

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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

DATE: June 21, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing support for the statewide responsible fatherhood initiative and Miami-Dade County Public Schools' "Fathers in Education Day" and "Fathers in Action & Advocacy Week" initiatives; directing the County Mayor to support said Miami-Dade County Public Schools initiatives commencing in 2024 and each year thereafter that Miami-Dade County Public Schools celebrates and recognizes same; and declaring the month of June 2023 and June of each year thereafter as Responsible Fatherhood month

Resolution No. R-544-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: June 21, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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)(6)
6-21-23

RESOLUTION NO. R-544-23

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE STATEWIDE RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' "FATHERS IN EDUCATION DAY" AND "FATHERS IN ACTION & ADVOCACY WEEK" INITIATIVES; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO SUPPORT SAID MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INITIATIVES COMMENCING IN 2024 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATES AND RECOGNIZES SAME; AND DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023 AND JUNE OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER AS RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD MONTH

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2022, House Bill ("HB") 7065 was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis and is now codified in chapter 2022-67 of the Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, HB 7065, often referred to as the "Responsible Fatherhood" bill, provides a wide array of family and youth support designed to encourage and promote involved and responsible fatherhood efforts throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, there are more than 18 million children in the United States—one out of every four—who do not have a biological, step, or adoptive father in their home; and

WHEREAS, research shows that children born in fatherless homes are at much greater risks of infant mortality, dropping out of school, and running away from home or experiencing homelessness, among other serious threats; and

WHEREAS, conversely, research also shows that children with fathers who are involved in their lives are statistically less likely to suffer from abuse or neglect and to develop behavioral or psychological problems; and

WHEREAS, consequently, a central component of HB 7065 is the Florida Department of Children and Families' development and implementation of the "Responsible Fatherhood Initiative," a statewide initiative that will promote awareness of the importance of responsible fatherhood and equip fathers with significant resources to stay engaged in their children's lives and parent effectively; and

WHEREAS, for several reasons, including to recognize the importance of fathers in their children's lives, HB 7065 designates the month of June as "Responsible Fatherhood Month"; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Legislature appropriated millions of dollars to fund grants and various programs reflected in HB 7065, including some intended to help fathers find jobs, transition from periods of incarceration, access health care, and obtain critical parenting education; and

WHEREAS, for example, pursuant to HB 7065, the Florida Department of Children and Families will award grants to nonprofit community-based organizations for the provision of evidence-based parenting education to help fathers stay engaged and connect with their children, as well as comprehensive case management services tailored to the specific needs of the fathers being served; and

WHEREAS, locally, Miami-Dade County Public Schools ("M-DCPS") is also investing in initiatives that promote the importance of fathers in their children's lives and advancing ideas to encourage and support fathers; and

WHEREAS, M-DCPS recently recognized “Fathers in Education Day” on April 20, 2023, and “Fathers in Action & Advocacy Week” during the week of April 17-21, 2023, while celebrating both initiatives’ 10th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, on “Fathers in Education Day,” M-DCPS celebrates fathers who are involved in schools and invites fathers and male mentors to read and share activities with students; and

WHEREAS, during “Fathers in Action & Advocacy Week,” M-DCPS hosts workshops that encourage engaged fathers to support children’s education, as well as social and emotional development events that focus on and celebrate the important role fathers play in their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, data indicates that when fathers are involved in their children’s education, children have better attendance records, learn more, perform better in school, are more involved in school activities and exhibit healthier behavior, in contrast to when fathers are not engaged in their children’s education; and

WHEREAS, children whose fathers are not involved in their education are two times more likely to repeat a grade or drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports statewide and local initiatives that provide much-needed assistance to fathers and which foster positive child well-being for years to come,

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

Section 1. Supports the statewide “Responsible Fatherhood” initiative and Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ “Fathers in Education Day” and “Fathers in Action & Advocacy Week” initiatives.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to support M-DCPS’ “Fathers in Education Day” and “Father in Action & Advocacy Week” initiatives by using legally available funding sources, as necessary, to provide resources or support programs determined to be beneficial for such initiatives. Said supportive efforts shall commence in 2024 and each year thereafter that M-DCPS celebrates and recognizes said initiatives.

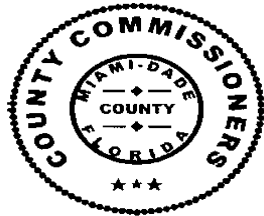
Section 3. Declares the month of June 2023 and each June thereafter as “Responsible Fatherhood Month.”

Section 4. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to publicly recognize and promote the importance of fathers in their children’s lives during “Responsible Fatherhood Month.”

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins**, 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		absent
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman		aye
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	absent	Sen. René García aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins absent
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado aye
Micky Steinberg	aye	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of June, 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

Basia Pruna

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SAG", is written over a horizontal line.

Shanika A. Graves