

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (12)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to pass legislation
providing tax collectors with
additional tools to collect on
delinquent tangible personal
property taxes

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of
Commissioner Sally A. Heyman.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/bw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

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County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A) (12)

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) (12)

Veto _____

4-8-08

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
PASS LEGISLATION PROVIDING TAX COLLECTORS WITH
ADDITIONAL TOOLS TO COLLECT ON DELINQUENT
TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, Tax Collectors in the State of Florida currently have the ability to seek a tax warrant and seize a delinquent taxpayer's tangible personal property; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately taxpayers sell or remove from the jurisdiction tangible personal property by the time the Tax Collector can obtain a court order to seize it in satisfaction of delinquent tangible personal property taxes; and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars of taxes on tangible personal property taxes go unpaid each year throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$19 million in taxes on tangible personal property becomes delinquent and subject to the warrant and seizure collection process each year in Miami-Dade County alone; and

WHEREAS, these significant amounts of unpaid taxes on tangible personal property could be reduced if additional tools were made available by statute to Tax Collectors to collect them; and

WHEREAS, legislation was filed during the 2006 and 2007 regular sessions that would have provided Tax Collectors additional tools to collect delinquent personal property taxes; and

WHEREAS, these bills were heard in committees, but did not pass; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would have improved the collection of delinquent tangible personal property taxes by making the owner of the property liable for the taxes due; authorizing

the Tax Collector to contract with a private attorney to collect delinquent personal property taxes; and requiring delinquent taxpayers to pay the cost of collection rather than other taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would help ensure that there is accountability and fairness in the collection process, and provide Tax Collectors access to the additional resources to efficiently and effectively pursue the collection of delinquent personal property taxes; and

WHEREAS, similar statutory collection authority has already been provided to cities, counties and most recently the Clerks of Courts as part of the Article V implementation,

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 pass legislation that would improve the collection of delinquent tangible personal property taxes owed to the County by:

- (a) Making the owner of the property liable for the taxes due;
- (b) Authorizing the Tax Collector to contract with a private attorney to collect delinquent personal property taxes; and
- (c) Requiring delinquent taxpayers to pay the cost of collection rather than other taxpayers.

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 County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation as set forth 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 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:

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 8th day of April, 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