

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 10(A)(9)

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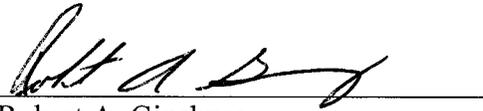
**TO:** Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed. D. **DATE:** May 11, 2004  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Urging  
Congress for French Creole  
Interpreters on Coast Guard  
Cutters

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle and Commissioner Katy Sorenson.



Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

RAG/dc



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** May 11, 2004

**FROM:** Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 10(A)(9)

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 10(A)(9)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

5-11-04

Override \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO MANDATE THAT INTERPRETERS FLUENT IN FRENCH CREOLE AND SPANISH LANGUAGES BE AVAILABLE ON ALL UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTERS IN DETERMINING THE IMMIGRATION STATUS OF HAITIAN AND CUBAN NATIONALS

**WHEREAS**, Haitian and Cuban people who desire to leave their countries and come to the United States are often times interdicted by the United States Coast Guard and the United States Customs; and

**WHEREAS**, some of these people have legitimate fears of prosecution and/or persecution which would entitle them to seek asylum in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the predominant language spoken by Haitian people is French Creole; and

**WHEREAS**, the predominant language spoken by Cuban people is Spanish; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to have an adequate opportunity to present the facts and circumstances which would entitle these people to asylum in this country they need to be able to effectively communicate to the United States Coast Guard or the United States Customs Officers; and

**WHEREAS**, communication can only occur if there is a person fluent in French Creole or Spanish available to interpret for these people,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:**

Section 1. This Board hereby recommends and urges the United States Congress to mandate that there be interpreters fluent in the French Creole and Spanish languages on all United States Coast Guard cutters and that these interpreters be freely available to Haitian and Cuban nationals fleeing their country when asylum determinations are made.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Legislative Delegation.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle and Commissioner Katy Sorenson and 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:

- |                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson |                  |
| Katy Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson       |                  |
| Bruno A. Barreiro                     | Jose "Pepe" Diaz |
| Betty T. Ferguson                     | Sally A. Heyman  |
| Joe A. Martinez                       | Jimmy L. Morales |
| Dennis C. Moss                        | Dorrin D. Rolle  |
| Natacha Seijas                        | Rebeca Sosa      |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto                  |                  |

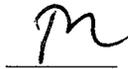
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 11th day of May, 2004. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

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

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Thomas H. Robertson