

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

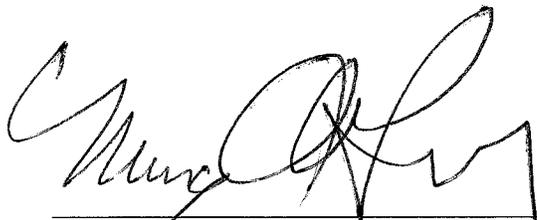
**DATE:** May 22, 2007

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution declaring a  
symbolic moratorium on the  
use of the "N-Word"

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Vice-Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.



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Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

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# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** May 22, 2007

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 14(A)2  
5-22-07

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

RESOLUTION DECLARING A SYMBOLIC MORATORIUM  
ON THE USE OF THE "N-WORD" IN UNINCORPORATED  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND URGING MUNICIPALITIES  
TO APPROVE SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS

**WHEREAS**, the first documented written use of the "N-word" was in 1786 when the "N-word" was used by slave masters to label African slaves and has its origins in the contempt and hatred that slave masters had for African slaves; and

**WHEREAS**, the late 1960's produced a surge of racial pride when the terms "Black" and "Black is Beautiful" were taken on by the African American community as positive and affirming and participants of the Black Power Movement denounced use of the "N-word"; and

**WHEREAS**, although the term remained extremely degrading in the Black Community, some African Americans started using the "N-word" to refer to themselves during the 1970's cultural era known as Black Exploitation and also during the beginning of the 1990's cultural era known as Hip Hop; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) successfully influenced Merriam-Webster lexicographers to change the dictionary definition of the "N-word" to no longer mean African Americans; at the same time, the term "N-word" began being used in popular culture and in media reports in an effort to avoid publicly using the controversial and disparaging word's full spelling or pronunciation; and

**WHEREAS**, the "N-word" remains a symbol of racism and prejudice against African Americans and numerous high profile incidents involving use of the "N-word" have elicited

outrage and condemnation from the African American community, as well as from the community at-large; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board encourages the residents of unincorporated Miami-Dade County to cease from using the “N-word” and to encourage others with whom they may encounter to do the same; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board further urges municipalities to approve similar resolutions encouraging its residents not to use the “N-word”,

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

**Section 1.** Declares a symbolic moratorium on the use of the “N-word” in unincorporated Miami-Dade County and urges the residents of the County to refrain from using this offensive word and to encourage others to cease using the word.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the League of Cities and to each municipality within Miami-Dade County.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Vice-Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss 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:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 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.



Abigail Price-Williams

