

Memorandum



Date: July 26, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Report on Disabled Veteran Marina Fees Waived – Directive 220462

Executive Summary

On April 19, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted a resolution from the prime sponsor Commissioner Joe A. Martinez directing the County Mayor to incorporate into the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Department’s proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 fee schedule a fee waiver allowing qualified disabled veterans to launch boats at County-owned-and-operated marinas without a charge, providing a definition of “qualifying disabled veteran” for the purpose of this resolution, and directing the County Mayor to include information about this benefit in marketing materials and list this benefit in any price list displayed to the public. In response to the resolution, the Administration has established a program to waive the \$199.65 cost for an annual pass for qualifying disabled veterans and will roll out a marketing effort beginning in October 2022.

Background

In response to this request, PROS will incorporate into the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department’s FY 2022-2023 “Fee Schedule for the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department” (Implementing order No: IO 4-119) a “note” in the marina section allowing qualified Disabled Veterans to launch boats and park at County-owned-and-operated marinas without charge.

This boat pass will be available to qualified Miami-Dade County disabled veterans only. A decal, renewable every three (3) years, will be affixed to the Disabled Veteran’s windshield of the vehicle that will tow the boat. The patron will be required to show proof of Miami-Dade County residency, driver’s license, registration, and proof that they are a Disabled Veteran. Disabled Veteran is defined per the Veterans Affairs benefit summary letter issued annually by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. PROS has also requested from the Miami-Dade County Finance Department, Auto Tag Administration Office, a listing of vessel (boat) owners that are disabled veterans. The Miami-Dade County Finance Department is waiting to receive the report from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and will provide the report to PROS as soon as received.

PROS will waive the cost of the annual pass, which is currently \$199.65, plus tax. Though there is no charge for this pass, the pass decals are controlled documents which must be strictly accounted. A receipt should be provided to the customer and logged in the same manner that a standard annual boat ramp pass is processed, with the amount showing as zero (\$ 0). The control number should be noted on the Official Receipt. The Marina Manager can obtain the passes from the administrative warehouse.

The Disabled Veterans Boat Ramp Pass will be effective October 1, 2022. The pass allows for boat ramp launching at any of the six Miami-Dade County Marinas:

- Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park
- Black Point Marina
- Crandon Park Marina
- Herbert Hoover Marina at Homestead Bayfront Park
- Matheson Hammock Marina
- Pelican Harbor Marina

This benefit will be marketed through PROS social media platforms and our text alert system we currently utilize with our boat ramp patrons. In addition, a press release, print ads, and the establishment of a link on our PROS website will be introduced to outline the requirements for participation in this program.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

If additional information is needed, please contact Maria I. Nardi, Director, Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department at (305) 755-7903.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Maria I. Nardi, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board Division
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator