



Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners

Office of the Commission Auditor

Board of County Commissioners

Legislative Analysis

December 06, 2011
9:30 A.M.
Commission Chamber

Charles Anderson, CPA
Commission Auditor
111 NW First Street, Suite 1030
Miami, Florida 33128
305-375-4354

**Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners
Meeting Agenda**

December 06, 2011

Item Number(s)

7G
8F1
8N1
8N2
8N5
11A5

Acknowledgements:

Bia Marsellos, Legislative Supervisor

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Elizabeth Owens, Legislative Analyst

Mia Marin, Legislative Analyst

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR



Legislative Notes

Agenda Item: 7G

File Number: 112169

Date of Analysis: November 30, 2011

Summary

This ordinance amends §12-14, Absentee Ballots, of the Code of Miami Dade County (Code) by adding a penalty. Any person picking up and/or returning absentee ballots in violation of the provisions of §12-14 of the Code will be punished by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, or by both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction.

Currently, this section of the Code, which provides the guidelines for picking up and/or returning absentee ballots, does not provide for a penalty if authorities find that any person has violated the provisions in §12-14 of the Code.

2011 Florida Legislation on Absentee Ballot Reform¹

On April 21, 2011, CS/CS/HB 1355 passed the Florida House of Representatives. The bill was amended by the Florida Senate on May 5, 2011, and subsequently passed the House on May 5, 2011. The bill was approved by the Governor on May 19, 2011, Chapter 2011-40, Laws of Florida. Sections 1-4, 6-10, 12-23, and 25-80 took effect May 19, 2011. However, Sections 11 and 24 will be in effect July 1, 2012, and Section 5 of the bill will be in effect August 1, 2012.

The new law contains numerous changes to the Florida Elections Code. Among the many changes, the legislation provides the following reforms to absentee ballots:

- An absentee ballot request is good through the end of the calendar year of the next two regularly scheduled general elections.
- Information required to be provided to the Division of Elections must be forwarded by 8 a.m. each day instead of noon during week days.
- Requires the supervisor of elections to mail an absentee ballot to each absent voter, other than uniformed and overseas voters, between the 35th and 28th days before a presidential preference primary, primary, and general election.
- After the 28th day, requires the supervisor of elections to send an absentee ballot within two business days after receiving a request for such a ballot, unless the request meets other requirements provided in law.
- Updates reasons for requesting an absentee ballot to reflect current practice.
- *Expands the absentee ballot instructions to put voters on notice that an absentee ballot will not count if the signature on record does not match the signature on the ballot certificate (Invalidates Absentee*

¹ Florida House of Representative Final Analysis of Bill CS/CS/HB 1355.

Ballots), and notifies the absentee voter of the end date for when they can update their signature on record in order for their ballot to count.

Background and Relevant Legislation

Since 1978, 26 states have approved measures providing for the universal availability of absentee ballots. Prior to 1978, when California became the first state to allow universal access to absentee ballots, absentee voting was a rather minor phenomenon typically limited to individuals with preexisting health conditions and members of the armed services.²

Pre-Election Day Voting Options

Mail-in voting is proving to be an increasingly popular method of voting in the United States. As a proportion of total votes cast, the use of mail-in or absentee ballots doubled between 1970 and 1990, and then doubled again over the last decade. In 2000, 14 percent of all ballots casts nationwide were cast by absentee ballot.³ All states and the District of Columbia permit mail-in absentee voting but differ on the rules that qualify registered voters to vote absentee.⁴

States offer three (3) ways for voters to cast a ballot before Election Day⁵:

