

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(16)

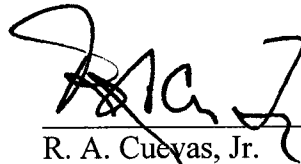
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 10, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution Urging Congress
to Amend HOPE Act and
Expand Trade with Haiti

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/dcp

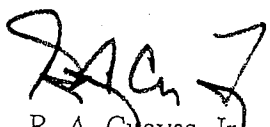


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 10, 2008

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
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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) (16)
01-10-08

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND THE HOPE ACT AND RELATED INITIATIVES TO FURTHER EXPAND TEXTILE AND APPAREL TRADE BETWEEN HAITI AND THE U.S.; URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FULLY FUND TRADE PREFERENCE INITIATIVES RELATED TO HAITI

WHEREAS, Haiti has long been the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere even though it lies only six hundred miles from the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's per capita gross domestic product is 40 percent (40%) lower than that of Nicaragua, which is the hemisphere's next-poorest country; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's economy is in dire fiscal straits, with an estimated one-quarter of the economy, or \$800 million a year, consisting of money sent home by overseas Haitians; and

WHEREAS, on December 20th, 2006, the President signed into law the Haitian Hemisphere Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement (HOPE) Act of 2006; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE Act amends the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to provide for five one-year periods of duty-free treatment for apparel articles wholly assembled or knit-to-shape in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE Act directs the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide for import compliance and grants five-year duty-free treatment to complying wire harness automotive components imported from Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Congress in passing the HOPE Act was to expand the textile and apparel trade between Haiti and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE Act as ultimately passed and implemented has not produced the types of jobs and investment originally envisioned,

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

Section 1. Urges Congress to amend the HOPE Act and related initiatives to further expand textile and apparel trade between Haiti and the United States.

Section 2. Urges the U.S. Trade Representative, Department of State, Department of Commerce and related agencies to fully fund trade preference initiatives related to Haiti.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County's federal lobbying team to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above; and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2008 Federal Legislative Package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson 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
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	


The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 10th day of January, 2008. 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