# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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| **TO:** | Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners | **DATE:** | September 2, 2008 |
| **FROM:** | R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney | **SUBJECT:** | Resolution urging the Secretary of Interior to designate the Curtiss Mansion a National Historic Landmark |

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor 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:** September 2, 2008

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

**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)(19)
9-2-08

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO DESIGNATE THE CURTISS MANSION IN MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BECAUSE OF ITS CONNECTION WITH THE AMERICAN AERONAUTICAL PIONEER GLENN CURTISS

**WHEREAS**, Glenn Curtiss is recognized as standing in the forefront of American aeronautical pioneers, second only to the Wright brothers in historical significance, and has rightfully been called "The Founder of the American Aircraft Industry" and "The Father of Naval Aviation"; and

**WHEREAS**, among other things, Glenn Curtiss proved the reliability and usefulness of aircraft by designing and flying numerous airplanes that won speed and distance races in Europe and the United States in the early 1900s; developed the first commercially successful private airplanes in the United States; designed the first seaplanes and also the first airplanes to land and take-off from U.S. Navy ships; manufactured thousands of airplanes used by the Allies in World War I, including the H-12, the only American-designed and American-built aircraft that saw combat during the War; and invented such things as the throttle control on motorcycles, retractable landing gear on airplanes, and other advances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Curtiss Mansion in Miami Springs, Florida is the only remaining home or structure directly associated with Curtiss; and

**WHEREAS**, Curtiss Mansion which was designed by architect, Martin Luther Hampton, one of Miami's most prominent architects during the 1920s—whose designs include the former Miami Beach City Hall and the Congress Building in downtown Miami -- is already listed on the

National Register of Historic Places because, among other things, of its architectural significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County has shown its commitment to the preservation of this significant historic site by committing $1,000,000 from the General Obligation Bond for the restoration and rehabilitation of this two story mansion which will be utilized both as a community center and educational and research museum on the history of aviation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Curtiss Mansion possesses exceptional value in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, technology, and culture; possesses a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; and is associated importantly with the life of Glenn Curtiss, a person nationally significant in the history of the United States,

**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. Secretary of the Interior to designate the Curtiss Mansion of Miami Springs, Florida as a National Historic Landmark.

**Section 2.** Urges the National Parks Service Director and the National Parks Service Advisory Board to consider and recommend the Curtiss Mansion as a National Historic Landmark.

**Section 3.** Urges the Florida Secretary of State, as Florida's State Historic Preservation Officer, to nominate the Curtiss Mansion to be a National Historic Landmark.

**Section 4.** Urges Florida's Congressional Delegation to support the designation of the Curtiss Mansion to be a National Historic Landmark.

**Section 5.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of Florida's Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Director of the National Parks Service, the members of the National Parks System Advisory Board, and Florida's Secretary of State.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was 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

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| 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 2nd day of September, 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. TWL

Thomas W. Logue

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