1. Early Voting: In 32 states and the District of Columbia, any qualified voter may cast a ballot in person during a designated period prior to Election Day. No excuse or justification is required. In addition, the time period for early voting varies from state to state.
2. Absentee Voting: All states will mail an absentee ballot to certain voters. The voter may return the ballot by mail or in person.
 - In 21 states, an excuse is required, while 30 states and the District of Columbia permit any qualified voter to vote absentee without offering an excuse.
 - No Excuse Absentee Ballot: Alaska, Iowa, Ohio, Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Maine, Oregon, California, Maryland, South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, Utah, District of Columbia, Nebraska, Vermont, Florida, Nevada, Washington, Georgia, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Hawaii, New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, North Carolina, Illinois, and North Dakota.
 - In seven (7) states and the District of Columbia, a permanent absentee ballot list is offered. Once the voter asks to be added to the lists, s/he will automatically receive an absentee ballot for all future elections.
 - Permanent No-Excuse Absentee Voting: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, New Jersey, Utah, and the District of Columbia allow permanent no-excuse absentee voting. This enables a voter to request to receive an absentee ballot automatically for all future elections.
 - In addition, seven (7) states offer permanent absentee status to a limited number of voters who meet certain criteria. In Kansas, for example, voters with a permanent disability or an illness diagnosed as permanent are offered permanent absentee voting status.
 - All states permit members of the military who are stationed overseas, their dependents, and other U.S. citizens living abroad to vote by absentee ballot.

² The State of Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency Issue Paper, *No-Excuse Absentee Voting: A Means to Improved Turnout?*, Oct. 2008.

³ U.S. General Accounting Office, *Elections: Perspectives on Activities and Challenges Across the Nation*, Oct. 2001

⁴ Demos – A Network for Ideas & Action, *Securing the Vote: An Analysis of Election Fraud*, 2003

⁵ National Conference of State Legislatures, July 2011.

3. **Mail Voting:** Only two (2) states, Oregon and Washington, conduct all elections by mail. A ballot is automatically mailed to every eligible voter (no request or application necessary), and the state does not use traditional poll sites that offer in-person voting on Election Day.
 - o In Florida, certain referendum elections at the county (i.e. local option elections), city, school district or special district level; and the governor may call for an all mail ballot election after issuing an executive order declaring a state of emergency or impending emergency.

The chart below provides the pre-election day voting that is available in the ten (10) most populous states.

Pre-Election Day Voting Available⁶ <i>The Ten (10) Most Populous States in the United States</i>					
State and Population ⁷	In-Person	By Mail			
	Early Voting	No-Excuse Absentee	Absentee; Excuse Required	All-Mail Voting	Permanent Absentee Status
California 37,253,956	X	X		Only for certain elections.	X
Texas 25,145,561	X		X		
New York 19,378,102			X		
Florida 18,801,310	X	X		Only for certain elections.	
Illinois 12,830,632	X	X			
Pennsylvania 12,702,379			X		
Ohio 11,536,504	X	X			
Michigan 9,883,640			X		
Georgia 9,687,653	X	X			
North Carolina 9,535,483	X	X			

Absentee Balloting and Ballot Integrity: A Brief History⁸

The rapid expansion of early voting and no excuse absentee balloting, combined with a number of high profile cases of voter fraud involving absentee voters, have raised questions about ballot integrity when voters may never personally encounter an elections official or poll worker. Critics of voting-by-mail and no-excuse absentee balloting raise a number of security issues. First, ballots sent through the mail might be obtained and filled out by someone other than the legal voter. Second, without the necessity of appearing in person, it is easier to falsely register and vote. Third, without the privacy of the ballot booth, a vote could be coerced or unduly influenced.

⁶ National Conference of State Legislatures, July 2011.

⁷ United States Census Bureau, *Population Distribution and Change: 2000 to 2010, 2010 Census Briefs*, Table 1. Population Change for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2000 to 2010.

⁸ The Early Voting Information Center at Reed College, *Ballot Integrity and Voting by Mail: The Oregon Experience* by Dr. Paul Gronke, June 15, 2005.

- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has even referred to absentee ballots as “the tool of choice for those inclined to commit voter fraud.” These concerns have been heightened by a number of disputed elections and documented cases of absentee ballot fraud.
- The November 2004 Washington gubernatorial election was the closest governor’s race in this nation’s history and was only resolved in the courts on June 6, 2005. Those contesting the results pointed to absentee ballots as a source of some of the problems.
- In January 2005, King County election officials announced plans to pursue the prosecution of three people suspected of casting absentee ballots for their dead relatives. And on May 13, 2005, King County’s absentee ballot supervisor testified that, due to ongoing computer problems, absentee ballots were misplaced and not tabulated during the November ballot count.
- Absentee ballots played a key role in the 1998 Miami mayoral election fraud case. The courts overturned the original election results and installed a mayor after throwing out all 4,740 absentee ballots that had been cast in the previous election. During the investigation, police discovered more than 100 absentee ballots in a home.
- Other recent allegations of election fraud involving absentee ballots have occurred in Denver, Colorado; Benton Harbor, Michigan; Albany, New York; and Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

