

Item #5₍₂₎

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
2:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 8, 2014**

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

From: Dennis Haas [mailto:dhaas@arcbroward.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:50 AM

To: Henry, Bertha

Subject: FW: Proposed Ordinance to set GOALS FOR FIRST SOURCE EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS SHOULD INCLUDE VR and it's Contracted Partners

Hi Bertha:

I wanted to send this to you as a courtesy and to ask that you consider assisting to accomplish the inclusion of VR to the Ordinance.

Best Regards,



**Dennis Haas, President/CEO
ARC Broward**

From: Dennis Haas

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:34 AM

To: 'dholness@broward.org'

Cc: 'aparke@ssclawfirm.com'; 'BLaystrom@aol.com'; Julie Price

Subject: Proposed Ordinance to set GOALS FOR FIRST SOURCE EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS SHOULD INCLUDE VR and it's Contracted Partners



Re: MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution directing the County Administrator to publish Notice of Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 422 of the Governmental Center to consider enactment of a proposed Ordinance, the title of which is as follows: (Deferred from February 11, 2014 - Item No. 32)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT; ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR FIRST SOURCE EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS AND QUALIFYING NEW HIRES FOR SPECIFIED COUNTY CONTRACTS; CREATING SECTION 1-52 OF THE BROWARD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES ("CODE"); AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Dear Commissioner Holeness:

We recently learned about the Ordinance you are sponsoring that is scheduled for public hearing on April 8, 2014. **"RELATING TO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT; ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR FIRST SOURCE EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS AND QUALIFYING NEW HIRES FOR SPECIFIED COUNTY CONTRACTS."**

We applaud your efforts and support the overall principle and approach, however this Ordinance leaves out a critical component. The economically disadvantaged and hard to employ is a group that is also served by the State Department of Education/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and its contracted partners. To exclude VR from this Ordinance actually could have the unintended consequence of penalizing or hindering the ability of VR and its clients (individuals with disabilities) to obtain much needed employment opportunities. Although CareerSource Broward is charged with serving, and does serve individuals with disabilities, as a practical matter, a great majority of unemployed individuals with disabilities in Broward are receiving services through VR and its contracted partners—rather than Career Service. Career Service has targeted job and compensation requirements in its policies and regulatory scheme that makes it impractical for many individuals with disabilities and the agencies providing employment services to them to meet. Nevertheless, they still are anxious to work and among those that struggle the most to find it and need every advantage they can muster. VR is the agency that tends to fill that gap and has an entire infrastructure in place in Broward for this purpose much like CareerSource—but VR solely provides employment supports and services for individuals with disabilities.

According to the Meeting Agenda Information Sheet, CareerSource Broward's contract partners include the Urban League of Broward County, the OIC of Broward County, the Broward County School Board, the Mt. Olive Development Corporation, and ResBeat. There are a host of other similar organizations who partner with VR in much the same way and it is challenging to find any good or fair rationale to exclude them in this laudable effort.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the proposed Ordinance be modified to include VR and its contracted partners to be treated with equal opportunity in the Ordinance and what it proposes to effectuate.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in this regard. Thank you for your consideration of the foregoing.

Best Regards,



Dennis Haas, President/CEO

ARC Broward

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"Transforming the community by providing opportunities for people with disabilities and other life challenges to realize their full potential"