



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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

**DATE:** November 20, 2008

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to pass legislation  
authorizing the use of cameras  
at intersections with traffic  
signals in an effort to reduce  
red-light running and "Blocking  
the Box"

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RAC, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/cp




# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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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)(8)  
11-20-08

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO  
PASS LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF  
CAMERAS AT INTERSECTIONS WITH TRAFFIC SIGNALS  
IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE RED-LIGHT RUNNING AND  
“BLOCKING THE BOX”

**WHEREAS**, red-light running is one of the major causes of accidents, deaths and injuries at intersections with traffic signals; and

**WHEREAS**, recent crash statistics show that there were 206,000 red-light running accidents nationwide, with nearly 1,000 deaths and 176,000 injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, red-light cameras can help reduce red-light running by automatically photographing vehicles whose drivers run red lights; and

**WHEREAS**, studies in California and Virginia have shown that red-light cameras can reduce red-light running by approximately 40 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Highway Administration has concluded that red-light cameras can be an effective measure to prevent red-light running and encourages the use of red-light cameras; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida law authorizes the use of cameras to enforce toll collections on the Florida Turnpike System and other toll roads; and

**WHEREAS**, cameras at intersections could also be used to enforce traffic laws that prohibit blocking an intersection; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing the number of drivers who block intersections could substantially improve safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of cameras could help to reduce traffic congestion in Miami-Dade County and all available means should be undertaken given the state of the County's traffic situation; and

**WHEREAS**, cameras could be used solely to photograph the license plates of vehicles that run red lights and block intersections; and

**WHEREAS**, photographs of license plates could be used to create a rebuttable presumption that the owner of the vehicle violated traffic laws related to running red lights or blocking intersections; and

**WHEREAS**, citations issued as a result of photographic evidence could be limited only to nonmoving violations, so that fines might apply, but no points would issue as a result of the violation if the citation is based on photographic evidence, similar to parking tickets; and

**WHEREAS**, having citations based on photographic evidence of running a red-light or blocking an intersection could nonetheless prohibit a driver from renewing license tags or a driver's license to increase enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2008 session, the Florida Legislature considered several bills that would have expressly authorized cities and counties to use red-light cameras, but in the end, none of these bills passed; and

**WHEREAS**, cameras also could assist with curtailing "Blocking the Box" when motorists block an intersection after a light turns red, which is a major contributor to traffic congestion,

**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 allow the limited use of cameras at intersections with traffic signals to enforce traffic infractions in an effort to reduce red-light running and the blocking of intersections, provided that license tags or drivers' licenses may not be renewed with outstanding citations of this type and further provided that only nonmoving violations could be issued and the cameras only photograph license plates.

**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 the legislation and the implementation of the reforms set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2009 State Legislative Package.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez. 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	
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 Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of November, 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

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