

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(E)(1)

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 approving and
authorizing the Miami-Dade Fire
Rescue Observer Program

Resolution No. R-515-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Fire Rescue Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh

Memorandum



Date: June 21, 2023

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Observer Program

Executive Summary

This item is to approve and authorize the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR) to operate the Observer Program. This program is for individuals who are 18 years or older and interested in seeing MDFR personnel engaged in service calls as well as other on-duty tasks. Participants are from myriad sectors of the community and may include, but are not limited to, elected officials, licensed medical personnel, visiting fire rescue personnel from national and international jurisdictions, and other members of the community. Program participants are typically individuals interested in careers as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)/Paramedics (PMD) or firefighters.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Observer Program.

Scope

The impact of this item is countywide in nature.

Delegation of Authority

There is no delegation of authority.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact to the County.

Track Record/Monitor

The Observer Program is monitored by an assigned MDFR Division Chief or his or her designee.

Background

The Observer Program permits individuals to ride on MDFR fire rescue vehicles and see MDFR personnel engaged in service calls as well as other on-duty tasks. The majority of program participants are individuals interested in careers such as EMT/PMD or firefighters. Observers also include, but are not limited to, elected officials, licensed medical personnel, visiting fire rescue personnel, and other members of the community. Observers are prohibited from participating in the delivery of emergency medical services or fire suppression activities.

Program participants:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older.
2. Who are U.S. Citizens or Residents must:
 - a. Provide a valid Driver's License or other U.S. government-issued photo identification.
3. Who are Foreign visitors must:
 - a. Provide a copy of his or her Birth Certificate; and
 - b. Provide photo identification, passport, or Driver's License issued by government where they reside.
4. Who are national or international fire rescue personnel must:
 - a. Provide a letter of introduction from their department including their supervisor's name and telephone number.
5. Have a criminal background screening, conducted at their own expense, with satisfactory results.
6. Execute Hold Harmless and Confidentiality Agreements.
7. Must wear dark colored slacks, dark colored shoes, and a white shirt/blouse. Jeans, t-shirts, high heels, ballet flats, and sneakers are not allowed. It is acceptable for Miami-Dade Employees to wear County approved authorized uniforms.

The Confidentiality Agreement shall define confidential information to include, but not be limited to, information on patients, employees, or other individuals who the participant observes receiving services as well as cover all things the participant observed or discussed. Some information is made confidential by law, such as protected health information or (PHI) under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, HIPAA, or by Miami-Dade County policies.

Approval to observe may be denied for any valid reason as determined by the MDFR Division Chief or his or her designee (i.e. failure to pass background check). Observers will not be permitted to participate in the program without a valid background check. In addition, the criminal background screening shall be valid for one year from the date of completion and the County, in its sole and absolute discretion, shall determine whether the background screening results are satisfactory.

The program permits approved participants to ride on fire rescue vehicles three (3) times a year on pre-approved dates scheduled in advance at specified times. Scheduling and approval for participation in the program are facilitated by the MDFR Division Chief or his or her designee. Only approved individuals are permitted to ride on a MDFR fire rescue vehicle. Only one participant will be permitted on a fire rescue unit at a time. The Officer in Charge has discretion to determine during the ride whether circumstances warrant for discontinuing the participant in the program. Individuals enrolled in a state approved EMT or PMD training program are not eligible to participate in the Observer Program.



Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III
Chief of Safety and Emergency Response



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. 8(E)(1)

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. 8(E)(1)
6-21-23

RESOLUTION NO. R-515-23

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE
MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE OBSERVER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

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

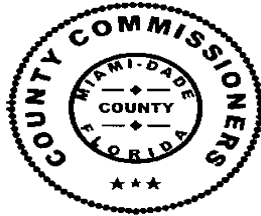
Section 1. Incorporates and approves the foregoing recital, as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Approves and authorizes the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (“MDFR”) Observer Program, which permits individuals to ride on MDFR fire rescue vehicles and see MDFR personnel engaged in service calls and other on-duty tasks. The Observer Program is open to members of the community who are 18 years of age or older, have satisfactory background screening results, execute releases from liability and confidentiality agreements, and satisfy several other conditions. Participants in the Observer Program do not participate in delivering emergency medical services or fire suppression activities.

The foregoing resolution 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

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "SG" followed by a horizontal line.

Shanika A. Graves