

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-188

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A TRIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENTLY-EXISTING VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VICTIMS OF HOME AND CAR BURGLARIES, TO OFFER REIMBURSEMENT OF PER DIEM EXPENSES, MILEAGE, AND PARKING INCURRED BY THE VICTIM WHEN ATTENDING COURT HEARINGS OR MEETINGS AT THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR VICTIMS TO ATTEND COURT HEARINGS AND/OR MEETINGS AT THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Police Department (CGPD) has various initiatives in place to aid crime victims which include: home security surveys, crime tip videos aired on the City's website, attendance at weekly crime watch meetings and the "lock it or lose it" campaign; and

WHEREAS, the CGPD also has, as an initiative, a Victim Assistance Program in place that provides an array of services to crime victims including: safety planning, emergency financial assistance, status updates in justice and court proceedings, and transportation and accompaniment to court and hearings, among others; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Commission recognizes that victims of crimes occurring in the City may incur a hardship to attend court hearings or meetings at the State Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Commission understands that victim participation is an integral part of the successful prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Commission wishes to increase victim participation to aid in the conviction rates for all individuals committing crimes, specifically burglaries, in the City thereby deterring future crime; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Commission wishes to expand the current Victim Assistance Program for a 180-day trial period, to include victims of home and car burglaries and to offer, as part of the program, reimbursement of per diem expenses, mileage, and parking incurred by the victim when attending court hearings or meetings at the State Attorney's Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon passage and adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission does hereby instruct the City Manager to authorize that the current Victim Assistance Program be expanded: (1) to include victims of home and car burglaries; (2) to provide transportation, if requested, for those victims to attend court hearings and/or meetings at the State Attorney's Office; and (3) to provide reimbursement for pier diem, parking and mileage expended by victim when attending court hearings and/or meetings at the State Attorney's Office.

SECTION 3. That city staff is directed to provide a report regarding the trial expansion of the program at the end of the 180-day period.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF AUGUST, A.D., 2015.

(Moved: Lago / Seconded: Quesada)
(Yeas: Lago, Quesada, Slesnick, Keon, Cason)
(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)
(Agenda Item: F-3)

APPROVED:


JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:



WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:


CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY