

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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

DATE: January 17, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact Senate Bill 502, or similar legislation that would (1) expand the types of establishments that must display human trafficking public awareness signs to include athletic venues, entertainment venues, and convention centers with a capacity of 5,000 persons or more, and (2) increase the number of required training hours for identifying and investigating human trafficking by law enforcement officers

Resolution No. R- 49-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 17, 2024

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)
1-17-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R- 49-24

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SENATE BILL 502, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD (1) EXPAND THE TYPES OF ESTABLISHMENTS THAT MUST DISPLAY HUMAN TRAFFICKING PUBLIC AWARENESS SIGNS TO INCLUDE ATHLETIC VENUES, ENTERTAINMENT VENUES, AND CONVENTION CENTERS WITH A CAPACITY OF 5,000 PERSONS OR MORE, AND (2) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED TRAINING HOURS FOR IDENTIFYING AND INVESTIGATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, human trafficking involves the exploitation of persons for commercial sex or forced labor and often subjects victims to force, fraud, and coercion; and

WHEREAS, while many victims of human trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or the sexual entertainment industry, trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude and restaurant, janitorial, sweatshop factory, and agricultural work; and

WHEREAS, traffickers often use various techniques to instill fear in victims to keep them enslaved such as isolation, threats of imprisonment and deportation, confiscation of passports, visas or other identification documents, and threats of violence toward victims or their families; and

WHEREAS, during the 2015 session, the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter No. 2015-172, Laws of Florida (HB 369), which created section 787.29, Florida Statutes, and required the placement of human trafficking awareness signs at: (1) transportation centers, such as rest areas,

turnpike service plazas, weigh stations, airports, passenger rail stations, and welcome centers; (2) strip clubs or other adult entertainment establishments; and (3) any business that provides massage or bodywork services for compensation that is not operated and regulated as a health care profession; and

WHEREAS, the human trafficking awareness signs were required to include contact information for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (“NHTRC”), a national hotline funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides referral services to victims of human trafficking, tips to law enforcement, and information to raise public awareness; and

WHEREAS, between 2007 and 2014, the NHTRC reported approximately 1,079 calls per year in Florida; and

WHEREAS, since 2015, the NHTRC has reported approximately 1729 calls per year in Florida; and

WHEREAS, section 787.29, Florida Statutes, also authorizes county commissions to adopt ordinances to enforce the posting of the human trafficking awareness signs at the previously specified adult entertainment, massage, or bodywork services establishments and specifies that a violation of the posting requirements constitutes a noncriminal violation punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500; and

WHEREAS, this Board previously adopted Ordinance No. 16-17 to enforce the requirements of posting human trafficking awareness signs at the previously specified adult entertainment, massage, or bodywork services establishments; and

WHEREAS, this Board also previously adopted Ordinance No. 18-11 to streamline enforcement of the human trafficking public awareness sign posting requirement; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2023, Senator Linda Stewart (D – Orlando) introduced Senate Bill (“SB”) 502 for consideration during the 2024 session of the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, SB 502 amends section 787.29, Florida Statutes, to expand the types of establishments that must display human trafficking public awareness signs to include athletic venues, entertainment venues, and convention centers with a capacity of 5,000 persons or more; and

WHEREAS, SB 502 also increases the number of required training hours by law enforcement officers for identifying and investigating human trafficking from four hours to eight hours; and

WHEREAS, this Board finds that the expansion of establishments required to post human trafficking public awareness signs and the increase of required training hours for identifying and investigating human trafficking by law enforcement officers may serve the public interest by helping to combat human trafficking and increase the likelihood that victims will be informed of who to contact to get necessary help,

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 502 or similar legislation that would (1) expand the types of establishments that must display human trafficking public awareness signs to include athletic venues, entertainment venues, and convention centers with a capacity of 5,000 persons or more, and (2) increase the number of required training hours for identifying and investigating human trafficking by law enforcement officers.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Senator Linda Stewart, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. 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 2024 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez. It was offered by Commissioner **Juan Carlos Bermudez** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 17th day of January, 2024. 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 read "RAH", is written over a horizontal line.

Rochelle A. Hall