MIAMIBEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Vice-Mayor Ricky Arriola
DATE: April 28, 2023

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT RELATED TO THE CITY'S HOUSING STIPEND INCENTIVE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS LIVING ON MIAMI BEACH.

ANALYSIS

A few years ago, the City of Miami Beach adopted a housing incentive program for first responders living in the City because it recognized the many benefits to having first responders live where they work. We currently provide a housing incentive/ stipend to first responders but the stipend has failed to keep up with the tremendous increase in cost of housing on Miami Beach. I ask that the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee discuss raising the stipend to be commensurate with the market.

As discussed previously, there are numerous advantages to having first responders reside in the same city they serve. For one, their proximity enables them to respond to emergencies promptly, which is especially critical in urgent situations like medical crises or burglaries.

Moreover, when first responders live in the same community they work in, they can establish stronger relationships with residents, thereby fostering better communication and trust between the two groups. This, in turn, can lead to more effective and safer emergency responses.

The practice of first responders living in the same city they work in can have a positive economic impact on the local area by retaining jobs and tax revenue within the community. Furthermore, it can enhance the overall security and safety of the city, as first responders who are also residents of the area may feel a greater sense of commitment and responsibility toward safeguarding the well-being of their neighbors.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?	**Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?**
Yes	No

Strategic Connection

Organizational Innovation - Attract and retain top talent.

Legislative Tracking

Vice-Mayor Ricky Arriola