



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Consent

F.31.

5/4/2021

Subject:

Recognizing the Essential Work and Contributions of County Employees During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Dept/Office:

Dist. 3

Requested Action:

Board passage of attached resolution

Summary Explanation and Background:

The Board of County Commissioners previously recognized the essential work and contributions of first responder employees who had contact with patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The attached resolution recognizes other employees of the Board of County Commissioners as essential as well.

During the pandemic, County employees have worked tirelessly to ensure that the public is being served by County government. There are many facets to this critical work, and in many ways this work goes unnoticed by most. After all, most people don't think about the operation of sewer lines until they fail, nor do they notice the state of their roads until there is a pothole or some other problem.

As an example of deceptively essential work, the Board itself insisted that libraries become operational as soon as possible, recognizing the importance of this service during a period when schools were closed. As such, the libraries department took drastic actions in setting up curbside, sanitized service, before eventually retrofitting libraries in such a way as to allow them to reopen.

After requiring employees to accomplish this task and others like it in the midst of a pandemic, to then insist that this work was not essential would be hypocritical in the extreme. While there is no doubt that first responders who had contact with members of the public are essential, so too are other County employees. The attached resolution simply recognizes this basic truth.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:



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May 5, 2021

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner John Tobia, District 3

RE: Item F.31., Recognizing the Essential Work and Contributions of County Employees
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on May 4, 2021, adopted Resolution No. 21-053, Recognizing the Essential Work and Contributions of County Employees during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Enclosed is a fully-executed Resolution.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kimberly Powell", is written over the typed name of the clerk.

Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/ns

Encl. (1)

cc: County Manager

RESOLUTION 2021-053

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE ESSENTIAL WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, in 2020, the COVID-19 virus spread across the United States and throughout the world creating a global pandemic, and

WHEREAS, businesses closed throughout Florida and throughout the nation beginning in March, 2020; and

WHEREAS, many private sector employees and businesses were able to work from home and shelter from public contact to avoid exposure to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the public health emergency did not reduce the need for public services, rather, it increased the need for public services at many levels, and

WHEREAS, the first responders have been recognized for their bravery in the face of COVID-19 and rewarded for their service, and

WHEREAS, there is another category of worker employed by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners that should be recognized due to continuing efforts, and

WHEREAS, Employees of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners performed essential work serving the public at the beginning of the pandemic and continue to do so today, and

WHEREAS, the public may not recognize the work done by employees of the Board of County Commissioners on their behalf throughout the pandemic, and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure such as water, sewer and roads have operated and been maintained without any apparent alteration or reduction of service throughout the pandemic, and

WHEREAS, the employees from emergency management have been in an activated status for more than a year and have worked tirelessly to provide PPE, masks, hand sanitizer to private businesses as well as public agencies and to assist the Department of Health in facilitating vaccinations. While being activated to respond to the ongoing pandemic, emergency management staff have also handled and continue to handle numerous launch activations, as well as preparations for hurricane seasons in 2020 and 2021 including complex planning to provide sheltering under pandemic conditions, and

WHEREAS, Board employees were involved in the meeting the needs of the food insecure populations of Brevard County from supporting food distribution, farmers markets, school food distribution to students, etc.; and

WHEREAS, a number of Board employees assisted in review of applications for rental assistance and utility assistance, business assistance, etc., in addition to performing their regular jobs; and

WHEREAS, some Board employees were diverted from performing their regular jobs to performing jobs related to sanitizing of facilities in order to keep others safe; and

WHEREAS, employees in all Board departments worked with the public throughout the pandemic, and

WHEREAS, Board employees worked to support other municipal agencies in funding (using CARES Act funds) the purchase supplies and equipment to protect both municipal employees and their constituents; and

WHEREAS, many employees, such as librarians throughout the county, have worked face to face and one on one with the public long before vaccines were available with only masks and social distancing to protect them, and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis, in Executive Order 20-91, which is incorporated herein by reference recognized many types of work and categories of workers as essential or supporting mission essential functions, and

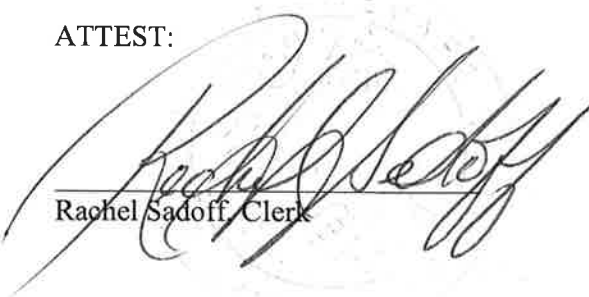
WHEREAS, the employees performed essential work ensuring continuity of government services for the health and well being of all county residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, that:

The first responders who have direct contact with the public having already been lauded and compensated for their work, another category of worker is hereby recognized by the Board. Specifically, all employees of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners who are not first responders previously compensated with hazard pay are recognized for providing and performing mission essential work and functions or supporting mission essential functions during the COVID-19 health emergency. These Brevard County Commission employees ably maintained, and continue to provide for and maintain continuity of operations, critical infrastructure, and many other sectors of public work critical to protect and maintain the health and well-being of the residents of Brevard County, Florida.

DONE AND ADOPTED in Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, this 4 day of May, 2021.

ATTEST:


Rachel Sadoff, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 

Rita Pritchett, Chair

As approved by the Board on May 4, 2021