2000 Presidential Election

Events surrounding the 2000 presidential election raised such concerns as the reliability of different types of voting equipment, the role of election officials, the disqualification of absentee ballots, and the accuracy of vote counts and recounts. As a result, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was enacted providing sweeping guidelines to the states on how to overhaul their voting systems and provide new funding for reform measures.⁹

In the October 2001 Report by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) entitled, *Elections: Perspectives on Activities and Challenges Across the Nation*, the following challenges were identified by election officials for absentee and early voting:

- Establishing procedures designed to prevent fraud in absentee balloting by mail, such as voter signature requirements, while minimizing the requirements that are placed on such voters;
- Addressing voter error issues, such as unsigned and other wise incomplete absentee mail ballot applications and returned ballot materials, in processing applications and qualifying returned ballots for counting;
- Processing large numbers of mail absentee applications and ballots in a timely manner; and
- Obtaining adequate staffing, ballots, and locations for conducting early voting.

Many states require that an absentee ballot be signed by a witness or a notary public. In these states, ballots that are returned without the required signature are not counted. A review of Appendix V, Selected State Statutory Requirements for Absentee and Early Voting in the 2001 GAO Report provides the requirements for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The majority of states at the time of this survey did not require notary or witness for voter signature. However, some of the states whose statutes do not require that an absentee voter’s signature be

⁹ The State of Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency Issue Paper, *No-Excuse Absentee Voting: A Means to Improved Turnout?*, Oct. 2008.

witnessed or notarized in all cases may impose this requirement in some circumstances, such as when the voter receives assistance reading or marking the ballot because of disability.

Additional Information

According to the Supervisor of Elections website for Pinellas County, voters may designate in writing anyone to pick up their ballot; however, the designee is limited to 2 ballots for each election other than his/her own ballot and ballots for his/her immediate family only. In addition, there is no limit to the number of ballots a person may return.

According to a November 2011 news release by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, eight (8) individuals along with the Madison County Supervisor of Elections were arrested for absentee ballot fraud in the 2010 School Board election for Madison County.

According to a November 11, 2011, Miami Herald article, *Hialeah Elections: Accusations Fly over Elderly Voters*, questions arose about the mental capacity of six seniors who were transported from an Assisted Living Facility (ALF) to the John F. Kennedy Library polling site. In the article, the owner of the ALF stated that the six seniors were of sound mind.

Prepared By: Elizabeth N. Owens and Michael Amador-Gil

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR**



Legislative Notes

Agenda Item: 8F1
File Number: 112411
Date of Analysis: December 1, 2011

Summary

This resolution ratifies the action of the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee in executing an agreement with Gillig LLC (Gillig) in the amount of \$1,657,000 to purchase four 30-foot low floor diesel buses for the cities of **Coral Gables** (one bus), and **Miami Beach** (two buses), and **Town of Cutler Bay** (one bus).

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), using the Urbanized Area Formula Funding program (49 U.S.C. 5307), awarded Miami-Dade County \$1,732,737 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to purchase the buses.

On June 27, 2011, the County accessed a competitively awarded contract by the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority d/b/a LYNX to purchase the four buses. *Gillig is one of the vendors who participated in the LYNX competitive contract process.*

There is no fiscal impact to the County as the purchase is entirely funded by ARRA grant funds. The buses are scheduled to be delivered before June 2012.

The Mayor's memorandum states that accessing this competitively established LYNX contract allows the County to purchase the four buses, and expedite their deployment.

Additional Information

Pursuant to the Agreement, the County will purchase four 30-foot floor diesel buses from Gillig.

On September 21, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), through R-946-10, ratified the actions of the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee in approving the selection of Gillig in the amount of \$3,254,904 for the purchase of five Heavy Duty Transit Buses for Miami-Dade Transit Department (MDT). These buses were replacements to the existing fleet and are a new bus type for Miami-Dade Transit. *This item accessed a contract competitively awarded by LYNX.*

According to MDT, while this will be MDT's first experience with hybrid buses, it is anticipated that there will be a slight decrease in operations and maintenance for these hybrids, as there will be a fuel savings of approximately twenty percent, less required repairs on the engines, and brake maintenance will be improved.

