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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

TO:	Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE**:	August 31, 2020
FROM:	Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution directing the County Mayor to conduct a study regarding the prevalence of credible threats and violent attacks directed at religious institutions, facilities, and communities in Miami-Dade County, and to prepare a report on how to best limit and control such violent attacks in the future

Resolution No. R-869-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa.

APW/uw

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: August 31, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

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)(1)
8-31-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-869-20

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING THE PREVALENCE OF CREDIBLE THREATS AND VIOLENT ATTACKS DIRECTED AT RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, FACILITIES, AND COMMUNITIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND TO PREPARE A REPORT ON HOW TO BEST LIMIT AND CONTROL SUCH VIOLENT ATTACKS IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, over the last decade, the United States has experienced an increase in heinous acts of violence at religious facilities, such as churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other places of worship; and

WHEREAS, for centuries, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other places of worship have served as spiritual sanctuaries and sacred places of safety and security; and

WHEREAS, because of their nature and mission, places of worship are welcoming and trusting environments, yet regrettably these very attributes also make places of worship susceptible to violent attacks; and

WHEREAS, violent incidents in churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples have increased 34.8 percent between 2014 and 2018, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation hate crime statistics; and

WHEREAS, violence in places of worship or religious facilities can have a significant psychological impact on a community and its sense of security in the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, many religious institutions often rely on off-duty police officers to enhance security upon a credible threat against their community; and

WHEREAS, violent acts based on religious hatred are intolerable in this community and contrary to the longstanding policies of this Board; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to express its support and sympathy for the victims of violent acts against places of worship; and

WHEREAS, consequently, this Board believes there is a need for the County to study the prevalence of credible threats and violent attacks directed at religious institution facilities and communities in Miami-Dade County, including the current costs for religious institutions, facilities, in the County to hire off-duty police officers; and

WHEREAS, in addition, after a proper study, the County should prepare potential solutions for how to best limit such violent attacks at religious institutions and facilities, including any associated fiscal impacts on the County,

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

Section 1. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct a study regarding the prevalence of credible threats and violent attacks directed at religious institutions, facilities, and communities in Miami-Dade County, including the cumulative costs for religious facilities, institutions, and communities to hire off-duty police officers in response to receiving a credible threat.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to prepare a report on how to best limit and control such violent attacks, including any associated fiscal impacts on the County to provide increased security where there are credible threats. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65 within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** 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.	**aye**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Sally A. Heyman	**aye**
Eileen Higgins	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Joe A. Martinez	**absent**	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 31st day of August, 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: **Melissa Adames**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Ryan Carlin