

MEMORANDUM

Special Item No. 11

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

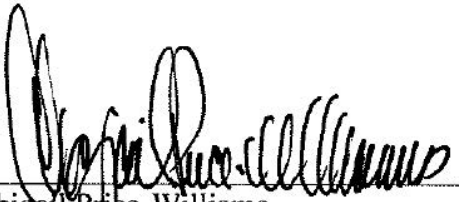
DATE: July 27, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida governor to issue an executive order, and urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation, providing relief to residents struggling to pay their property taxes in the wake of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the resulting economic impacts, such as delaying the payment of property taxes, allowing residents to pay their property taxes in installments, or waiving payment of penalties

Resolution No. R-774-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/lmp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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 _____

Special Item No. 11
7-27-20

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-774-20

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA GOVERNOR TO
ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER, AND URGING THE
FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION,
PROVIDING RELIEF TO RESIDENTS STRUGGLING TO PAY
THEIR PROPERTY TAXES IN THE WAKE OF
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND THE
RESULTING ECONOMIC IMPACTS, SUCH AS DELAYING
THE PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES, ALLOWING
RESIDENTS TO PAY THEIR PROPERTY TAXES IN
INSTALLMENTS, OR WAIVING PAYMENT OF PENALTIES

WHEREAS, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by
severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a novel coronavirus that was
first identified in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-
52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez declared a state of emergency
for Miami-Dade County as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, these orders have since been extended; and

WHEREAS, the disease has spread globally, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health
Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as of July 24, 2020, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19
worldwide is over 15 million, with more than 3.9 million of those in the United States; and

WHEREAS, overall, this pandemic has resulted in the worst economic downturn since the
Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, public health officials and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encouraged “social distancing” to reduce the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, to enforce social distancing, Governor DeSantis and Mayor Gimenez have issued executive and emergency orders restricting businesses’ and residents’ activities in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these declarations of emergency and mandatory closures of non-essential businesses in Miami-Dade County, thousands of workers in Miami-Dade County and throughout this State have been laid off, furloughed, or left with severely reduced work hours; and

WHEREAS, more than 44.2 million Americans have filed for unemployment since March 2020; and

WHEREAS, recent data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that several cities in Florida, including the Cities of Hialeah, Miami, Orlando, and Port St. Lucie, are among those in the United States that have seen the biggest spikes in unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, many of Florida’s residents and families facing financial hardship caused by the effects of COVID-19 are struggling to pay their property taxes, which puts them at risk of losing their property; and

WHEREAS, this Board is concerned about the economic impact the COVID-19 emergency is having on the ability of Florida residents to timely pay their property taxes; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to urge the Florida Governor and the Florida Legislature to provide relief to residents struggling to pay their property taxes while the severe economic impacts of COVID-19 persist,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Governor to issue an executive order providing relief to residents struggling to pay their property taxes in the wake of COVID-19 and the resulting economic crisis, such as delaying the payment of property taxes, allowing residents to pay their property taxes in up to three installments, or waiving the payment of penalties.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to adopt similar legislation that accomplishes the goals described in section 1 above.

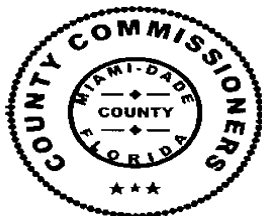
Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Florida Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 State Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2021 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and the Co-Sponsor is Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, 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.	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 27th day of July, 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.

RC

Ryan Carlin