

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(3)

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

**DATE:** September 1, 2021

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing the County Mayor to continue the County's collaboration with University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disorders ("CARD") to develop appropriate messaging that considers the particular needs of neurodivergent persons in current and future COVID-19 vaccine educational campaign(s); and provide a report

Resolution No. R-837-21

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/jp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

**DATE:** September 1, 2021

**FROM:**   
Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 14(A)(3)

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. 14(A)(3)  
9-1-21

RESOLUTION NO. R-837-21

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CONTINUE THE COUNTY'S COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI-NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS ("CARD") TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE MESSAGING THAT CONSIDERS THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF NEURODIVERGENT PERSONS IN CURRENT AND FUTURE COVID-19 VACCINE EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN(S); AND PROVIDE A REPORT

**WHEREAS**, the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic has had a devastating impact globally and locally since March 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2020, the United States Food and Drug Administration issued Emergency Use Authorizations ("EUA") for two COVID-19 vaccines, and issued an EUA for a third vaccine in February 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on Miami-Dade County, this Board believes it is important to educate the community about the vaccines, considering that some members of the community learn and process information differently than others; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disorders ("CARD") estimates that there may be as many as 50,000 individuals with autism spectrum disorder ("ASD") in Miami-Dade County and there are over 7,500 individuals with autism registered with CARD; and

**WHEREAS**, CARD provides services throughout the County for children and adults who have ASD, in addition to other disorders that may co-exist with autism; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2021, this Board passed Resolution No. R-59-21 directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to enter into an agreement with CARD for the development of a county-wide autism and neurodivergent inclusion program, which may consist of social stories, a social learning tool that assists individuals with ASD to understand their environment and helps in reducing anxiety in new places and interactions; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board has acknowledged that signage that corresponds to images in social stories, or indicates that certain spaces are sensory friendly, can help individuals with ASD in navigating civic spaces and reduce anxiety; and

**WHEREAS**, use of social stories, frequently asked questions, and other resources in the County's educational materials may help orient individuals with ASD to the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board believes it is important to include materials that appeal to neurodivergent populations in any current or future COVID-19 vaccine educational campaign(s) throughout the County,

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

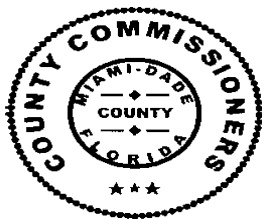
**Section 1.** Directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to continue the County's collaboration with University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disorders ("CARD") to develop appropriate messaging that considers the particular needs of neurodivergent persons in current and future COVID-19 vaccine educational campaign(s).

**Section 2.** Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to provide a report on the actions referenced in section 1 above within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution and to place the completed report on an agenda of this Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. 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            | <b>aye</b>    |
| Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman | <b>aye</b>    |
| Sen. René García                      | <b>absent</b> |
| Sally A. Heyman                       | <b>aye</b>    |
| Eileen Higgins                        | <b>aye</b>    |
| Kionne L. McGhee                      | <b>aye</b>    |
| Raquel A. Regalado                    | <b>aye</b>    |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto                  | <b>aye</b>    |
| Keon Hardemon                         | <b>aye</b>    |
| Danielle Cohen Higgins                | <b>aye</b>    |
| Joe A. Martinez                       | <b>aye</b>    |
| Jean Monestime                        | <b>aye</b>    |
| Rebeca Sosa                           | <b>aye</b>    |

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 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.  
Ashlee A. Pouncy