

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

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

DATE: June 4, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to create the Miami-Dade County Civic Engagement Academy for Civics Education (“Academy”), identify legally available funds in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget and subsequent County Budgets to support the Academy, and submit reports regarding the Academy; waiving Resolution No. R-130-06 requiring that certain agreements be executed prior to presentation to the Board for approval; and authorizing the County Mayor to execute agreements and necessary documents for the operation of the academy and to exercise all provisions contained therein

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Marleine Bastien and Co-Sponsor Senator René García.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
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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 ____, 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)(1)
6-4-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR’S DESIGNEE TO CREATE THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY FOR CIVICS EDUCATION (“ACADEMY”), IDENTIFY LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET AND SUBSEQUENT COUNTY BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE ACADEMY, AND SUBMIT REPORTS REGARDING THE ACADEMY; WAIVING RESOLUTION NO. R-130-06 REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENTS BE EXECUTED PRIOR TO PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR APPROVAL; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR’S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ACADEMY AND TO EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

WHEREAS, civics is the study of the rights and obligations of citizens in society as well as how government works; and

WHEREAS, providing individuals with even a basic civics education—understanding of the structure and operations of local, state, and federal governments—is important for the community and community members; and

WHEREAS, in fact, the Florida Legislature has enacted several laws concerning civics education; and

WHEREAS, for instance, section 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, requires certain students being promoted to high school to complete at least a one-semester civics education course that includes the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; and meaning and significance of historic documents such as the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, similarly, section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, mandates students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in the 2021-2022 school year and thereafter demonstrate competency in civic literacy by achieving a passing score on an assessment and successfully completing a civic literacy course; and

WHEREAS, further, pursuant to section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, the Florida Institute for Governance and Civics at the Florida State University, among other things, aims to encourage civic literacy in the state and be a resource on assessments to measure civic literacy and to make recommendations for improving civics education in the state and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, because South Florida is a diverse melting pot of individuals from places across the nation and around the world many of its residents did not attend schools in the State, have the opportunity to take a civics literacy course, or receive any type of civics education; and

WHEREAS, there may also be individuals who have taken a civics literacy course, yet still welcome the opportunity for further education and discourse in civics; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the County to provide a mechanism for constituents to become more informed and have a better understanding about how government works, which can be done through civics education; and

WHEREAS, in addition, individuals who participate in civics education courses and learn about the inner workings of government may increase their civic engagement or become more interested in serving in one of the branches of the government, and possibly working for or serving as an elected representative in Miami-Dade County or other locales in the State or nation; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to offer residents civics education courses and, at a minimum, provide them with an opportunity to learn about the three branches of government, Miami-Dade County government, and the importance of civic engagement,

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

Section 1. Using legally available funding appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 County Budget and in subsequent County Budgets, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to create the Miami-Dade County Civic Engagement Academy for Civics Education ("Academy") and begin offering free courses through the Academy no later than August 1, 2024. If funding is not available to offer the Academy in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 County Budget, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall begin offering Academy courses as soon as possible after October 1, 2024 and no later than December 1, 2024. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall establish a civics literacy course curriculum for the Academy to educate members of the community. At a minimum, the Academy shall: (a) provide instruction on the three branches of federal, state, and local governments, checks and balances in government, voting, and jury system; (b) be offered virtually and in person; (c) educate the community on Miami-Dade County government and the policy making process; (d) provide information to participants regarding administrative or political offices and public service; and (e) be accessible to non-native English speakers.

Section 2. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is further directed to submit annual reports to this Board concerning the Academy and to place the annual reports on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure. The initial report shall be provided no later than March 1, 2025 and subsequent reports shall be provided no later than bi-annually each year thereafter. At a minimum, the reports shall include the following information pertaining to the Academy: (a) a copy or summary of the curriculum; (b) a copy of assessments, if any, taken by participants; (c) the length of the program; (d) the number of individuals who participated in the Academy during each quarter of the reporting

period, whether they attended in person or online, and location if attended in person; (e) the times and locations where the Academy was offered; (f) the measures taken to advertise or promote the Academy; (g) recommendations to improve the Academy or increase participation therein; (h) the costs incurred to offer the Academy during the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year or the relevant reporting period; (i) the amount of funding required to offer the Academy in subsequent Fiscal Years and the source(s) for same; and (j) the identity of partners that assisted the County with the Academy, the type of assistance said entities provided and the amount of funding, if any, the County provided said entities.

Section 3. This Board hereby waives the requirements of Resolution No. R-130-06, requiring all non-governmental parties to execute agreements prior to presentation to this Board for approval, and authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to execute agreements and other necessary documents to effectuate the purposes described in section 1, including contracts to design and deliver the program, following review and approval of such agreements and documents for form and legal sufficiency by the County Attorney’s Office. The County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee is further directed to exercise all provisions contained in said agreements and documents.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Marleine Bastien and the Co-Sponsor is Senator René García. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of June, 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: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Shanika A. Graves