Gillig LLC

According to Gillig's website, Gillig was founded over 115 years ago, in 1890, in San Francisco, for the purpose of modifying and building buggies and carriages - the main mode of transportation at that time. Gillig adapted to the new horseless technology, but in 1906 the factory burned down in the great San Francisco earthquake and fire.

Creative engineering and aggressive problem solving led to many innovative product firsts, such as the patented California Top for touring cars of the 1920's, the first transit style school bus in the 1930's, the first rear engine diesel powered coach in 1959, and the first production built, dedicated liquefied natural gas transit bus in 1992 - all products using advanced technology of the day to optimize quality and value.

Today, Gillig only builds heavy-duty transit buses. They come in different lengths and in two basic models, the standard floor model called the Phantom and the newer Low Floor model. Both models have very good reputations having proven to be very reliable, durable and economical to operate.

Gillig is the second largest producer of transit buses in North America and produces around 1,200 to 1,300 buses per year for hundreds of different customers, from Alaska to Florida.

Most of the buses Gillig builds today are powered by clean and efficient diesel engines. Today's clean diesel engines are more fuel efficient and also emit up to 90% fewer exhaust emissions. Product improvements include: more easily serviceable components with reduced maintenance requirements; lighter weight; and more corrosion resistant.

Prepared by: Michael Amador-Gil

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR**



Legislative Notes

Agenda Item: 8N1, 8N2 and 8N5

File Number: 112377, 112379, and 112499

Date of Analysis: November 30, 2011

Summary

This resolution authorizes the following agenda items as Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Businesses:

- Agenda Item No. 8N1 (Legislative Item No. 112377) - Confidential Project 11-00246 (Project) and providing an appropriation of up to \$36,400 from General Revenue Funds;
- Agenda Item No. 8N2 (Legislative Item No. 112379)- Chopard Marketing Services, Inc. and providing an appropriation of up to \$18,000 from General Revenue Funds; and
- Agenda Item No. 8N5 (Legislative Item No. 112499) - Banah International Group, Inc. and providing an appropriation of up to \$86,140 from General Revenue Funds.

Confidential Project 11-00246 (District impact not yet determined)

The Project is a beverage manufacturing and distribution company with operations in the Midwest and in Latin America with annual sales of \$7 billion. The Project is considering relocating its Latin American Headquarters to Miami-Dade County. The company would employ 70 new workers at its Miami-Dade County facility paying an average salary of \$88,000, which represents over 200 percent of the state average wage. Employee benefits associated with each new job created will be \$30,000 according to documents submitted by the Beacon Council.

Chopard Marketing Services, Inc. (District 7)

Chopard Marketing Services, Inc. (Chopard) is a 150-year old Swiss based family-owned business specializing in high-end luxury watches, jewelry and accessories. Chopard would be expanding and seeking to establish its regional headquarters in Miami-Dade County. Chopard would employ 30 new employees at its Miami-Dade County facility, while maintaining its 14 current employees. The new employees would be paid an average annual salary of \$50,000, which represents over 115 percent of the state average wage. Employee benefits associated with each new job created will be \$5,000 according to documents submitted by the Beacon Council.

Banah International Group, Inc. (District 5)

Banah International Group, Inc. (Banah) is a large sugar producer and import/export company headquartered in Miami-Dade County. Banah has partnerships with companies in Brazil, Columbia, Guatemala, Paraguay, Costa Rica, and Santo Domingo. Banah would be expanding its internal headquarters which includes production/packaging and warehouse, Sales, and Administration in Miami-Dade County. Banah would employ 292 new employees at its Miami-Dade County facility, while maintaining its 20 current employees. The new employees would be paid an average annual salary of \$45,834, which represents over 115 percent of the states average wage. Employee benefits associated with each new job created will be \$10,000 according to documents submitted by the Beacon Council.

Current Business Incentive Programs Provided by the County and State:

According to the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), companies interested in relocating to or expanding in Miami-Dade County may qualify for the Targeted Jobs Incentives Fund (TJIF) program, and the Qualified Targeted Industry (QTI) program, through Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida.

