

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: July 10, 2024

TITLE: **REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE REGARDING AN ALLOCATION OF \$25,000 TO PRIDELINES, INC. FOR PRIDELINES MIAMI BEACH PROJECT SAFE (SAFE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EVERYONE.)**

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) discuss the item and provide a recommendation.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission referred item C4 AL(attachment A) to the PSNQLC regarding an allocation of \$25,000 to Pridelines, Inc. for Pridelines Miami Beach Project SAFE (Safe Accommodations for Everyone).

The referral requested the Committee to consider allocating an additional \$25,000 to Pridelines for another initiative, called Pridelines Miami Beach SAFE (Safe Accommodations for Everyone) to address LGBTQ youth and community homelessness.

In 2023, the Mayor and City Commission accepted the recommendation of the PSNQLC, and approved a grant in the total amount of \$50,000 to Pridelines for the development and implementation of a safe space program for LGBTQIA+ Miami Beach youth at the LGBTQ Visitor Center located at 1130 Washington Avenue on Miami Beach (attachment B). The initiative includes personal, academic, and professional development programming with integrated wellness resources. In view of the importance of this organization and the public purposes served by this programming, the Commission prioritized a \$50,000 grant to Pridelines, Inc. in FY 24 and on a recurring basis. The Safe Space Program has been a success with the Visitor Center hosting 7-12 youth on a daily basis.

Currently, Pridelines at The LGBTQ Visitor Center located at 1130 Washington Avenue provides a safe space for LGBTQIA+ youth (ages 13-20). The partnership with Pridelines includes, but is not be limited to, the below youth programs (attachment C):

- Rainbow Circle - A peer-led LGBTQ support and discussion group. Topics covered often include coming out, relationships, bullying, peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, depression and self-esteem. Youth are encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings without fear in a safe and supportive environment
- Beyond the Binary - A peer led group for transgender and gender non-conforming youth, and is one of a few programs serving transgender youth in Miami-Dade County
- Social Fridays - Fun social activities with friends that include game nights, movie nights, and art projects

On April 28, 2023, Resolution No. 2023-32591 approved a grant for \$75,000 to Save Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, for the development and implementation of a social media

campaign to support and provide resources to Miami Beach LGBTQ+ youth (attachment D).

The campaign entitled Miami Beach Cares (www.MiamiBeachCares.lgbt) launched on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. The launch included a social media campaign, digital banners, and ad placement on bus shelters, sidewalks, and other public areas. Information can be found by visiting the City of Miami Beach website www.miamibeachfl.gov/education

The purpose of the Miami Beach Cares campaign is to provide valuable information and resources to parents and youth who are dealing with issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity (attachment E). Resources on the website address topics of mental health and suicide prevention, faith and religion, homelessness and housing, youth programs, bullying, family acceptance, and more. This initiative serves the Miami Beach community well and continues to build on the City of Miami Beach's legacy as a beacon for the LGBTQIA+ community. The grant was extended an additional year at \$25,000 and may be extended for one more additional year if approved.

ANALYSIS

Many Miami Beach locals, especially LGBTQIA+ individuals, find themselves in a serious and desperate situation, experiencing insecure housing or navigating homelessness, forced out of their families and away from their homes because of their queer identity, or are otherwise on the streets because of various negative social determinants of health.

In the recent aftermath of the tragic death of Andrea Doria Dos Passos, a transgender woman who was tragically murdered while sleeping outside, crisis rapid intervention infrastructure for our unhoused population, especially the most vulnerable ones, is of utmost importance.

The proposed Miami Beach Project SAFE (Safe Accommodations for Everyone) would provide for immediate client needs, such as structured case management facilitated by trained staff, personalized needs assessment and safety planning, navigation support for government, public health, application-based transitional/temporary housing, academic, and employment system, access coordination for emergency shelter, transportation assistance, relocation assistance, and professional-facilitated counseling and therapy.

The City's Office of Housing and Community Services' Homeless Outreach Services Division operates a walk-in center for persons experiencing homelessness located at 771 17 Street, Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. The caseworkers staffing the walk-in center serve persons seeking family reunification, identification assistance, shelter services, and other referrals.

Additionally, the City's Mobile Outreach Team canvasses the entire city identifying individuals living in places not meant for human habitation to offer services. Collectively, the Division serves 30-35 persons daily, by not only offering the referral services previously mentioned, but also coordinating with partners in the Continuum of Care (CoC) to effectively address the specific needs of the person seeking guidance and support.

The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust provides funding to several community providers within the CoC to offer various resources to persons experiencing homelessness. For example, hot meals and showers are typically provided to unsheltered individuals at the following locations in Miami-Dade County:

- **Camillus House Day Center**, 1603 NW 7th Avenue, Miami, FL 33136
Meals: Monday - Friday at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m.
Showers: Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m.
- **Miami Rescue Mission**, (services available for homeless males) 2020 NW 1st Avenue, Miami, FL 33127

Meals: Monday - Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Showers: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m

- **The Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa**, (services are available for homeless women and children) 724 NW 17 Street Miami, FL 33136

Meals: every day, except Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Currently, Pridelines provides a Project SAFE for LGBTQ youth (up to age 24) experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in Miami-Dade County. This vital program provides access to safe and supportive shelter through housing partners or the pilot Host Home Program, which pairs young people with caring individuals willing to open their homes. In addition to secure housing, Project SAFE offers comprehensive care coordination to address the unique needs of each individual, from referrals for HIV testing and substance abuse treatment to transportation assistance, emergency meals, and family support. Participants also enjoy access to safe and affirming programming, including warm showers, laundry facilities, and ongoing advocacy with service providers to ensure their safety. Project SAFE is not only a vital resource for young people in need, but it also works to increase LGBTQ knowledge among social service agencies, offering cultural competency training and technical assistance.

An expansion of the current youth focused Project SAFE to ALL Miami Beach LGBTQIA community members experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness would potentially provide the following:

- Access to safe and supportive shelter through Miami Beach housing partners or Pridelines' pilot Host Home Program
- Holistic care coordination to address the individualized needs of each person
- Referral services for HIV testing, substance abuse, medical needs, educational support, etc.
- Transportation assistance
- Emergency meal assistance
- Family support as appropriate
- Access to laundry facility
- Warm Showers
- Access to safe and affirming programming and community
- Ongoing advocacy with service providers to ensure safety

Project SAFE is dedicated to increasing the LGBTQIA+ knowledge base amongst homelessness and social service agencies across Miami-Dade County, and provides cultural competency trainings and technical assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FY 25 \$25,000

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on . See BIE at:

<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

2023Applicable 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

Education and Performance Initiatives

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Referral to PSNQLC for allocation of \$25,000 to Pridelines Inc. for Miami Beach Project SAFE (Safe Accommodations for Everyone)