

City of Miami, Florida

FRANCIS SUAREZ
MAYOR



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**Office of the Mayor
Miami, Florida
Veto and Veto Message**

TO: Honorable Members of the Miami City Commission
Miami Florida

FROM: , Mayor Francis X. Suarez
Miami, Florida

Date: October 23, 2024

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the provisions of Sections 4(g)(5) of the Charter of the City of Miami, Florida, I hereby veto:

Ordinance 14321/File Number 16177

Veto Message:

As Mayor and a former City Commissioner, I have historically been opposed to a publicly funded pension system for elected officials. Elected officials' salaries essentially have remained the same since a new form of government was introduced in 1997. This compensation is by many measures outdated and it is understandable that some of my colleagues have strong feelings about the need for reform.

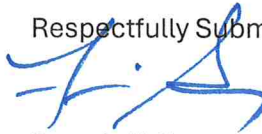
In this intervening veto period, the City Attorney advised me that if I signed the legislation and took the pension, it would create a vested right that could not be undone by any subsequent commission action or reconsideration. This would have guaranteed me a benefit of over four million dollars. As I approach 16 years of public service, I never expected or sought such a benefit, and I do not believe it is fair for the hardworking, taxpaying residents of this city to bear it.

Additionally, based on recent comments made in the press, there does not currently appear to be a clear consensus on the Commission that the elected officials' pension as passed on October 15th should move forward in its present form. That lack of agreement alone provides sufficient basis to veto the measure.

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For the foregoing reasons, I believe it is in the best interests of Miami's residents that I veto the elected officials' October 15th pension item.

Respectfully Submitted,



Francis X. Suarez
Mayor

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