Miami-Dade County Targeted Jobs Incentive Fund (TJIF)

The TJIF is designed to attract new-to-market businesses and support local business expansions. The TJIF Program works by providing cash incentives to qualifying companies in selected industries that create new above-average paying jobs and make a capital investment of at least \$3 million.

State of Florida Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund

This incentive is available for companies that create high wage jobs in targeted high value-added industries and may provide the company a tax refund of up to \$3,000 per new job created. The QTI program is funded by the State of Florida (80%) and Miami-Dade County (20%).

The QTI program requires the creation of at least 10 new fulltime jobs at salary levels equal to or exceeding 115% of the State annual average wage, or \$41,516. For businesses paying 150% of the State average annual wage, the incentive is increased by a \$1,000 per job; and for business paying 200% of the State average annual wage, the incentive is increased by \$2,000 per job. Companies that locate or expand within any of Miami-Dade County's Enterprise Zones, the tax incentive refund is increased up to \$6,000 per new job created, and the minimum salary requirement may be waived.

Budgetary ImpactConfidential Project 11-00246

The beverage manufacturing and distribution company plans to commit to an investment of \$2.16 million, of which \$1,500,000 is allocated to construction/renovation, and \$660,000 to computer and office equipment. The Beacon Council projects that the \$2.16 million in direct investment by the company and the local economic impact from operations will generate approximately \$44,121 in countywide general funds revenues to Miami-Dade County over the six-years the company is eligible for QTI cash incentives.

The County is committed to providing an award of no greater than \$36,400 (or \$520 per new job) in matching funds from countywide general fund revenues over a six-year period beginning in FY2013-2014.

Chopard Marketing Services, Inc

Chopard plans to commit to an investment of \$1.7 million, of which \$1,000,000 is allocated to construction/renovation, \$500,000 to manufacturing and equipment, and \$200,000 to computer and office equipment. The Beacon Council projects that the \$1.7 million in direct investment by this company and the local economic impact from operations will generate approximately \$32,362 in countywide general fund revenues to Miami-Dade County over the six years the company is eligible for QTI cash incentives.

The County is committed to providing an award of no greater than \$18,000 (or \$600 per new job) in matching funds from countywide general fund revenues over a six-year period beginning in FY2013-2014.

Banah International Group, Inc

Banah plans to commit to an investment of \$7.7 million, of which \$1.3 million is allocated to construction/renovation, \$5,000,000 to manufacturing and equipment, and \$1.4 million to computer and office equipment. The Beacon Council projects that the \$7.7 million in direct investment by the Company and the local economic impact from operations will generate approximately \$104,319 in countywide general fund revenues to Miami-Dade County over the six years the company is eligible for QTI cash incentives.

The County is committed to providing an award of no greater than \$86,140 (or \$292 per new job) in matching funds from countywide general fund revenues over a six-year period beginning in FY2014-2015.

Additional Information

Below is a QTI/TJIF Incentive Project Summary from FY 2008 through FY 2011:

Project ID	Date of Approval	QTI Resolution Number	TJIF Resolution Number	Comm. District (If Known)	Proposed Capital Investment	Total 6 Year Job Commitment	Total QTI Award	QTI County 20%	TJIF County Amount	Total County Incentive Amount
08-00207	4/8/2008	R-338-08		12	\$14,836,770	245	\$980,000	\$196,000	\$0	\$196,000
05-00315	7/21/2009	R-1019-09		1	\$7,800,000	123	\$369,000	\$73,800	\$0	\$73,800
08-00300	7/21/2009	R-1020-09	R-1021-09	12	\$8,090,000	25	\$75,000	\$15,000	\$87,500	\$102,500
10-00013	10/8/2009	R-1197-09	R-1198-09	6	\$3,900,000	366	\$475,800	\$95,160	\$20,000	\$115,160
10-00053	1/21/2010	R-29-10	-	12	\$800,000	125	\$162,500	\$32,500	\$0	\$32,500
10-00065	4/6/2010	R-350-10	R-351-10	13 or 1	\$230,000,000	150	\$900,000	\$180,000	\$3,929,119	\$4,109,119
10-00080	5/4/2010	R-490-10	R-491-10	6	\$42,000,000	35	\$320,000	\$64,000	\$777,167	\$841,167
10-00228	7/20/2010	R-837-10		6	\$4,600,000	180	\$900,000	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
11-00094	3/1/2011	R-161-11		12	\$9,675,000	45	\$270,000	\$54,000		\$54,000
Project Vital	4/4/2011		R-248-11	2	\$3,025,000	60		\$0	\$52,869	\$52,869
11-00375	6/7/2011	R-458-11		12	\$1,400,000	16	\$96,000	\$19,200	\$0	\$19,200
Bioaxone	7/7/2011	R-553-11		3	\$1,274,000	11	\$82,000	\$16,500	\$0	\$16,500
11-00494	9/20/2011	R-744-11		TBD	\$6,120,000	101	\$404,000	\$80,800	\$0	\$80,800
Summary					\$333,520,770	1,482	\$5,034,800	\$916,960	\$4,866,655	\$5,783,615

