

MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A) (3)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

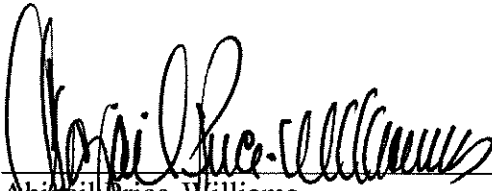
DATE: February 19, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to create a Senior Rental Assistance Pilot Program to assist extremely low- and very low-income seniors residing in unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County and to appoint staff to administer and monitor the program; establishing guidelines for such program; authorizing the County Mayor to negotiate and execute any and all necessary documents for said purpose; waiving Resolution No. R-130-06; directing the County Mayor to identify \$240,000.00 to fund the program; and requiring a report

Resolution No. R-214-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jean Monestime, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez.


Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

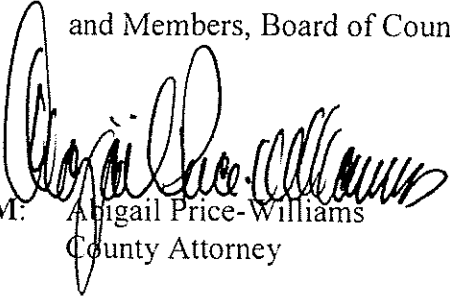


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(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
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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 _____

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)
2-19-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-214-20

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO CREATE A SENIOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST EXTREMELY LOW- AND VERY LOW-INCOME SENIORS RESIDING IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND TO APPOINT STAFF TO ADMINISTER AND MONITOR THE PROGRAM; ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR SUCH PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR THE COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR SAID PURPOSE; WAIVING RESOLUTION NO. R-130-06; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR THE COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO IDENTIFY \$240,000.00 TO FUND THE PROGRAM; AND REQUIRING A REPORT

WHEREAS, many Miami-Dade County residents 65 years and older ("seniors") live on fixed incomes or other incomes which are significantly lower than the area median income ("AMI") for Miami-Dade County as published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"); and

WHEREAS, many of those same seniors face and are burdened by increasing rents which outpace any increase in their incomes; and

WHEREAS, these unmitigated rental increases often force senior residents to choose between housing and other needs such as food and medication; and

WHEREAS, the County, as a public housing agency, is the steward of the HUD federal housing programs, such as public housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation programs, that offer subsidized housing assistance to seniors, the disabled and families; and

WHEREAS, although these housing programs provide valuable assistance to persons, including seniors, who could not otherwise afford the rising cost of rents in Miami-Dade County, this Board is deeply concerned that the demand for affordable housing far outweighs the amount of housing that is available to house such persons as demonstrated by the number of applicants that remain on the County's waiting lists; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to lift the housing cost burden of extremely low- and very low-income seniors that are severely cost burdened by high rents; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to create a locally funded rent subsidy program for seniors that would lessen the County's dependence on the underfunded federal housing programs; and

WHEREAS, such a program would be locally controlled, would have the potential for quicker placement of persons who apply for such assistance, would have more flexible policies and rules, less paperwork and fewer barriers for applicants when compared to the federal programs, would provide seniors with information and guidance on County resources and programs such as Meals on Wheels, Meals for the Elderly, the Home Care Program, Senior Companions, and Seniors with Disabilities which they could tap into for additional support; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami recently created a similar program that offers financial assistance for up to a year to income-eligible senior households residing in the City that spend more than 50 percent of their household income on housing costs; and

WHEREAS, like the City of Miami, similar programs exist in other localities such as in Portland, Oregon; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, this Board wishes to create a program to be named the "Senior Rental Assistance Pilot Program" for eligible senior residents residing in the unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County,

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

Section 1. The matters contained in the foregoing recitals are incorporated in this resolution by reference.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor to create a Senior Rental Assistance Pilot Program (“The Program”) for extremely low- and very low-income seniors (65 years or older”) residing in the unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County (“UMSA”). This Board establishes the following guidelines for the Program:

- (a) The Program shall provide direct monthly payments of \$100.00 per month to the landlords of eligible seniors for a period of 12 months.
- (b) Payments may be renewed for an additional 12 months subject to continued eligibility and availability of funds.
- (c) The Program shall be open to residents who are 65 years of age or older that meet all of the following criteria:
 - (i) have household incomes of \$1,500.00 per month or less;
 - (ii) have \$5,000.00 or less in their bank accounts;
 - (iii) do not receive other rent subsidies from any other sources;
 - (iv) have monthly rent costs that exceed 50 percent of their monthly household incomes; and
 - (v) are current on their rents at the time such residents submit their applications to the County.
- (d) The Program shall require applicants to submit the following documentation:
 - (i) proof of current income at the time of application;
 - (ii) State of Florida issued identification cards;
 - (iii) copies of executed lease agreements; and
 - (iv) affidavits attesting that the rental unit is their primary residence.

Section 3. This Board directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor’s designee to appoint staff to administer and monitor the Program. As part of the administration of the Program, staff shall provide all applicants with information and guidance on available County resources and

programs for which the applicant may be eligible, including but not limited to, Meals on Wheels, Meals for the Elderly, the Home Care Program, Senior Companions, and Seniors with Disabilities that the applicant may tap into for additional support.

Section 4. This Board further authorizes the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to negotiate and execute any documents necessary, following approval by the County Attorney's office, to carry out the purposes of the Program.

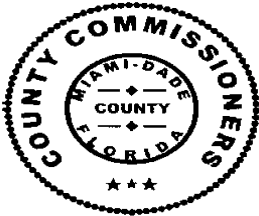
Section 5. This Board directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to identify \$240,000.00 in the fiscal year 2019-2020 County Budget--to be divided equally among each Commission district, net of administration costs--which independently or combined may be utilized to fund the Program proposed by this resolution, provided that the expenditure of any additional funds for the Program will be subject to subsequent approvals of this Board.

Section 6. This Board directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to submit a report describing the steps taken to comply with section 2 of this resolution. This Board further directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to place the completed report on an agenda of this Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65 within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jean Monestime, and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez. It was offered by Commissioner **Jean Monestime**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	aye		
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	aye		
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	absent	Daniella Levine Cava	aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Sally A. Heyman	absent
Eileen Higgins	absent	Barbara J. Jordan	absent
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Dennis C. Moss	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye
Xavier L. Suarez	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of February, 2020. 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: Linda L. Cave
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Shannon D. Summerset-Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Shannon D. Summerset-Williams