

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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

DATE: March 19, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to create and implement, subject to any additional necessary Board action, a plan to allow those eligible for the Golden Passport Program to board Miami-Dade transit fare-free by presenting to a transit operator a Florida driver's license or a Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles instead of having to apply for and receive a Golden Passport EASY Card, or alternatively, a plan that provides alternative means for those eligible for the Golden Passport Program to confirm their eligibility and enroll in the program in a manner that is easily accessible and least burdensome for the elderly, anyone with a disability, and anyone who is transportation disadvantaged; and to provide a report

Resolution No. R-224-24

This item was amended at the March 11, 2024 Chairman's Policy Council and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide a plan with alternative means, including partnering with municipalities, for those eligible for the Golden Passport program to confirm their eligibility and enroll in the program in a manner that is easily accessible and least burdensome for the elderly, anyone with a disability, and anyone who is transportation disadvantaged; and makes conforming changes to the title.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Marleine Bastien.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp

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MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: March 19, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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)(3)
3-19-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-224-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT, SUBJECT TO ANY ADDITIONAL NECESSARY BOARD ACTION, A PLAN TO ALLOW THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GOLDEN PASSPORT PROGRAM TO BOARD MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT FARE-FREE BY PRESENTING TO A TRANSIT OPERATOR A FLORIDA DRIVER'S LICENSE OR A FLORIDA IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES INSTEAD OF HAVING TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A GOLDEN PASSPORT EASY CARD, OR ALTERNATIVELY, A PLAN THAT PROVIDES ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GOLDEN PASSPORT PROGRAM TO CONFIRM THEIR ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM IN A MANNER THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND LEAST BURDENSOME FOR THE ELDERLY, ANYONE WITH A DISABILITY, AND ANYONE WHO IS TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED; AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, the Golden Passport Program was created to provide fare-free public transportation services to those residents of Miami-Dade County age 65 and older or those residents who are Social Security beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the County website provides relevant information regarding the Golden Passport Program eligibility, as well as the documentation necessary to apply for the programs, or to renew or replace an existing card; and

WHEREAS, according to the County website, Golden Passport Program applications must be done in person at the Miami-Dade Transit Golden Passport Office, located on the first floor of the Stephen P. Clark Center, at any 311 Service Center, or at certain community centers; and

WHEREAS, if Golden Passport EASY Card holder is 65 years of age or older, that person's Golden Passport EASY Card is valid for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Social Security beneficiaries 64 years of age or younger must renew their Golden Passport EASY Card annually; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of a lost, stolen, or damaged Golden Passport or Patriot Passport EASY Card must be done in person which may severely inconvenience seniors and the disabled who are already transportation-limited, and who do not have a functioning Golden Passport EASY Card; and

WHEREAS, a valid Florida identification card or driver's license with a Miami-Dade County address is currently required to apply for a Golden Passport EASY Card; and

WHEREAS, government-issued identification cards can demonstrate proof of eligibility for a Golden Passport EASY Card, including proof of residency in Miami-Dade County and date of birth; and

WHEREAS, allowing eligible seniors to show a Florida identification card or driver's license when boarding transit instead of showing a Golden Passport EASY Card makes accessing the free transportation they are eligible for much simpler and faster; and

WHEREAS, requiring seniors to sign up for the Golden Passport creates barriers for those who cannot navigate the program enrollment process, whether due to physical or cognitive limitations, language barriers, or other factors; and

WHEREAS, allowing seniors to show a Florida identification card or driver's license as a means of boarding transit as part of the Golden Passport program makes the service more accessible to a broader range of eligible Golden Passport riders; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to make it as convenient as possible for seniors to access the Golden Passport benefits they are eligible for,

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

Section 1. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to create and implement, subject to any additional necessary Board action, a plan to allow those eligible for the Golden Passport program to board Miami-Dade transit fare-free by presenting to a transit operator a Florida driver's license or a Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles instead of having to apply for and receive a Golden Passport EASY Card>>, or alternatively, a plan that provides alternative means, including partnering with municipalities, for those eligible for the Golden Passport program to confirm their eligibility and enroll in the program in a manner that is easily accessible and least burdensome for the elderly, anyone with a disability, and anyone who is transportation disadvantaged<<.¹

Section 2. Further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to prepare a written report describing the steps taken to comply with the directives in section 1 above within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution. The completed reports shall be placed on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

¹ Committee amendments are indicated as follows: Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] are deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Marleine Bastien. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez** who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** 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 19th day of March, 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 black ink, appearing to be "AP", written over a horizontal line.

Annery Pulgar Alfonso