Source: OEDIT

Prepared by: Mia B. Marin

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR**



Legislative Notes

Agenda Item: 11A5
File Number: 112380
Date of Analysis: December 1, 2011

Summary

This resolution calls for a countywide special election in Miami-Dade County to be held Tuesday, January 31, 2012, for the purpose of submitting to the electors the following question:

Whether to amend the Home Rule Charter to provide for the creation of a task force to develop a one-time plan placing all unincorporated areas within cities, which plan as may be amended by supermajority vote of the commission, will be submitted to the electorate at a general election in 2014 for approval.

Charter Review Task Force

On April 24, 2007, through R-462-07, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) created a Charter Review Task Force (CRTF) consisting of 21 members including each County Commissioner and the Mayor, or their respective designees; four (4) members selected by each of the four (4) largest municipalities in Miami-Dade County; and three (3) members selected by the League of Cities representing the smaller cities in Miami-Dade County. The chair was selected by the chair of the BCC.

The 2007 Task Force convened for the first meeting on July 9, 2007 and held a total of 20 meetings, including four (4) public hearings, concluding with their last meeting on January 23, 2008. According to the minutes, although the Task Force consisted of 21 members there were typically an average of 14 members present at meetings.

The Final Report, *including the 18 Task Force recommendations*, was presented to the BCC on January 29, 2008.

On November 15, 2007, a Charter Review Task Force workshop was held to discuss the issue of municipal incorporation and annexation which ultimately became Recommendation No. 7 in the Final Report. The workshop was held for discussion purposes only.

Factors (Found on Page No. 21 of the Final Report)

In arriving at its recommendation, the Task Force considered and debated the following issues:

- The desire to prioritize the focus of County government on pressing regional issues;
- Strongly expressed public frustration with the current incorporation/annexation stalemate;
- The current disenfranchisement of UMSA voters with regards to the creation or annexation of municipalities;
- The problems/challenges presented by allowing piecemeal incorporation of new municipalities;
- The ideal relationship between County government and Miami-Dade municipalities;
- The current map of Miami-Dade County with municipal boundaries, including unincorporated pockets within municipalities;
- Donor vs. recipient communities in Miami-Dade County;
- The potential impacts of incorporating all of Miami-Dade County, including political influence, improved services and property taxes; and
- Current activities of Municipal Advisory Committees (MACs).

Recommendation

The Task Force recommended that the County Commission appoint an independent task force to prepare and submit a comprehensive plan in 2009 for countywide incorporation, accomplished through annexation and/or incorporation, subject to amendments or changes by two-thirds vote of the County Commission, and that such plan be placed on the ballot for all citizens to vote on at a general election in 2010. (Motion passed: 9-5)

Reasons/Justifications

In arriving at its final recommendations, the Task Force felt that the overall effectiveness of County government would improve by prioritizing the focus of the County Commission on pressing regional issues, with municipalities providing local services.

Additional Information

On November 3, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners approved the following charter ballot questions:

Sponsor	Resolution	Title
Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo	941-11	FROM 60 TO 120 DAYS ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE INITIATORY PETITION
Commissioners Rebeca Sosa and Lynda Bell	942-11	CALL SPECIAL ELECTION TO AMEND CHARTER TERM LIMITS

Prepared by: Michael Amador-Gil