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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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

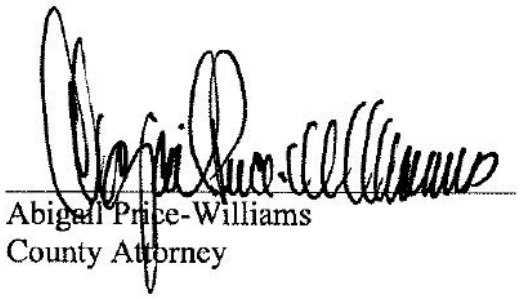
DATE: August 31, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution declaring racism a public health crisis and County emergency

Resolution No. R-875-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jean Monestime.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/lmp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: August 31, 2020

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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)(10)
8-31-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-875-20

RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND COUNTY EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, race is a social construct defined by the United States Census Bureau as a person's self-identification with one or more social groups; and

WHEREAS, ethnicity determines whether a person is of Hispanic or Latino origin or not; people of Hispanic or Latino origins may report as any race; and

WHEREAS, racism has historically been used as a powerful tool for oppression; and

WHEREAS, racism is the belief that a particular race is superior or inferior to another or that a person's social and moral traits are predetermined by genetic information; and

WHEREAS, racism takes many forms, it is more than words, beliefs, and actions, it also includes barriers that may be reflected in systems and institutions and affect or deny equality or dignity to an individual or group of people; and

WHEREAS, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while giving unfair advantages to other individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, racial groups including Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians, have historically faced severe discrimination - pervasive and open denial of civil, social, political, educational, and economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, large discrepancies in employment, income and wealth, housing, education, criminal justice, and health exist between racial groups; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and its Greater Miami Chapter issued a report entitled the Unequal Treatment: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Miami-Dade County Criminal Justice, which revealed vast inequities in treatment and outcomes for Blacks, Hispanics and non-Hispanics, within the County's criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, additionally, according to the 2019 Assessment of Racial Disparities Continuum of Care issued by the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, although Blacks make up approximately 18 percent of the County's population, they represent: (1) 57 percent of all persons experiencing homelessness; (2) 27 percent living in poverty; and (3) 68 percent of families experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in addition to other medical conditions, Blacks die from heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes, and coronavirus disease 2019, or complications from said diseases at higher rates than other races; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, the 2019-2021 University of Miami UHealth Community Needs Assessment Survey, reports that nearly one-third of Blacks in Miami-Dade County live below the federally designated poverty level; and

WHEREAS, such inequities often lead to tremendous disadvantages that pose significant and seemingly insurmountable obstacles for Blacks in their everyday lives, including, but not limited to, health and health care treatment and outcomes, educational attainment, and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, in light of such disparities, local officials across the nation are now beginning to formally recognize racism as a public health crisis or emergency and committing to take measurable steps to address it and provide better outcomes for people of color; and

WHEREAS, officials in Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties in Ohio, Montgomery County, Maryland, and San Bernardino County, California have declared racism a public health crisis or emergency and state representatives in Ohio and Michigan are reportedly looking to follow suit; and

WHEREAS, likewise, in June 2020, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh declared racism a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, similarly, in a June 12, 2020 opinion in the *Miami Herald*, Steven E. Marcus, the president and chief executive officer of the Health Foundation of South Florida referred to racism as a public health crisis and, among other matters, committed to instituting a number of measures aimed to increase inclusivity throughout the organization and provide educational opportunities related to racial equity and racism; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports providing equal opportunities to all and is committed to confronting and ending the racism, injustices, and inequities that too many members of our community face on a regular basis,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board declares racism a public health crisis and emergency in Miami-Dade County.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jean Monestime. 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	**absent**	Sally A. Heyman	**aye**
Eileen Higgins	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Joe A. Martinez	**aye**	Jean Monestime	**aye**
Dennis C. Moss	**aye**	Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**
Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the 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

Melissa Adames
By:_____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Shanika A. Graves