

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 4, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to provide a pay
supplement, cost-of-living
adjustment, or workload funding
increase for attorneys employed
by the Offices of the State
Attorney and Public Defender for
the 11th Judicial Circuit of
Florida

Resolution No. R-143-25

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh

MDC001



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 4, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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)(13)
2-4-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-143-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
PROVIDE A PAY SUPPLEMENT, COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENT, OR WORKLOAD FUNDING INCREASE FOR
ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED BY THE OFFICES OF THE STATE
ATTORNEY AND PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE 11TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

WHEREAS, state attorneys are tasked with protecting, defending, upholding, and enforcing the criminal laws of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, in addition, public defenders carry out an important constitutional duty to provide legal representation to people in danger of losing certain liberties and who cannot afford to hire a private attorney; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of assistant state attorneys and assistant public defenders work in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, despite the critical roles these attorneys play in our community, both state attorneys and public defenders traditionally earn less than many other professions, and in some cases, substantially less; and

WHEREAS, because state attorneys and public defenders are employees of the State of Florida, the Florida Legislature is responsible for appropriating funds to offices in each judicial circuit within the state to pay for the salaries of employees working therein; and

WHEREAS, during the 2022 legislative session, the Florida Legislature approved pay increases for all assistant state attorneys and public defenders of up to \$10,000.00 in addition to a base rate of pay adjustment of 5.38 percent to address rising inflation; and

WHEREAS, while this statewide salary increase was much needed, it did not include a pay supplement to offset the higher cost of living in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is consistently ranked among the most expensive places to live in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a pay supplement, cost-of-living adjustment, or workload funding increase for state attorneys and public defenders working in Miami-Dade County would greatly improve the quality of life for these individuals that our community relies on; and

WHEREAS, this Board is cognizant of the need for the Office of the State Attorney for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida and the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office to attract and retain qualified attorneys, of the roles salary and other benefits play in such retention efforts, and of the importance of these individuals to our community, and therefore would like to urge the Florida Legislature to take action to address the issue described above,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to provide a pay supplement, cost-of-living adjustment, or workload funding increase for attorneys employed by the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the remaining Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera . It was offered by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th 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.

Javier Zapata