

Date: July 5, 2023

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(6)
July 18, 2023

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor



Subject: Leave Donations to the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief Efforts - Directive No. 230254

This Report is in response to Resolution R-99-23, sponsored by Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on February 7, 2023, directing me to allow County employees to contribute monetary value of accrued holiday and annual leave time to the County's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund for use towards humanitarian relief efforts in Turkey and Syria, as a result of the devastating impact of an earthquake. The resolution further directed the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to evaluate donation options and make a recommendation accordingly.

Background on Turkey and Syria Earthquake

On February 6, 2023, two powerful earthquakes in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria, where it killed more than 5,000 people, injured over 22,000 and left others trapped under collapsed buildings in Turkey. In Syria, more than 1,600 people were killed, in an area that was already being torn by civil war. Both regions experienced additional challenges due to the loss of power and the freezing temperature, which made search and rescue even more arduous.

Recommendation

Because the effect of the devastation caused from this earthquake still lingers and the needs of those affected are significant, I believe it is important to provide contributions where they will have the most impact to those affected by this disaster. Of the various organizations that are positioned to best respond to the relief efforts, **Bridge to Turkiye** and the **Syrian American Medical Society Foundation (SAMS)** have been identified to be the recipients of this donation, as these organizations are experienced in responding to disasters of this kind in these respective regions.

Therefore, in accordance with Resolution No. R-99-23, I authorized the following employee contributions of earned annual and holiday leave time for the purpose listed above based on the total gross (non-taxable) amount Miami-Dade County employees donated to be given to the aforementioned recipients.

- **\$50,558.07**

I would like to recognize and thank our County employees who generously donated their personal leave to the Relief Funds and made these donations possible.

Pursuant to Rule 5.06(J) of the Board Rules of Procedure, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. Should you require any information regarding these donations, please contact Arlene Cuellar, Director, Human Resources Department, at 305-375-1589.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners
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