

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 2, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to appropriate funding to the Common Threads program; and urging the United States Department of Agriculture to increase the allowable portion size expense from "tasting" to "meal-sized" under the educational component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as "SNAP-Ed" in order to combat food insecurity more effectively through education and to provide grant funding to the Common Threads program located in Miami-Dade County

Resolution No. R-574-21

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 2, 2021

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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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 _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)
6-2-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-574-21

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO THE COMMON THREADS PROGRAM; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INCREASE THE ALLOWABLE PORTION SIZE EXPENSE FROM “TASTING” TO “MEAL-SIZED” UNDER THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM KNOWN AS “SNAP-ED” IN ORDER TO COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY MORE EFFECTIVELY THROUGH EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING TO THE COMMON THREADS PROGRAM LOCATED IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the famed adage “*give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime,*” truly exemplifies the charge of Common Threads, Incorporated (“Common Threads”); and

WHEREAS, founded in 2003, Common Threads is a national nonprofit that provides children and families with cooking and nutritional education to encourage healthy habits that contribute to wellness; and

WHEREAS, Common Threads seeks to equip under-resourced communities with vital information needed to make affordable, nutritious, and appealing food choices where they live, work, learn, and play; and

WHEREAS, understanding that food is rooted in culture and tradition, Common Threads also seeks to promote diversity through its lessons and recipes, while encouraging its participants to celebrate the world around them; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit and vein of celebrating and cultivating diversity in under-resourced communities through cuisine, the Miami-Dade County branch of Common Threads was established in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Common Threads has identified that 20 percent of Florida's children ages 10-17 experience food insecurity which places children at a 22 percent greater risk of becoming obese; and

WHEREAS, through diligent and unrelenting grassroots efforts to combat said food insecurity, Common Threads has facilitated nutrition education programs to children, parents, teachers, and families, reaching over 90,000 Floridians, including countless Miami-Dade County residents; and

WHEREAS, boasting programs such as Small Bites, Cooking Skills and World Cuisine, Family Cooking Classes, the Family Meals Initiative, Healthy Teacher Trainings, and Parent Workshops, Common Threads has partnered with 19 Miami-Dade County Public Schools, including Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Natural Bridge Elementary, and 15 Parks and Recreation sites in Miami-Dade County, where it provides extensive cooking and nutrition education; and

WHEREAS, this innovative programming has also afforded over 200 Miami-Dade County educators with extensive training on how to incorporate nutrition education into their instruction as well as ensured the successful delivery of more than 10,000 snacks and meals to over 900 Miami-Dade County residents; and

WHEREAS, despite the ever-changing challenges presented by the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), Common Threads has successfully partnered with community stakeholders to deliver over 12,000 pounds of fresh and mostly local produce to 200 families through established Miami-Dade County school sites; and

WHEREAS, during the 2021 Florida Legislative Session, an appropriation request for Common Threads was filed as House Bill (“HB”) 3719 by Representative Dotie Joseph (D – North Miami); and

WHEREAS, HB 3719 was unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, Common Threads now seeks to obtain \$232,134.00 in federal funding from the United States Congress to help sustain its vital and impactful diverse programming throughout the State of Florida, and most notably within Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (“SNAP-Ed”) is a federal grant program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture which funds projects, like Common Threads, aimed at assisting individuals with making healthier food and lifestyle choices that prevent obesity; and

WHEREAS, under its current regulation, SNAP-Ed provides funding for “tasting-sized” meal portions which merely equate to a small paper cup; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that families obtain adequate nutritional food portions, it is imperative that the current “tasting-size” portion expense allotment be increased to “meal-sized” portions to both facilitate and financially support adequate food distribution and real-world instruction; and

WHEREAS, although other branches of Common Threads currently receive SNAP-Ed finding, the Miami-Dade County branch has yet to be approved for this vital financial support despite servicing at least 30 percent of the organization’s entire population; and

WHEREAS, because this Board recognizes the importance of combatting food insecurities in underserved communities through competent programming and well-funded resources, it fully supports the allocation of funding to Common Threads and the increase of the

allowable portion size expense under SNAP-Ed from “tasting-size” to “meal-sized” portions, in an effort to effectively equip the residents of Miami-Dade County with the tools necessary to “fish for a lifetime”,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to appropriate funding to the Common Threads Program.

Section 2. Urges the United States Department of Agriculture to increase the allowable portion size expense from “tasting” to “meal-sized” under the educational component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as “SNAP-Ed” in order to more effectively combat food insecurity through education and provide grant funding to the Common Threads Program located in Miami-Dade County.

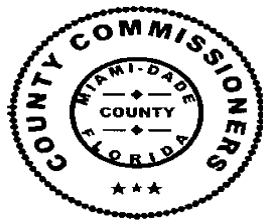
Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Section 4. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in sections 1 and 2 above and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

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:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	aye		
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	aye		
Sen. René García	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of June, 2021. 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.

NLC

Nykeah L. Cohen