

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 6, 2021**

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF**  
**COMMISSIONER BEAM FURR**

## **Broward County Community ID Program**

### **What is the purpose of the FaithAction (Community) ID card program?**

The purpose of the FaithAction ID program is to build greater understanding, trust and cooperation between local law enforcement and other local sectors and our diverse community. Our goal is to create safer, more inclusive and united communities for all.

### **What does a FaithAction ID do?**

The FaithAction ID card provides card holders with a reliable form of identification that can be used as a tool by law enforcement, city departments, health centers, schools, businesses, and cultural arts organizations to better identify, serve, and protect us.

### **Why is the FaithAction ID program needed?**

Many community residents, including many citizens, do not have the necessary requirements to receive a state issued ID card or driver's license. They are often required to prove their identity for numerous reasons each day, and without a reliable ID may not be able to identify themselves with law enforcement, receive urgent services with schools, health centers, city departments, and social service agencies, or participate in the cultural and business life of their community.

### **Who has a FaithAction ID card?**

The FaithAction ID card is available to any resident who may have limited access to government issued ID card, as well as those who support safer, more inclusive and united communities.

Participants who have especially benefited from the program include new immigrants and refugees, homeless and elderly individuals, people recently returning from jail, as well as faith and city leaders, teachers, health and social service workers, and many others.

More than 20,000 residents in six states and 100+ cities now have a FaithAction (or network partner) ID card throughout North and South Carolina, Florida, Iowa, Virginia, and Ohio.

### **What are the limitations of the FaithAction ID card?**

The FaithAction ID card is not a state issued form of identification (and clearly notes this fact on the back of the card), or a driver's license. It cannot be used to vote, and does not entitle card holders to any social welfare benefits. It does not stop persecution if someone is engaged in an illegal activity, and does not have any impact on an individual's immigration status.

### **What are the requirements to receive an ID card?**

All participants must attend an ID drive, in which they are required to go through an orientation on the benefits and limitations of the card, and sign a simple MOU to this effect. They then go through a thorough vetting process in which they must provide proof of identity (embassy ID, national ID card, passport, or driver's license) and proof of address (utility bill, medical record, bank statement, or lease agreement). The required list of approved documents must be agreed upon by local law enforcement partners, and all those at the document check station must be trained and reliable. An immigration attorney or paralegal is present at each document check table as questions of authenticity arise. As one of the hallmarks of the program, participants also engage in dialogue with law enforcement and other community partners present throughout the waiting process on a variety of topics, including: how to report a crime, traffic and domestic violence laws, and navigating city, health access, and social service systems.

### **How does the ID program build trust with local law enforcement, and other local sectors?**

Several law enforcement officers are present for each ID drive, and engage in remarkably positive dialogue with ID participants. Officers listen to the needs and concerns of the community, while also educating the community on laws, and ways to report and help resolve crimes. It is not uncommon for crimes to be privately reported to trusted officers at ID drives.

### **What is the impact for our communities?**

After the first year of the program, law enforcement in Greensboro publicly shared that a dozen serious crimes had been reported and resolved by participants in the FaithAction ID program, and other law enforcement partners have experienced similar success in creating safer communities. Additionally, FaithAction recently interviewed 200 FaithAction ID card holders, and over 95% said that they had found the ID very useful with community partners, and that they felt safer, and more likely to report and resolve crimes after having had positive interaction with local law enforcement at ID drives. City and social service agencies, health centers, and schools have additionally reported how helpful the ID has been to establish identity for crucial services and records, and businesses/cultural arts organizations have also greatly appreciated attracting and integrating new diverse customers and participants.

### **How often must the cards be renewed?**

Cards are usually issued and are effective for 1-2 years.

### **What about fraud?**

In the more than 20,000 cards issued to date, only two incidents of fraud have been documented.

### **What community partners currently support the program?**

In the 100+ cities where the FaithAction ID is used, dozens of law enforcement departments, city and social service agencies, health centers, and schools support the program and participate in ID drives, along with numerous businesses and cultural arts organizations that offer card holders unique discounts support the card.

In Broward County, the ID card has already received positive response from Sheriff Tony. Several community partners have already agreed to participate including ADRC which serves seniors, OIC which serves the formerly incarcerated, Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Legal Aid Service of Broward County, the Pride Center which serves the LGBTQ community and Hispanic Unity of Florida. Other partners will likely include Urban League of Broward County and Women in Distress. We have reached out to Broward County Public Schools and Memorial Healthcare System. Broward's County Administrator will reach out to Broward County Public Schools, Broward Sheriff's Office and the Health Department. Hispanic Unity of Florida will be part of those calls. Commissioner Dale Holness is championing the concept at the Broward County Commission and we have already received positive feedback from a number of other County Commissioners.

### **Funding for the Program**

Broward County organizations plan to enter into a partnership with FaithAction to launch the card in that community. Both the City of West Palm Beach and Alachua Counties the two counties that have the launched the card in Florida, have done the same.

A Broward nonprofit is assessing taking the lead for Broward County for the Community ID cards. They would partner and receive support from a dozen other community based organizations. The lead organization would be responsible for securing workshop locations, recruiting volunteers, reviewing ID's prior to being mailed, mailing the ID's and handling all ID questions/issues.

A best practice, which Broward County will also implement is a small \$20.00 fee for the cards. Fees would be waived in hardship situations.

Budget for year one:

\$5,000 start-up costs (Covered by FaithAction)

\$60,000 - \$75,000 for a full time individual to administer the program