



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 284-2014

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: August 14, 2014

SUBJECT: **CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI RESOLUTION**

Attached for your information is Resolution No. 161-14-14255, which was passed by the City of South Miami on August 5, 2014.

A Resolution urging the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners to create and implement a long-term stable funding plan that will restore full funding to the entire Miami-Dade Public Library System.

If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 305.673.7411.

JLM/REG

Attachment

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2014 AUG 14 PM 2:13
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

RESOLUTION NO. 161-14-14255

A Resolution urging the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners to create and implement a long-term stable funding plan that will restore full funding to the entire Miami-Dade Public Library System.

WHEREAS, Libraries are central to our free society because at the heart of our democracy is free access to information for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, or economic status. Libraries represent an individual's right to acquire knowledge, explore and achieve. A healthy library system promotes literacy and cultural appreciation and fosters a more knowledgeable and educated society; and

WHEREAS, revenues to Miami-Dade County libraries have been reduced by more than half in the last four years causing reduced operating hours, layoffs, a reduction in new titles, and fewer programs for children and the community. The result: 5.5 million fewer visits to our libraries since budget cuts began and a resulting loss of services to residents, and

WHEREAS, trained librarians are central to a 21st century library system because they are skilled research assistants and educators who teach patrons how to best access this important resource that includes books, archives and the Web. They level the playing field for every patron who needs access to information and the valuable services provided by libraries, and

WHEREAS, the City Commission is aware of the current funding crisis faced by the Public Library System, but it is encouraged and optimistic by an improved economy and the prospects for a return to a stabilized and strong economy thereby allowing for the restoration of full funding for the Public Library System; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Public Library System is comprised of forty-nine branches which services over 2.5 million residents as well as approximately 8 million visitors throughout Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, with the reduction of funding to the Miami-Dade Public Library System and the closures, down-sizing or reconfigurations of the Public Library System many children, teens and adults within all the Miami-Dade County municipalities have been turned away from a place of learning as exemplified in the local South Miami Branch; and

WHEREAS, since a recent survey by the Task Force has shown that a significant number of Miami-Dade County residents support the library system and are willing to support a better level of service in the Public Library System, the City Commission believes that a sustainable financial plan with the restoration of full funding for the Miami-Dade County Public Library System is in the best interest of all the residents of the City and County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor and City Commission hereby urges the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners to provide funding for the Public Library System

for FY 2014-15, at a minimum, be maintained at the level of funding for the current FY 2013-14; continue to provide the current level of service without reductions in staff, and implement a stable long term funding plan to restore full funding to the entire Miami-Dade Public Library System.

Section 2. The City Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit this resolution to the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and to the municipalities within Miami-Dade County.

Section 3. If any section clause, sentence, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Passed and adopted this 5th day of August, 2014.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

READ AND APPROVED AS TO FORM,
LANGUAGE, LEGALITY AND
EXECUTION THEREOF


CITY ATTORNEY

COMMISSION VOTE: 5-0
Mayor Stoddard: Yea
Vice Mayor Harris: Yea
Commissioner Edmond: Yea
Commissioner Liebman: Yea
Commissioner Welsh: Yea