

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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 conduct an evaluation
and provide recommendations
relating to increased enforcement
and deterrence against the theft
and unlawful slaughter of horses;
and to provide a report

Resolution No. R-888-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen 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

FROM: 
Glen 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 ____, 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)(6)
10-1-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-888-24

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CONDUCT AN
EVALUATION AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS
RELATING TO INCREASED ENFORCEMENT AND
DETERRENCE AGAINST THE THEFT AND UNLAWFUL
SLAUGHTER OF HORSES; AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, many residents and visitors in Miami-Dade County enjoy riding, watching,
and caring for horses and appreciate the horses' magnificent beauty; and

WHEREAS, some residents of Miami-Dade County rely on their horses for their income,
through such things as horseback-riding tourism or racing; and

WHEREAS, the theft and unlawful slaughter of horses may hurt those individuals who
depend on their horses for continued income or who enjoy and love horses; and

WHEREAS, the theft and unlawful slaughter of horses may create an atmosphere of fear
and distrust within the community of horse owners in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, there has been a disturbing increase in the theft and unlawful slaughter of
horses in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, section 5-4(b)(1.2) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "Code")
provides that the willful and unlawful killing of horses "shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent
and in accordance with the highest civil penalties and maximum sentence afforded by law"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 8CC-10 of the Code, the unlawful killing of a horse is
subject to a civil penalty of \$7,500.00; and

WHEREAS, under section 828.125(1), Florida Statutes, the willful and unlawful killing
of horses constitutes a felony of the second degree; and

WHEREAS, increased enforcement against those individuals responsible for the theft or unlawful slaughter of horses may reduce the number of incidents; and

WHEREAS, the County administration may also develop and implement initiatives to further deter the theft and unlawful slaughter of horses; and

WHEREAS, this Board considers the mistreatment of horses to be especially heinous and intolerable and therefore desires to increase enforcement and deterrence against this act of cruelty,

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 evaluate and make recommendations to this Board as to the feasibility of (1) increasing enforcement efforts to identify and apprehend all those individuals who are responsible for the theft or slaughter of horses; and (2) developing and implementing initiatives to further deter the theft and unlawful slaughter of horses.

Section 2. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall provide a written report detailing the administration's evaluation and recommendations to this Board within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution and shall 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 Danielle Cohen 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.

Cristina M. Rabionet