

MEMORANDUM

Special Item No. 8

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

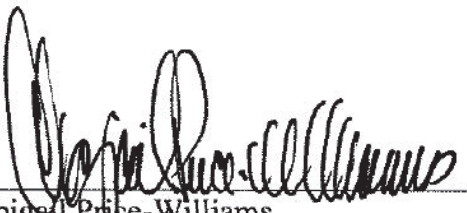
DATE: October 26, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution allocating to the St. Thomas University Center for Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine Research (STU/PDQ) a total of not-to-exceed \$3,000,000.00 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) made available through the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for vulnerable communities, to help fund STU/PDQ'S proposed initiatives to assist underserved, high risk communities with respect to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); authorizing the County Mayor to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with STU/PDQ and any other documents necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution; and requiring reports

Resolution No. R-1137-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Co-Prime Sponsors Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/uw

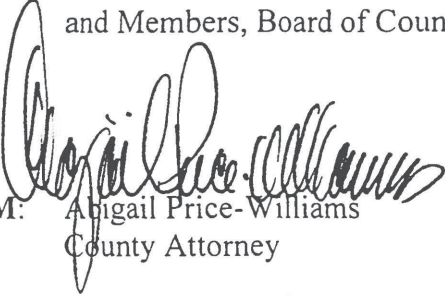


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(Revised)

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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. 8
10-26-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-1137-20

RESOLUTION ALLOCATING TO THE ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PANDEMIC, DISASTER, AND QUARANTINE RESEARCH (STU/PDQ) A TOTAL OF NOT-TO-EXCEED \$3,000,000.00 FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE 2020 CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT) FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES, TO HELP FUND STU/PDQ'S PROPOSED INITIATIVES TO ASSIST UNDERSERVED, HIGH RISK COMMUNITIES WITH RESPECT TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19); AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH STU/PDQ AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND REQUIRING REPORTS

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

WHEREAS, the disease has spread globally, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic; 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, as of October 7, 2020, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide was over 35 million, with approximately 7.5 million cases in the United States, 720,000 cases in the State of Florida, and 173,000 cases in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, to help address the public health emergency and economic downturn set in motion by the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Congress passed, and on March 27, 2020 President Donald Trump signed into law, H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”); and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act is a \$2 trillion stimulus package which provided, among other things:

- one-time checks of \$1,200 to Americans earning a certain income;
- \$349 billion in loans to small businesses;
- \$17 billion of assistance to companies deemed crucial to national security;
- grants of \$25 billion for passenger air carriers, \$4 billion for air-cargo carriers, and \$3 billion for certain contractors; and
- a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (“CRF”) for state, tribal, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act requires that the payments to local governments from the CRF only be used to cover expenses that:

- are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19;
- were not included in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for the state or local government; and
- were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida was allocated \$8.328 billion from the CRF, of which the County received \$474 million; and

WHEREAS, CRF monies must be used by December 30, 2020, and any residual returned to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this Board has approved legislation allocating CARES Act CRF funds to assist various groups of individuals, organizations, and small businesses impacted by or at risk from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in response to the public health emergency caused by COVID-19, on April 27, 2020, St. Thomas University established a Center for Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine Research (STU/PDQ) designed to track the impact of emerging, expanding, and extended pandemics and disasters on all socio-economic aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, STU/PDQ measures, tracks and analyzes the long-term influence of disasters and pandemics on business practices, ethical decision-making, consumer behaviors, crime, societal norms and biases, climate, law, health, government, international relations, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, additionally, STU/PDQ seeks to form data-sharing partnerships and conduct research in collaboration with companies, institutions, and government to aid in prevention, mitigation, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, STU/PDQ has requested funding from the County to assist it in its efforts to address COVID-19 related concerns in our community, particularly with respect to underserved, high risk populations, and recently released a proposal (the “proposal”) outlining STU/PDQ’s planned allocation of said funds; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the proposal is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the initiatives for which the proposal requests financial support from the County include:

- funding for the creation of a COVID community center facility on the St. Thomas University campus that will operate as a central hub for providing direct business, legal, health and data tracking and analysis resources to the community, and particularly underserved, high risk populations within the community;
- funding to staff two clinical faculty positions, a COVID Opportunity Access Clinician and a COVID Health Law Clinician, to help improve STU/PDQ's ability to provide comprehensive legal services to the community to address the host of legal problems presented by COVID-19;
- funding to establish technological infrastructure to enable STU/PDQ to best collect COVID-19 related data from the community and to enable STU/PDQ to analyze, research, and interpret said data; and
- funding to provide resources to community-based organizations that serve high risk populations with regard to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports these initiatives, and accordingly, desires to allocate, from the \$10 million in CARES Act CRF funds previously set aside for vulnerable communities, a total of not-to-exceed \$3 million of such funds to STU/PDQ to help fund such initiatives,

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

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. This Board allocates to STU/PDQ a total of not-to-exceed \$3,000,000.00 in CRF funds made available through the CARES Act for vulnerable communities, to help fund STU/PDQ's proposed initiatives to assist underserved, high risk communities with respect to COVID-19.

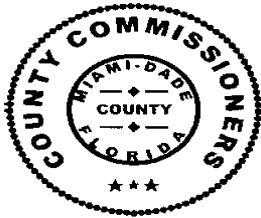
Section 3. This Board authorizes the County Mayor or designee to negotiate and execute a grant or other appropriate agreement with STU/PDQ and to execute any other documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution, following approval of such agreement and documents by the County Attorney's Office for legal form and sufficiency.

Section 4. This Board directs the County Mayor or designee to provide a written report to this Board within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution, and every 30 days thereafter, detailing the status of the negotiations of the grant agreement with STU/PDQ until the agreement is executed, and thereafter monthly reports shall be provided by STU/PDQ. Such reports shall be placed on agendas of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Co-Prime Sponsors of the foregoing resolution are Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** 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	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Dennis C. Moss	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye
Xavier L. Suarez	absent		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 26th day of October, 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.

MSM

Michael J. Mastrucci



The following proposal outlines STU's Center for Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine Research's ("PDQ") planned allocation for the resources we respectfully request from the County to address COVID related concerns in our community. In summary, we respectfully request your financial support for the following initiatives: (I) funding to provide to address COVID related issues in the County with regard to underserved, high risk communities, (II) funding to staff two legal clinician positions, (III) funding to establish a technological infrastructure to enable the PDQ to best collect COVID related data from the community, (IV) funding to analyze, research, and interpret the data collected through the technological infrastructure. (V) funding to provide resources to community-based organizations that serve high at risk populations with regard to COVID-19.

I. COVID COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY

STU/PDQ will provide a location on Campus to create a facility to address COVID related issues in the County. The center will operate as the central hub for providing direct business, legal, health and data tracking and analysis resources to the community.

Establishing a facility on our campus enhances its long term viability and continued sustainability as its operation will be bolstered by STU's academic community and resources. Successful facilities tend to be social hubs: they are centrally located in the community and are staffed by people well-liked in the community. The facility will provide the high risk/underserved populations with a defined location to gain support and assistance for COVID related issues.

The facility's functionality will be driven by its purpose to address community related COVID concerns. The business, legal, health and data tracking related programs offered by the Center will drive the creation of the facility's ongoing activity will be driven by the needs of the high risk community as we embark on the long and multi-faceted recovery from COVID-19. .

Through the operation of the facility, the Center will provide the following COVID based services and resources:

Business Consultation: Business owners in our community, many of whom already operate on very narrow margins, are struggling with questions about how their businesses will survive the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only do these businesses provide necessary services in our communities but they also provide employment, job training, and other benefits. Their survival is essential to the development of our County. As such, another service that we plan to offer in the facility are business consultation services for helping business to develop best practices for addressing operational, financial, health and technological challenges due to COVID. We will also establish a grant program for small businesses that services underserved and high risk

communities to help them adapt to the changes that COVID-19 necessities, retrospectively and prospectively. .

Legal Consultation: To ensure that the community is sufficiently able to access the health related information and care for COVID, we will establish legal representation, counseling, and training to address those legal concerns that impair access to health care, as well as issues effecting businesses that have been impaired because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Health Services: Through the facility we also plan to provide COVID-19 screening, testing and consultation. In addition, we plan to use the facility to ensure that adequate amounts of medical supplies, equipment, medication, and PPE is available to those that need these resources. We also plan to: document patient and employee responses to risk assessment screening questions, educate and train to those community business and individuals on best practices for dealing with COVID patients and risk, coordinating COVID-19 preparedness and response activities, and identifying any needed corrective actions through COVID-19 training and exercises. We will also partner with Community based organizations that provide health services to underserved communities in an effort to expand the reach of the Center and exponentially grow the number of people that can be helped through this recovery process.

Big Data, Business Data Analytics, and Research: The newness of Covid-19 has demonstrated the lack of understanding of the research community about the use of appropriate frameworks to conceptualize, assess, and measure the impacts of fast evolving dynamic Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine events. It has become evident that public and private disaster management capabilities need to be enhanced and strengthened in terms of datam information, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery. Each of these areas represents a different set of challenges and opportunities. Similarly, the top cited research articles published at the Social Citation Index – Web of Knowledge about Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine events do not specifically address the critical issues mentioned above. As a result, the STU Center for Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine Research will provide the community with timely curated data, information, white papers, op eds, and academic research in regards the most pressing issues related to Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine events.

II. TWO CLINICAL FACULTY POSITIONS

As part of this proposal, we request financial resources to fund two positions, a COVID Opportunity Access Clinician and a COVID Health Law Clinician, to help improve the PDQ's ability to provide comprehensive legal services to the community to address the host of legal problems presented by COVID. Funding these positions is a critical component of providing the community with the necessary support.

COVID Opportunity Access Clinician: This position will assist the community with dealing with non-health related issues created by COVID. For example, the person in this role will supervise and manage the STU law students to assist people with answering the follow types of issues:

- Who is responsible for losses when a supplier cannot supply a customer due to the COVID-19 outbreak?
- Assist local business with navigating and decoding the provisions contained in the CARES Act, and Paycheck Protection Plan.
- If employees lose health coverage in connection with leaves related to the COVID-19 outbreak, can a company waive plan requirements and continue coverage? If not, is the employee entitled to COBRA benefits?
- Must companies provide disability pay to their employees if they are unable to come (or prohibited from coming) to work due to the COVID-19 outbreak?
- What are the best ways to structure temporary or limited scope licenses to intellectual property in connection with COVID-19?
- Can employers require use of applications to track COVID-19 exposure or symptoms associated with the virus?
- Can a company force employees to stay home if they show symptoms or have traveled to affected areas? What are the rules about paying them?¹

COVID Health Law Clinician: This position will focus on promoting system-level expertise and consultation regarding COVID based health care policy to assure and improve access to care for residents in our County experiencing COVID. The COVID Health Law Clinician will analyze, and provide comment on regulations and policies related to healthcare access and treatment of COVID. In addition, the COVID Health Law Clinician will play a key role in educating and informing other advocates, consumers, service providers, and policymakers about the COVID based health care concerns of our residents.

III. DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

A critical component of any successful community outreach program involves creating mechanisms to ensure that the target population has access to information. Without access, the target population remains underserved. To remedy this problem, and to ensure that the Center is in the best position to support the community, we request funding for the following technological tools:

1. Support to create a personalized mobile application that can be downloaded by residents to receive and provide COVID based data and to provide quick access to resources that are available to help high risk populations through the COVID-19 Recovery.

¹ <https://www.sidley.com/-/media/uploads/sidley-austin--covid19-key-client-issues.pdf?la=en>

2. Support to create an “open data platform” to allow residents to access meaningful COVID based data on one webpage, create reports and download information relating to, outbreaks, financial resources, and other important alerts. This open data website will provide residents, visitors and businesses access to a growing number of datasets to make informed decisions regarding COVID.²
3. Support to establish a comprehensive crowd sourcing platform to enable business and other residents in the community to share COVID based information.

² For an example of how “open data websites operate to provide valuable community information please visit:
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transparency>