



**COMMISSION MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Manager Eric Carpenter

DATE: December 11, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS OPTIONS IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS REGARDING THE CASE DISPOSITION DATA PROVIDED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CLERK OF THE COURTS.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration is supportive of the proposal to urge the Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Courts to develop a solution by which regional agencies may search disposition statuses and case status updates made by the Miami Beach Police Department, or other participating agencies, and recommends the Mayor and City Commission discuss the item and provide a policy recommendation.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At the December 14, 2022 City Commission Meeting, at the request of Mayor Steven Meiner (then Commissioner Meiner), the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C4 Q) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss the Miami Beach Police Department's ("MBPD") concerns regarding the case disposition data and information provided by the Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Courts.

The item was heard at the July 12, 2023 PSNQLC meeting and was slated to return in September 2023. It was subsequently heard at the May 22, 2024 PSNQLC meeting and moved to the full Commission with a favorable recommendation to urge Miami-Dade County to share data with the City of Miami Beach.

**ANALYSIS**

For a brief period in the summer and fall of 2021, the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Courts and the Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department collaborated with the City of Miami Beach on sharing, as requested by the City, accurate and more timely case disposition data. During this period, the County and the Administration navigated issues regarding the transmission and content of the requested datasets. The Police Department received a few datasets used to compare to internal records. The Police Department and the City's Information Technology (IT) Department began testing and comparing the datasets and ultimately concluded that there were considerable discrepancies. The City's IT Department has met and collaborated on several occasions with the IT departments at both Miami-Dade County and the Clerk of the Courts, and while some progress has been made, there have been discrepancies which are caused by the disparate nature of the transactional systems involved in the development of the datasets required.

The Miami-Dade Clerk of the Courts and the Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department have a system whereupon any entity may purchase court case disposition data for a fee. The City Police and Information Technology Departments are required to purchase credits from the Clerk of the Courts and are charged a certain number of credits each time it receives a

data set from the Clerk of the Courts. The I.T. Department developed a platform where this data is ingested on a regular basis and aggregated for use by the Police Department.

The Administration navigated many issues regarding the purchase, receipt, transmission and content of the datasets provided by the Clerk. Initially, there were concerns the cases being received included those from other municipalities. However, the City's IT Department continued to work through the issues with the IT departments in Miami-Dade County and the Clerk of the Courts. Through much effort, the City was able to establish a platform that can be used for general analysis of Miami Beach court case dispositions. The method wherein the data is delivered is still not ideal due to limitations on what and how the data is provided. There are also issues with how case dispositions are classified by the State Attorney's Office which lead to an array of duplicate dispositions.

Furthermore, the City has identified additional opportunities for a more robust reporting system. The existing dataset is currently unable to provide data regarding traffic citations. It is understood that this might be part of a separate system, but further discovery and design effort is needed. Ideally, the City would request to have the same level of information for traffic citations as is provided for arrests, specifically status and disposition. These citations would either originate from Miami Beach officers, identifiable by the Agency Code (02), or be issued within our jurisdiction, identifiable by the Municipal Code (68). Lastly, the City would request to have the ability to query recently issued warrants by original charging jurisdiction and by date. This would enable our personnel to apprehend those with outstanding warrants or identify for whom warrants were issued on any given day. We believe these enhancements will significantly improve our data accuracy and provide valuable insights into the enforcement efforts within the City of Miami Beach.

#### **SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA**

N/A

#### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Financial impact, if any, is yet to be determined.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Due to the current limitations in data sharing and being that the City must continually buy credits to receive the data, the Administration recommends the City Commission urge Miami-Dade County to make case disposition data available to all government agencies as a standard product without the need to purchase data credits. At this point, the Police Department has a moderate level of confidence in the accuracy and timeliness of the disposition data received from the County. The Administration does not feel it would be responsible to make policy or any other recommendations or decisions based on this data in its current form.

#### **Applicable Area**

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

No

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?**

No

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

**Department**

Police

**Sponsor(s)**

Mayor Steven Meiner

**Co-sponsor(s)**