

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

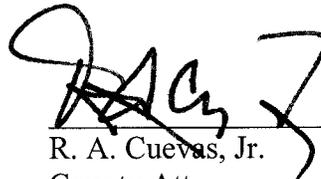
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 6, 2007

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the U.S.
Congress to pass legislation
requiring cars and light
trucks to be designed with
rearward visibility
performance standards

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/dcp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: November 6, 2007

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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. 11(A)(10)
11-06-07

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PASS
LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES CARS AND LIGHT
TRUCKS SOLD IN THE U.S. TO BE DESIGNED WITH
REARWARD VISIBILITY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

WHEREAS, since 2001, it is estimated that more than 1,000 children have died and more than 9,160 children have been treated in hospital emergency rooms due to vehicle incidents that are not related to crashes; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 50 children per day are hit by vehicles backing up in the U.S., with 2 children per day dying from such incidents; and

WHEREAS, these incidents often involve driveway backovers, according to the Emergency Nurses Association; and

WHEREAS, as vehicles have grown bigger over time, so too has the incidents of backover accidents involving children; and

WHEREAS, many popular vehicles, especially trucks and SUVs, have large blind spots, allowing even the most attentive driver to overlook a child that might be behind the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, in July 2005, President Bush signed into law the “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users” (SAFETEA-LU); and

WHEREAS, SAFETEA-LU included a provision that requires the U.S. Department of Transportation and related agencies to study effective methods for reducing injuries and deaths outside parked passenger cars; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no rearward visibility standard in federal law to ensure safety behind all vehicles; and

WHEREAS, vehicle safety and visibility bills are currently pending before Congress, S. 694 and H.R. 1216, the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007; and

WHEREAS, these bills would require that within two years, all cars and light trucks marketed in the U.S. be designed with rearward visibility performance standards that provide drivers with a means for detecting the presence of a person or object behind the vehicle to prevent death and injury resulting from backing incidents, particularly incidents involving small children and disabled persons; and

WHEREAS, S. 694 and H.R. 1216 have bipartisan support, and 31 Senate sponsors and 36 House sponsors, including Florida Senator Bill Nelson and Florida Representatives Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Alcee Hastings, Ron Klein, and Robert Wexler; and

WHEREAS, while these bills would not expressly mandate that automakers add rear visibility cameras, sensors or LCD displays, the addition of such equipment would be one means to achieve the unobstructed rear view standard; and

WHEREAS, at the present time, only 22 percent of the 2007 vehicle models have standard or optional rearview cameras or other detection devices,

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

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Congress to pass the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007, S. 694, H.R. 1216, or similar legislation that requires cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. to be designed with rearward visibility performance standards that provide drivers with a means for detecting the presence of a person or object behind the vehicle to prevent death and injury resulting from backing incidents.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. 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 and 2008 State Legislative Packages.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto 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 Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of November, 2007. 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