

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

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 urging the Florida
Legislature to enact Senate Bill
("SB") 364, House Bill ("HB")
535, or similar legislation that
would provide bereavement
benefits to law enforcement
officers

Resolution No. R-225-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez and Co-Sponsor Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III.


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)(16)

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)(16)
3-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-225-23

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
ENACT SENATE BILL (“SB”) 364, HOUSE BILL (“HB”) 535,
OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE
BEREAVEMENT BENEFITS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers courageously serve and protect Miami-Dade County and its residents, often at great personal risk to their own lives and safety; and

WHEREAS, Florida law does not currently allow the head of a law enforcement agency to grant administrative leave to officers seeking to attend the funeral services of an officer from their agency who was killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, in addition, under current law, the sum of \$1,000.00 provided to the families of officers killed in the line of duty to cover funeral expenses is insufficient to cover even the most low-cost funeral and burial expenses; and

WHEREAS, officers seeking to attend the funeral service of a colleague killed in the line of duty should be entitled to use a state vehicle to attend the service and should be reimbursed for travel expenses; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2023, Senator Bryan Avila (R – Hialeah Gardens) introduced SB 364, the “Respecting the Sacrifice of Law Enforcement Officers Act,” for consideration during the 2023 session of the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, SB 364 would (1) authorize the head of a law enforcement agency to grant administrative leave to a law enforcement officer seeking to attend the funeral services of another officer from the agency who was killed in the line of duty; (2) increase the sum to be paid toward

the funeral and burial expenses of officers killed in the line of duty from \$1,000.00 to \$10,000.00; and (3) permit officers seeking to attend the funeral service of a fellow officer killed in the line of duty to use official state vehicles to attend those services and to seek reimbursement for related travel expenses; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2023, House Representative Adam Botana (R – Bonita Springs) introduced HB 535, the “Respecting their Sacrifice Act,” a companion bill that would afford the same bereavement benefits as those called for in SB 364; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports legislation that would make it easier for law enforcement officers to attend the funeral services of those officers who were killed in the line of duty and offer greater financial support to the families of those fallen officers to assist with funeral and burial costs,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact Senate Bill 364, House Bill 535, or similar legislation that would provide bereavement benefits to officers whose colleagues were killed in the line of duty and increased financial support to the families of those officers killed in the line of duty to assist with funeral and burial costs.

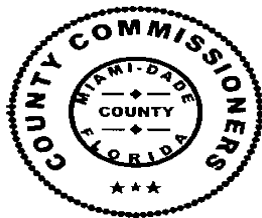
Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Senator Bryan Avila, Representative Adam Botana, and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Further directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2023 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez and the Co-Sponsor is Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III. 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.

SMS

Sophia Guzzo