

Domestic Violence Oversight Board Urges for Expansion of Resources for Domestic Violence

Miami-Dade County collects a 1% Domestic Violence and Homeless Tax since 1993, more commonly called the Food & Beverage Tax (F&B Tax), on food and beverages consumed on-premises in certain establishments with a liquor license in all areas of the County, except in Miami Beach, Surfside, and Bal Harbour (the Beach municipalities). These municipalities were exempt because of a Resort Tax they levy. F&B Tax collections are distributed 85% to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and 15% for the construction and operations of certified domestic violence centers throughout Miami-Dade County. For Miami-Dade County to collect the tax from the Beach municipalities, the State Legislature would have to act to amend the State Statute that levied the F&B Tax.

The Miami-Dade County Tax Collector's conservative estimate of proceeds the Beach municipalities would add to the F&B Tax coffers is \$6.3 Million per year. Surfside and Bal Harbour support the amendment. On November 2, 2021, the City of Miami Beach sought voter opinion via a non-binding ballot measure asking its voters if the city should ask the State legislature to allow Miami-Dade County to collect a 1%. The ballot measure passed by 53.43 %.

The Miami Beach City Commission may now consider adopting a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to amend Section 212.0306 of the Florida Statutes, to allow for Miami- Dade County to collect the 1% F&B Tax. On November 17, 2021, the DVOB passed a resolution urging the BCC to include in the County's 2022 legislative priorities that the Florida Legislature amend and expand the F&B Tax to the Beach Municipalities. Commissioner Sosa is preparing a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to amend the above referenced statute, considering the vote in support thereof by the residents of Miami Beach.

The Domestic Violence Oversight Board (DVOB) is an advisory board to the Miami-Dade County Commission (BCC) on all issues related to domestic violence and specifically on the use of the F&B Tax portion for domestic violence. The DVOB is committed to ensuring those experiencing domestic violence in our county have the appropriate lifesaving resources and services, which during the COVID 19 Pandemic have become increasingly more important and needed.