

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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

DATE: July 2, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution establishing the
Golden Paws Program; directing
the County Mayor to implement
the program in accordance with
certain criteria and to provide a
report

Resolution No. R-622-24

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


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: July 2, 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)
7-2-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-622-24

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE GOLDEN PAWS
PROGRAM; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO IMPLEMENT THE
PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN CRITERIA
AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, seniors are an important and valuable part of the community in Miami-Dade
County; and

WHEREAS, like other residents of Miami-Dade County, seniors may benefit from the
companionship of pets; and

WHEREAS, given that many seniors are retired or no longer have children living in their
households, seniors may also be especially well-positioned to take care of and provide a good
quality of life for pets; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary objectives of the Miami-Dade Animal Services
Department is to facilitate the adoption of pets at the County's Pet Adoption and Protection Center;
and

WHEREAS, due to a variety of factors, the Pet Adoption and Protection Center has been
having issues with overcapacity of dogs and cats in its custody; and

WHEREAS, the Animal Services Department has thus been actively seeking and creating
opportunities to adopt pets in its custody to forever homes; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to assist in that effort by creating a program designed to
promote the adoption of pets to seniors in our community, known as the Golden Paws Program,

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

Section 1. This Board establishes the Golden Paws Program.

Section 2. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall implement the Golden Paws Program (the "Program") in accordance with the following criteria:

- Participants in the Program shall be residents of Miami-Dade County 65 years of age or older who have provided sufficient proof of age and residency;
- To qualify for the Program benefits set forth below, participants must adopt a dog or cat from the County's Animal Services Department;
- Participants shall be entitled to a waiver of adoption fees and spay/neuter fees, as authorized by Implementing Order No. 4-51 for promotional/marketing events;
- The Program shall provide participants assistance in obtaining pet food, the nature and amount of such assistance to be determined in the sole discretion of the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee, and which pet food the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee must obtain in accordance with applicable law; it is further provided that this resolution shall not require the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to purchase pet food for this program and that the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee may use such pet food as is available and has been obtained in accordance with applicable law;
- The Program shall provide support services for participants who have pets but are struggling to care for them, the nature and amount of such services to be determined in the sole discretion of the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee, provided, however, that the dollar value of services provided to a pet under the Program shall not exceed \$500.00 per pet;

- The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall, in accordance with applicable law and existing delegated authority, establish partnerships with veterinary clinics, not-for-profit organizations, and businesses to help defray the costs of administering the Program;
- The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall also engage in fundraising activities to support the Program; and
- The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is delegated the authority to establish further criteria for the Program, provided such criteria are consistent with this resolution.

Section 3. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to identify and allocate legally available funds in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 adopted County budget sufficient to fund Program activities for the balance of the fiscal year. This Board further directs the County Mayor to include funding for full implementation of the Program in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed County budget and in all subsequent budgets.

Section 4. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall prepare a written report summarizing: (a) the efforts the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee has taken to comply with the directive in section 2 of this resolution; and (b) the results of the Program as of the date of the report. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall provide the report to this Board within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution and 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 Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee** 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	absent
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of July, 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.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl