

**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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**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 directing the  
Mayor or his designee to  
study alternatives for funding  
the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue  
Department

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/jls



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

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R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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)(7)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

4-8-08

Override \_\_\_\_\_

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

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO STUDY ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES AND ALL OPTIONS FOR FUNDING THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT; DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS

**WHEREAS**, MDFR has 64 fire rescue stations that serve 30 of the 35 municipalities and all of the unincorporated area in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, MDFR is funded through a dependent fire rescue district (the Miami-Dade Fire District) that consists of the entire county except for the five (5) municipalities that have their own municipal fire departments, Coral Gables, Hialeah, Key Biscayne, Miami and Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, during Special Session B in June, 2007, the Florida Legislature passed HB 1-B, Chapter 2007-321, Laws of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 1-B required local governments to reduce property tax revenues for Fiscal Year 2007-08 by rolling back revenues to Fiscal Year 2006-07 levels and then deducting an additional three (3) to nine (9) percent; and

**WHEREAS**, amendments were successfully run to HB 1-B that allowed dependent fire districts, such as the Miami-Dade Fire District, to rollback and deduct three percent (3%), rather than the percentage that would otherwise apply to the county overall, which was nine percent (9%) in the case of the Miami-Dade Countywide General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, rollback plus an additional three percent (3%) reduction nonetheless required MDFR to reduce its budget by approximately \$51 million; and

**WHEREAS**, during Special Session D in October, 2007, the Florida Legislature passed legislation that placed a property tax relief package on the statewide ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 29, 2008, Florida voters approved this property tax relief package by the required 60 percent margin; and

**WHEREAS**, the voter-approved property tax relief package is estimated to have an additional fiscal impact on the Miami-Dade Fire District of more than \$20 million, which is in addition to the \$51 million impact that occurred as a result of statutory rollbacks and percentage deductions from Special Session B; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of these fiscal impacts to the Miami-Dade Fire District, alternatives for funding MDFR need to be explored in order to sustain this essential life-safety function of the County,

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

**Section 1.** Directs the Mayor or his designee to study all possible alternatives and all options for funding the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, including but not limited to surveying and analyzing how other public safety departments are funded.

**Section 2.** Directs the Mayor or designee to provide a report and recommendations to the Board on these issues within thirty (30) days from the date of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa 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
Dorrian D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairman 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.

JMM

Jess M. McCarty

