

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 23, 2008

( ) Consent

(xx) Regular

( ) Ordinance

( ) Public Hearing

Department

Submitted By: Medical Examiner Office

Submitted For: Medical Examiner Office

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

A. Motion and Title

**STAFF RECOMMENDS MOTION TO ADOPT:** A Resolution increasing fees for cremation certificates issued by the Medical Examiner's Office from Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) to Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per cremation approval.

B. Summary:

The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office utilizes cremation approval fees to defray Medical Examiner operational cost. Palm Beach County has not increased this fee for the past fifteen (15) years; however the operational costs for the Medical Examiner's Office has increased 53% since October 1, 1992. Approving this Resolution would increase revenues generated by the Medical Examiner's Office by approximately Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) during fiscal year 2008/2009. The fee increase will be effective October 01, 2008.

COUNTYWIDE (DW)

C. Background and Policy Issues / Justification:

Chapter 406, Florida Revised Statutes provides that all cremations are under the authority of the Medical Examiner. Palm Beach County has charged a fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each cremation authorization issued by the Medical Examiner. Budget costs for the operation of the Medical Examiner's Office have increased from \$1,294,387 in 1992 to \$2,940,690 in 2008. This increase of \$1,646,303 represents a 127% change while our revenue fee for cremation authorization has remained unchanged. An additional \$90,000.00 in revenues is expected to be generated during the next fiscal year. This increase was approved as a budget strategy presented during the budget process.

D. Attachments:

Resolution

Recommended by:

Myrl Bell  
Department Director

8/5/08

Date

Approved by:

Vincent J. Bonvento  
Assistant County Administrator

8/12/08

Date

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
Operating Costs					
External Revenues		<90,000>	<90,000>	<90,000>	<90,000>
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>		<u>&lt;90,000&gt;</u>	<u>&lt;90,000&gt;</u>	<u>&lt;90,000&gt;</u>	<u>&lt;90,000&gt;</u>
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)		0	0	0	0

Proposed  
Is Item Included In ~~Current~~ Budget? Yes X No         
Budget Account No.: Fund 0001 Agency 670 Org. 4100 Object 4141  
Reporting Category

### B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

### C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

## III. REVIEW COMMENTS

### A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

*Atwillhite 6.7.08*

OFMB  
8/8/08

8/6/8

*Dr. J. J. J. 8/11/08*  
Contract Dev. and Control  
8/8/08

### B. Legal Sufficiency:

*[Signature]* 8/11/08  
Assistant County Attorney

### C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

REVISED 9/95

ADM FORM 01

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2008-**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, INCREASING THE FEES  
FOR CREMATION AUTHORIZATIONS BY THE MEDICAL  
EXAMINER OF DISTRICT 15, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 406, Florida Statutes, requires the District Medical Examiner to assume authority of cases where a body is to be cremated, buried at sea or donated to medical science; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida approved a resolution (R-92-1212) establishing the collection of a cremation fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each cremation approval issued by the Medical Examiner in Palm Beach County; and

**WHEREAS**, these fees are used to offset expenses of Medical Examiner operations in Palm Beach County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County approved a strategy to reduce the cost of medical examiner operations by increasing the revenues generated by cremation fees under Resolution No. 92-1212.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:**

The fee for each cremation, burial at sea or donation to medical science is increased to Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per each approval effective the First day of October, 2008.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Addie L. Greene, Chairperson	-
Commissioner John F. Koons, Vice Chair	-
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus	-
Commissioner Robert J. Kanjian	-
Commissioner Mary McCarty	-
Commissioner Burt Aaronson	-
Commissioner Jess R. Santamaria	-

The Chairperson thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK & COMPTROLLER

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Attorney