

Date: November 16, 2023 Agenda Item No. 2(B)(11)
December 12, 2023

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Leave Donations to the Maui Wildfire Relief Efforts - Directive No. 231655

This Report is in response to Resolution R-711-23, sponsored by Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on September 6, 2023, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor designee 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 Maui, Hawaii, as a result of the devastating impact of wildfires. The resolution further directed the Mayor or her designee to make such donations to the American Red Cross.

Background on Maui Wildfire

On August 8, 2023, Maui, a Hawaiian island, was impacted by the eruption of wildfires, one of the deadliest natural disaster in the history of the State; and, the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. in over 100 years. This was further compounded by extremely dry conditions in the region, and extraordinarily powerful winds, influenced by Hurricane Dora, as it passed roughly 500 miles south of this area. This resulted in downed powerlines and poles in the western portion of Maui, resulting in fires. In the end, over 100 people lost their lives, and more than 1,000 were unaccounted for up to two weeks after the disaster.

Recommendation

Because the effect of the devastation caused from this wildfire 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, **American Red Cross** has been identified to be the recipient of this donation, as they are experienced in responding to disasters of this magnitude.

Therefore, in accordance with Resolution No. R-711-23, 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 recipient.

- **\$49,415.21**

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 Melanie McLean, Interim 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
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff

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Melanie McLean, Interim Director, Human Resources Department
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator