

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

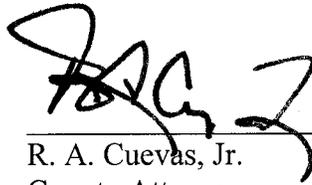
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 6, 2007

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the
Florida Legislature to
increase penalties and
fines for dog and other
animal fighting

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



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)(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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)
11-06-07

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
INCREASE THE PENALTIES AND FINES FOR DOG AND
OTHER ANIMAL FIGHTING

WHEREAS, in a dog fight, two dogs are placed in an enclosed pit, where they fight before a crowd of spectators until one dog is too injured or exhausted to continue; and

WHEREAS, dogs used in dog fights are typically American pit bull terriers that have been bred and trained to be highly aggressive; and

WHEREAS, there has been an unprecedented increase in dog fighting in recent years, according to the Humane Society of the United States; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officials nationwide have documented a strong connection between organized dog fighting and other crimes, including violent crimes, illegal gambling, and illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, the exposure of young children to dog fighting can promote insensitivity towards animal suffering and acceptance of violence; and

WHEREAS, the presence of dangerous and aggressive dogs in a community increases the risk of attacks on children; and

WHEREAS, under Florida law, sponsoring, participating in, betting on, or attending a dog fight is a third degree felony with a maximum prison sentence of five (5) years and a maximum fine of \$5,000; and

WHEREAS, many other states have higher penalties and/or fines associated with dog fighting, including Kansas (ten (10) year maximum prison sentence and \$100,000 maximum fine); Louisiana (ten (10) year maximum prison sentence and \$25,000 maximum fine); California (\$50,000 maximum fine); Alabama (ten (10) year maximum prison sentence); Illinois (\$50,000 maximum fine); and

WHEREAS, higher penalties in the State of Florida might serve to deter further dog fighting,

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 increase the penalties and fines for dog and other animal fighting.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issues identified in section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2008 state legislative package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz 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 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.

JMM

Jess M. McCarty