

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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

DATE: February 6, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to identify areas in Miami-Dade County with high incidences of reports, investigations, arrests, or prosecutions involving human trafficking and to prioritize and dedicate additional resources towards investigations and prosecutions of individuals engaged in trafficking of people in those areas, to initiate an outreach campaign to inform the affected communities and coordinate with respective local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, and to submit status reports on the results of the enforcement efforts and outreach campaign; and waiving Resolution No. R-130-06 requiring that agreements be executed by all non-County parties prior to presentation to the Board of County Commissioners for approval; and authorizing the County Mayor to execute all necessary agreements, and to exercise all provisions, including any cancellation provisions, contained therein

Resolution No. R-126-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: February 6, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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. 14(A)(2)
2-6-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-126-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WITH HIGH INCIDENCES OF REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS, OR PROSECUTIONS INVOLVING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TO PRIORITIZE AND DEDICATE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TOWARDS INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE IN THOSE AREAS, TO INITIATE AN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO INFORM THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND COORDINATE WITH RESPECTIVE LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND TO SUBMIT STATUS REPORTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN; AND WAIVING RESOLUTION NO. R-130-06 REQUIRING THAT AGREEMENTS BE EXECUTED BY ALL NON-COUNTY PARTIES PRIOR TO PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR APPROVAL; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS, AND TO EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS, INCLUDING ANY CANCELLATION PROVISIONS, CONTAINED THEREIN

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, although human trafficking victims are, overwhelmingly, children and youth who are minorities, homeless, live in homes with illicit drug users, runaways, or in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, human trafficking affects every demographic of society and individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds, races and ethnicities can be victimized; 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, because Florida, particularly in Miami-Dade County, is a tourist hotspot with rapid growth and transient communities, it has seen an increase in human traffickers and facilitators and individuals interested in engaging in the illicit trade; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (“Hotline”), Florida has the third highest call volume for issues related to human trafficking in the nation, resulting in a great need for decisive action to combat human trafficking throughout the state and in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Hotline also reported nearly 600 cases of sex trafficking in Florida in 2021, which was more than five times the number of combined reported cases for labor trafficking and sex-labor trafficking; and

WHEREAS, as a regional government, it is Miami-Dade County’s obligation to address areas with criminal activity to promote, support, and sustain the region as a tourism hub; and

WHEREAS, one such area that has been identified is the NW 36th Street corridor directly north of Miami International Airport (“MIA”); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding this Board’s actions to decrease the prevalence of human trafficking in Miami- Dade County, additional work is necessary; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the County has proactively engaged in or supported numerous efforts to combat human trafficking including, but not limited to: (1) training employees at MIA and PortMiami to identify signs of human trafficking through the Blue Lightning Initiative, which is led by the United States Department of Transportation, United States Department of Homeland

Security, and United States Customs and Border Protection; (2) instituting the Community on Patrol (COP smartphone application), which is designed to facilitate the receipt of anonymous crime related tips from the community; (3) expending and/or awarding grant funds to community based and other organizations to support the provision of services to victims of human trafficking; (4) participating in the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force with Broward and Monroe Counties to address human trafficking holistically from a regional perspective; (5) raising awareness of human trafficking through an educational campaign in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, including but not limited to utilizing billboards and public service announcements on radio, television, and social media, regarding the dangers and signs of human trafficking; (6) recognizing National Human Trafficking Awareness Days and, commencing in 2018, January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Miami-Dade County; and (7) requiring human trafficking awareness signs be placed in certain private establishments throughout the County as well as County and Public Health Trust-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, although individuals in South Florida have various ways to report actual or suspected human trafficking activity, ample opportunities remain for law enforcement to collaborate and enhance the existing infrastructure employed to investigate, prosecute, and curtail human trafficking in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, to properly address human trafficking in Miami-Dade County, a multipronged effort involving state, local, or federal law enforcement agencies that, among other things, focuses on identifying individuals and groups who are particularly vulnerable to both being victims and perpetrators of human trafficking is required; and

WHEREAS, the engagement of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies would provide additional resources to assist the Miami-Dade Police Department and expands the available options for prosecution; and

WHEREAS, for that reason and in an effort to end the scourge of human trafficking, this Board finds that prioritizing and dedicating additional resources to support investigations and prosecutions of individuals that engage in or facilitate the trafficking of people is likely to improve public safety by protecting individuals who are vulnerable to becoming or have been victimized by human traffickers, as well as other residents of and visitors to Miami-Dade County who may be impacted by said crimes,

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

Section 1. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to identify areas in Miami-Dade County with high rates of reports, investigations, arrests, or prosecutions involving actual or suspected human trafficking and to develop a plan to prioritize enforcement efforts aimed at investigating and curtailing human trafficking in Miami-Dade County in those areas within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution, and, beginning 60 days after the effective date of this resolution, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to prioritize and dedicate additional resources towards investigating and curtailing human trafficking in Miami-Dade County, using legally available funding sources appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 County Budget including, but not limited to, funding from Miami-Dade Rescue Plan projects for which a balance remains. Such enforcement efforts shall be first directed at areas with a large number of hotels, areas near MIA, or other areas in which would typically attract tourism-related activities or visitors. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is further directed to: (a) assess all efforts

and initiatives the County is directly engaged in or supports with County resources that address human trafficking to determine if, and in what manner, the County resources can be better employed for a greater impact; and (b) initiate an outreach campaign to inform the affected communities about the planned enforcement efforts and to further coordinate or begin coordinating with respective local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution using legally available funding sources appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 County Budget.

Section 2. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is further directed to submit a report to this Board within 120 days after the effective date of this resolution and to 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 report shall, at a minimum, include details regarding: (a) the areas that were identified to have high incidences of human trafficking reports, investigations, arrests, or prosecutions; (b) the crime rate in those identified areas both before and after the prioritization and dedication of additional resources towards the goal of reducing human trafficking in South Florida, and in Miami-Dade County particularly; (c) the efforts undertaken as part of the outreach campaign to inform the affected communities; (d) the status of any coordination with local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies; (e) any recommendations to improve enforcement efforts; (f) whether additional funds are needed to implement existing efforts; and (g) whether additional funds are needed from the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 County Budget to either continue to implement existing efforts or to implement any of the proposed recommendations to improve enforcement efforts. In addition, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to submit updated status reports, and to place the updated reports on

an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure every 90 days thereafter for one year after the effective date of this resolution so that the Board can evaluate whether there is a continuing need for such enforcement efforts.

Section 3. This Board hereby waives the requirements of Resolution No. R-130-06, requiring all non-County parties to execute agreements prior to presentation to this Board for approval, and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to execute memoranda of understanding and other necessary agreements, with the applicable law enforcement agencies, to effectuate the purposes described in section 1, following review and approval of such agreements for form and legal sufficiency by the County Attorney's Office. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is further directed to exercise all provisions of such agreements, including any cancellation provisions contained therein.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III. It was offered by Commissioner **Kevin Marino Cabrera** , 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	aye		
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	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 6th day of February, 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, consisting of the letters "MBV" in a stylized, cursive-like font.

Shanika A. Graves
Michael B. Valdes