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee is hereby directed to cooperate with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s Office of Broadband in their effort to gather information regarding the availability of reliable, affordable high-speed internet access in Miami-Dade County and designate a point of contact in the County for the ACCESS 67 initiative.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. 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 December, 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.



Oren Rosenthal