

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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

DATE: September 1, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution reappointing
Judge Steven Leifman to the
Miami-Dade County
Homeless Trust Board;
waiving by a two-thirds vote
of its full membership the
term limit restrictions of
section 2-752(c) of the Code
of Miami-Dade County

Resolution No. R-840-22

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: September 1, 2022

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(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. 11(A)(3)
9-1-22

RESOLUTION NO. R-840-22

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JUDGE STEVEN LEIFMAN
TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HOMELESS TRUST
BOARD; WAIVING BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ITS FULL
MEMBERSHIP THE TERM LIMIT RESTRICTIONS OF
SECTION 2-752(C) OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

WHEREAS, Judge Steven Leifman’s (“Judge Leifman”) dedication, service and experience as Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade County Court Criminal Division from 2007-2010 and his service as Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health for the Supreme Court of Florida has significantly contributed to Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leifman chaired the Florida Supreme Court’s Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Court from 2010 to 2018, and currently chairs the newly created Steering Committee on Problem Solving Courts for the Supreme Court of Florida and the Mental Health Committee for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leifman has served with distinction as a member of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (“Homeless Trust”) since 2001; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leifman has also served as the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Homeless Trust since 2004; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leifman is an appointment to the Homeless Trust Board by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leifman has been instrumental and nationally recognized for his work in decriminalizing mental illness in Miami-Dade County and serves as a Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health for the Supreme Court of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leifman has also served as Chairman of South Florida Behavioral Health Network which oversees funding designated by the State of Florida to help individuals with mental disorders and addiction problems; and

WHEREAS, data shows that a large percentage of homeless individuals in Miami-Dade County suffer from mental illness and addiction; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leifman's continued service ensures the representation of an expert in the area of criminal justice and mental health on the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Board, which serves as the lead agency for the Continuum of Care, as it works to coordinate with a network of partners and providers to end homelessness in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 2-752(c) of the Miami-Dade County Code (the "Code"), this Board by a two-thirds vote of its full membership is authorized to waive the established term limits; and

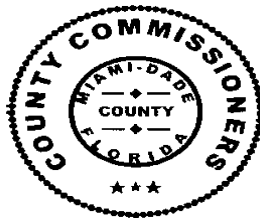
WHEREAS, a copy of Judge Leifman's biography and a letter from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce recommending his reappointment are attached hereto as Attachments "A" and "B", respectively,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board, pursuant to section 2-752(c) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, waives the established term limits by a two-thirds vote of its full membership, thereby approving the reappointment of Steve Leifman to the Homeless Trust Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Sally A. Heyman. It was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** 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	absent	Keon Hardemon	aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez	absent
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 1st day of September, 2022. 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: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Shannon D. Summerset

JUDGE STEVEN LEIFMAN

Biography

Judge Steve Leifman is the Associate Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade County Court – Criminal Division. From 2007 to 2010, Judge Leifman served as Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health for the Supreme Court of Florida. In this capacity, Judge Leifman was responsible for chairing the Court's Mental Health Subcommittee which authored a ground-breaking report entitled, *Transforming Florida's Mental Health System*.¹ This report, which has received considerable state and national recognition, outlines recommendations for redesigning services, systems, and financing strategies with the goal of decreasing inappropriate and costly involvement of people with mental illnesses in the justice system by increasing access to comprehensive and cost-efficient community-based services that target specialized treatment needs.

From 2010 to 2018, Judge Leifman chaired the Florida Supreme Court's Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Court. He currently chairs the newly created Steering Committee on Problem Solving Courts for the Supreme Court of Florida and the Mental Health Committee for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. As a result of Judge Leifman's work, Miami-Dade County has seen significant reductions in arrests and recidivism rates among individuals with mental illnesses, the burden of providing psychiatric services through the jail has been eased, and the county is saving millions of dollars annually.

Due to his expertise in the areas of criminal justice and mental health, Judge Leifman has been appointed to serve in a variety of capacities on local, state, and national bodies, including Co-Chair of the Council of State Governments/TAPA Center for Jail Diversion Judges' Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative, Co-Chair of the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force, Board of Directors of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, Board of Directors of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, member of the National Leadership Forum for Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Services, member of the American Bar Association Task Force on Criminal Justice Mental Health Standards, Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Mental Health Committee, Co-Chair of the Florida Bar Mental Health Committee and a Voluntary Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami School of Medicine. In addition, Judge Leifman serves as Chair of the South Florida Behavioral Health Network and Finance Chair of the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust. He is also the past Board Chair of Florida Partners in Crisis.

Judge Leifman received the 2015 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence. One of the nation's highest judicial honors presented by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., the Rehnquist Award is presented annually to a state court judge who exemplifies judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Judge Leifman is also the first recipient to receive the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence (2015). More recently, Judge Leifman was awarded the 2018 Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health and he was named by New Times as one of Miami-Dade's most interesting people of 2017. He also was also named

¹ Available at: http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/documents/11-14-2007_Mental_Health_Report.pdf

a 2016 Governing Magazine Public Official of the Year. One of eight honorees, the award recognizes governmental leaders who exemplify the ideals of public service.

Judge Leifman has been featured in many national and local television programs, radio programs and articles regarding mental health and the criminal justice system including, The New England Journal of Medicine, the Atlantic Magazine, CBS News, USA Today, CNN: Anderson Cooper Special Report, CNN: Special Investigations Unit: The Criminally Insane, NBC Nightly News, PBS: Minds on the Edge, Facing Mental Illness, NPR: All Things Considered, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal; Governing Magazine, the Samantha Bee Show on TBS, CBS4: The Forgotten Floor, WPLG- TV10: This Week in South Florida, WPBT2 South Florida PBS, Miami Herald and Miami Today. He has also authored and published numerous articles and book chapters on mental illnesses and the criminal justice system.



May 31, 2022

Ms. Victoria L. Mallette
Executive Director
Miami Dade County Homeless Trust
111 NW 1st Street, 27th Floor
Miami, FL 33128-1930

Dear Ms. Mallette:

The Chamber received your request regarding the reappointment of The Honorable Steve Leifman, Judge Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Board. We join with you in acknowledging his invaluable service and contribution to this community, especially with his tireless work to offer service rather than sentencing to those homeless suffering from addiction or mental health issues.

With this letter, please accept our recommendation to reappoint Judge Leifman to the Board as one of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's appointees. The Chamber is pleased to be represented by outstanding individuals like Judge Leifman, and we are proud to continue our support of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. Your work makes the community a better place to live for all.

If you have any questions, please let me know. My direct line is (305) 577-5054 or via email at asanchez@miamichamber.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AS" or "Alfred Sanchez", written in a fluid, cursive style.

Alfred Sanchez
President & CEO

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
1 SE Third Avenue, Suite 1410, Miami, FL 33131
305-350-7700 • Fax 305-374-6902
www.MiamiChamber.com