

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 7, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County
Mayor to conduct a feasibility
study regarding the County's
establishment and operation of a
dog sanctuary in District 8, and
preferably the Redland, and to
provide a report

Resolution No. R-214-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 7, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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)(5)
3-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-214-23

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CONDUCT A
FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING THE COUNTY'S
ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A DOG
SANCTUARY IN DISTRICT 8, AND PREFERABLY THE
REDLAND, AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, through its Animal Services Department, operates the
Pet Adoption and Protection Center, which sits on a 5.04-acre site and has a building size of 70,000
square feet; and

WHEREAS, among the various services provided at the Pet Adoption and Protection
Center, the County provides shelter for homeless dogs and cats, including air-conditioned kennels
and exercise and play areas; and

WHEREAS, many of the dogs and cats at the shelter are there because their owners
surrendered them or because they were found abandoned or neglected; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Miami-Dade County No Kill Animal Shelter Policy,
which this Board adopted under the Save Charlie Act, Resolution No. R-1255-20, the Animal
Services Department does not euthanize animals in its custody unless the animal has proven to be
dangerous with a poor to grave prognosis for rehabilitation or irremediably suffers with a poor to
grave prognosis for being able to live without unnecessary physical pain or suffering, even with
prompt, necessary, and comprehensive veterinary care; and

WHEREAS, the Pet Adoption and Protection Center prioritizes the adoption of pets at the
shelter and provides various services to encourage the adoption of pets to members of the public;
and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 5-5 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the Animal Services Department also partners with animal rescue organizations to promote the adoption of pets at the County shelter, and such organizations often foster and hold custody of adoptable pets; and

WHEREAS, despite the extensive space and services provided at the Pet Adoption and Protection Center, and despite the County's partnerships with animal rescue organizations, the County currently does not have capacity at the shelter to take custody of more pets; and

WHEREAS, when both the County and the County's animal rescue partners are over capacity and unable to take custody of more pets, people who wish to relinquish ownership of their pets unfortunately could end up euthanizing the pets or abandoning them on the streets or in the wild, where, having been raised in a domestic environment, the pets may not be able to fend for themselves; and

WHEREAS, space could be freed up at the Pet Adoption and Protection Center if the County had another location to house pets that have been in County custody for a long time but still have not been adopted; and

WHEREAS, one option could be for the County to find existing County-owned land or to purchase or lease land in District 8, and preferably the Redland, for the purpose of establishing a dog sanctuary, where dogs that have been living in County custody for a long time can be housed; and

WHEREAS, such a dog sanctuary could provide more living and exercising space for these dogs, while also providing an alternative environment where members of the public could visit and adopt a new pet; and

WHEREAS, establishing and continuing to operate a dog sanctuary would have an initial and an ongoing fiscal impact; and

WHEREAS, this Board therefore wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct a feasibility study regarding the establishment and operation of a dog sanctuary in District 8,

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

Section 1. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct a feasibility study regarding the County's establishment and operation of a dog sanctuary in District 8, and preferably the Redland, which would provide additional housing and adoption opportunities for dogs that remain in the County's custody for extended periods of time. The feasibility study shall address, at a minimum: the expected fiscal impact of a dog sanctuary, including potential funding sources for its establishment and operation; the availability of existing County-owned land or the purchase or lease of suitable land in District 8, and preferably the Redland; the construction of the facility; the ongoing operation and maintenance of the facility, including what equipment, inventory, and staffing would be needed; and the expected short-term and long-term benefits that the facility would provide.

Section 2. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to prepare a written report setting forth the findings of the feasibility study. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall provide the report to this Board within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution, with no extensions of time permitted due to the urgency of the matter, and place the completed report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	absent
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of March 2023. 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

LUIS G. MONTALDO, CLERK AD INTERIM

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl