

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (11)

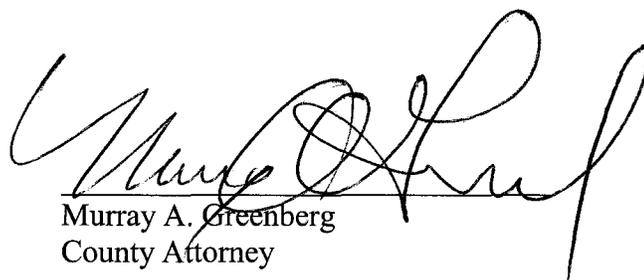
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 28, 2006

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution relating to
crisis in Florida jails and
mentally ill inmates; to
reinstate programs and
funding

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez and Commissioner Sally A. Heyman.



Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

MAG/jls

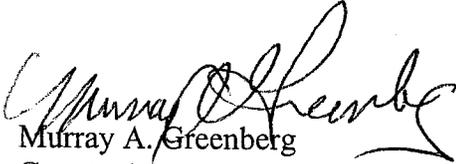


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 28, 2006

FROM: 
Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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. 11(A)(11)

Veto _____

11-28-06

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CRISIS THAT NOW EXISTS RELATED TO FLORIDA JAILS AND MENTALLY ILL INMATES; AND REINSTATE PROGRAMS AND FUNDING THAT HAVE BEEN CUT IN THE PAST; DEVELOP AND FUND NEW PROGRAMS TO KEEP MENTALLY ILL INDIVIDUALS OUT OF JAIL AND TREAT MENTALLY ILL INMATES; AND APPROPRIATE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has the highest percentage of people with mental illness of any urban area in the United States with almost nine percent (9%) of our general population afflicted with mental illness, which is almost three times the national average; and

WHEREAS, over the last several decades, the State of Florida has not provided adequate psychiatric hospital space or community-based treatment facilities to address the needs of the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, the State of Florida has closed some state psychiatric hospitals; and

WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals who don't get proper mental health treatment in the community are at a high risk of being swept into the criminal justice system after they commit crimes; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Florida, there are now five times as many mentally ill inmates in Florida jails as there are mentally ill patients in Florida mental hospitals; and

WHEREAS, at present, there are approximately 1,200 mentally ill inmates being housed in Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR) facilities; and

WHEREAS, county jails in Florida now have become de facto psychiatric facilities that are ill-suited for the needs of the large number of mentally ill inmates housed there, including many who are acutely psychotic and suicidal; and

WHEREAS, the physical plant of a county jail is not conducive to the stabilization and management of a large mentally ill population; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing treatment to incarcerated mentally ill individuals is much higher than providing such treatment in other settings; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing care to many mentally ill individuals in effect has shifted from state mental health programs to counties that now are required to provide treatment in county jails; and

WHEREAS, the number of mentally ill inmates housed in MDCR facilities has reached a crisis level that overwhelms the limited mental health staff available to treat them,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to acknowledge the crisis that now exists related to Florida jails and mentally ill inmates, and reinstate programs and funding that have been cut in the past, develop and fund new programs to keep mentally ill individuals out of jail, and appropriate sufficient funds for programs for the mentally ill.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in conjunction with the County Manager to set up a joint meeting with the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation and the Board of County Commissioners regarding this matter

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2007 State Legislative Package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez and Commissioner Sally A. Heyman 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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Joe A. Martinez, Chairman | |
| Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman | |
| Bruno A. Barreiro | Jose "Pepe" Diaz |
| Audrey M. Edmonson | Carlos A. Gimenez |
| Sally A. Heyman | Barbara J. Jordan |
| Dorrin D. Rolle | Natacha Seijas |
| Katy Sorenson | Rebeca Sosa |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto | |

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 28th day of November, 2006. 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.
Jess M. McCarty

JMM