

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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

DATE: June 1, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to include adequate funding for a study or survey assessing services provided to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer ("LGBTQ") community in Miami-Dade County in the County Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 County Budget, to conduct such a study or survey in consultation with the Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board, and to provide a report

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/ks



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: June 1, 2022

FROM: 
Gen. Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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)(6)
6-1-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR’S DESIGNEE TO INCLUDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR A STUDY OR SURVEY ASSESSING SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER (“LGBTQ”) COMMUNITY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN THE COUNTY MAYOR’S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 COUNTY BUDGET, TO CONDUCT SUCH A STUDY OR SURVEY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LGBTQ ADVISORY BOARD, AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (“LGBTQ”) community in Miami-Dade County has contributed invaluablely to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is a place that welcomes and supports people from all walks of life, and has thrived as a place where LGBTQ persons can feel safe and valued; and

WHEREAS, through the years, this Board has established policies and taken positions designed to promote inclusiveness and diversity in the County; and

WHEREAS, specifically, this Board has enacted legislation and adopted policies that support Miami-Dade County’s LGBTQ community, such as by creating the Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board (“LGBTQ Advisory Board”) and adopting the County’s Human Rights Ordinance, which protects against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, among other protected classifications; and

WHEREAS, because of its policies towards diversity and inclusiveness, Miami-Dade County continues to attract more than one million LGBTQ visitors each year, as well as individuals, businesses, and professionals seeking to relocate to the area; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to continue to make Miami-Dade County an attractive and safe place for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly residents, tourists, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County takes seriously its obligation to provide comprehensive and effective services to its residents, including members of the LGBTQ community who may have particularized needs or issues of concern that can and should be addressed by local government; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County also strives for diversity in the types of businesses that it contracts with, and wishes to ensure that businesses owned by or focused upon the LGBTQ community have opportunities to contract with the County; and

WHEREAS, recently, the LGBTQ Advisory Board recommended that the County include funding in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to conduct an LGBTQ services assessment study or survey, with the results informing future policy decisions designed to address any gaps in such services to the LGBTQ community and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ Advisory Board's recommendation is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that Miami-Dade County appropriately understands and responds to the service needs of its LGBTQ residents, visitors, and businesses, this Board agrees that an LGBTQ services assessment study or survey should be funded and carried out in the coming year; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to undertake the necessary steps to fund and conduct such a study or survey,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to include adequate funding for a study or survey assessing services provided to the LGBTQ community in Miami-Dade County in the County Mayor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 County Budget, and to conduct such study or survey in consultation with the Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board if the funding is approved. Upon the completion of such study or survey, the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee shall provide a report detailing the findings and making any necessary policy recommendations. The County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee shall provide the report to this Board within 90 days of the completion of the study or survey and place the completed report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review, pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

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 June, 2022. 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.



James Eddie Kirtley



Board of County Commissioners

Office of Community Advocacy

LGBTQ Advisory Board

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patricia Hernandez
Chairperson

Orlando Gonzales
Vice Chairperson

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Damian Pardo

Jerry S. Chasen

Darell Burks

Sgt. Orlando Lopez

Janelle Sofia Perez

Grace C. Lopez

Gabriel J. Paez
Program Director

March 1, 2022

Honorable Eileen Higgins
Commissioner, Miami-Dade County
Board of County Commissioners
111 N.W. First Street
Miami, Florida 33128

Dear Commissioner Higgins:

As the newly elected chairwoman of the Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board (LGBTQ Board), it is a pleasure to be addressing you for the first time on behalf of the LGBTQ Board.

On February 2, 2022, our board held a general board meeting where the Board heard from Mr. Steve Atkins of the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Eric Ross of the Florida Hate Crime Coalition, and Board member Orlando Gonzalez.

Mr. Atkins addressed the LGBTQ Board regarding The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) certification program, which was created as part of the NGLCC's LGBT Supplier Diversity Initiative. Mr. Atkins explained that when a business is NGLCC certified, it means that the business is at least 51% owned, operated, managed, and controlled by a person or persons who identify as part of the LGBT community, including transgender and non-binary/gender non-conforming individuals, and who are either U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

Mr. Eric Ross of the Florida Hate Crime Coalition provided information regarding the need and purpose of hate crime laws. Mr. Ross explained that hate crimes target victims simply for who they are and to the assailant all that matters is that the victim appears to be of a particular race, religion, or other group. Mr. Ross requested that the LGBTQ Board join the more than 340 members of the Florida Hate Crime Coalition, including several elected officials, law enforcement agencies, civil rights groups, and other non-profit organizations, in the Coalition's efforts to



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ensure that anybody at risk of being victimized by a hate crime simply for who they are, what religion they practice, who they love, or what their national origin may be, are considered and covered under Florida's hate crime law. Joining the Florida Hate Crime Coalition is free of charge and allows the coalition to share the name of the LGBTQ Board as one of its members.

The LGBTQ Board also heard from fellow Board member Orlando Gonzales, who expressed the need for Miami -Dade County to include an LGBTQ services assessment survey for Fiscal Year 2023. This assessment will be useful in making policy recommendations where there are gaps in services to the LGBTQ community.

Based on the above presentations, in accordance with section 2-23.97 subsection (F) of the Miami-Dade Code, the Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board voted unanimously to urge the Board of County Commissioners and the County Mayor to: 1) support the Miami-Dade County Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce in its efforts to provide a list to the Miami-Dade County procurement office of local NGLCC certified businesses so that these businesses can be considered in outreach efforts and trainings on bidding for procurement contracts with Miami-Dade County; 2) authorize the LGBTQ Board to join the Florida Hate Crime Coalition; and 3) provide funding to the LGBTQ Board to participate or conduct an LGBTQ services assessment survey for Fiscal Year 2023.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these matters. We look forward to receiving your support, authorization, and comments regarding our urgings.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me through the LGBTQ Board's program director, Gabriel Paez, via email at Gabriel.Paez@miamidade.gov.

Respectfully,

Patricia Hernandez
Chairwoman Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board