

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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

DATE: October 1, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to (1) establish, using legally available funds, the Miami-Dade Safe Space Program in support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual plus (“LGBTQIA+”) community; and (2) conduct outreach efforts to promote the program

Resolution No. R-889-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Micky Steinberg and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Eileen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 1, 2024

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Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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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 ____, majority plus one ____, 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) ____, 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)(7)
10-1-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-889-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO (1) ESTABLISH, USING LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDS, THE MIAMI-DADE SAFE SPACE PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL PLUS ("LGBTQIA+") COMMUNITY; AND (2) CONDUCT OUTREACH EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has a compelling interest in protecting its most vulnerable communities, including members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual plus ("LGBTQIA+") population; and

WHEREAS, this Board has continued to adopt ordinances and policies that support the County's LGBTQIA+ community, such as by creating the Miami-Dade County LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board and adopting the County's Human Rights Ordinance, which protects against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, among other protected classifications; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Police Department was also recently awarded a grant under the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 23 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program, which is designed to fund law enforcement efforts to conduct outreach, educate practitioners and the public, enhance victim reporting tools, and investigate and prosecute hate crimes committed on the basis of a victim's perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability; and

WHEREAS, despite these and other important strides made in society, LGBTQIA+ people continue to be the targets of hate crimes in Florida and throughout the United States, such as the June 12, 2016 mass shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and the November 19–20, 2022 mass shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the aforementioned County ordinances and policies, this Board wishes to establish a voluntary Miami-Dade Safe Space Program through which businesses and other organizations in Miami-Dade County can demonstrate their commitment to the safety and equal treatment of members of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Miami-Dade Safe Space Program would be to provide members of the LGBTQIA+ community with easily accessible safety information and safe places throughout the County that they can turn to if they are the victims of harassment or crime; and

WHEREAS, a business or organization desiring to designate itself a safe space could register with the Miami-Dade Police Department and obtain “Safe Space” decals to post as a symbol of safety; and

WHEREAS, to be designated a Safe Space, a business or organization would have to agree to observe the following safety protocols:

- Post a Safe Space decal at the front entrance of the establishment;
- Allow victims of LGBTQIA+-based harassment or crime to enter and remain at the establishment until law enforcement arrive; and
- Immediately call or assist LGBTQIA+ victims in calling 911; and

WHEREAS, any individual who seeks solace in a Safe Space location should be assured that, if they are the victim of a crime, police will be called immediately; and

WHEREAS, similar safe space programs have been established in localities in Florida such as Miami, Miami Beach, Wilton Manors, Orlando, Kissimmee, Edgewood, and Orange County; and

WHEREAS, to promote the safety of the LGBTQIA+ community, this Board wishes to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to establish the Miami-Dade Safe Space Program,

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

Section 1. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to use legally available funds to establish the Miami-Dade Safe Space Program, with the goal of providing members of the LGBTQIA+ community with easily accessible safety information and safe places throughout the County that they can turn to if they are the victims of harassment or crime. A business or organization desiring to designate itself a safe space may register with the Miami-Dade Police Department and agree to observe the following safety protocols to promote the safety of members of the LGBTQIA+ community:

- Post a Safe Space decal at the front entrance of the establishment;
- Allow victims of LGBTQIA+-based harassment or crime to enter and remain at the establishment until law enforcement arrive; and
- Immediately call or assist LGBTQIA+ victims in calling 911.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to conduct outreach efforts to promote the Miami-Dade Safe Space Program.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Micky Steinberg and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. 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	absent	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 1st day of October, 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