



**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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

**DATE:** December 16, 2008

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the U.S. Congress,  
the U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
the Florida Legislature and the  
Florida Department of Agriculture &  
Consumer Services to take all steps  
necessary to address the red bay  
ambrosia beetle

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Katy Sorenson and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/cp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

  
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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)(10)  
12-16-08

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE RED BAY AMBROSIA BEETLE AND PREVENT THE DESTRUCTIVE SPREAD OF LAUREL WILT DISEASE INTO AVOCADO CROPS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, avocados are the largest tropical fruit crop in Miami-Dade County encompassing 7,000 acres; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade's avocado industry produces \$15 million in sales per year and creates more than 1,000 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the red bay ambrosia beetle is an exotic invasive pest that was illegally introduced into the U.S. through a port in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, laurel wilt disease is spread by the red bay ambrosia beetle; and

**WHEREAS**, laurel wilt disease rapidly kills avocado trees and presents a serious threat to all avocado trees in Miami-Dade County and all of the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, federal and state efforts and funding are quickly needed to address the red bay ambrosia beetle and laurel wilt disease,

**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. Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Florida Legislature, and the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to provide emergency funding to the University of Florida for research into effective methods of eradicating

the red bay ambrosia beetle, preventing the spread of laurel wilt disease into avocados, and treating those avocado crops already affected.

**Section 2.** Urges the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to provide resources to prevent the movement of the red bay ambrosia beetle into avocado production areas, such as South Florida, and to prevent the movement into these areas of firewood and other plant material that may contain the beetle or its eggs or larvae.

**Section 3.** Urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to initiate a public information campaign to inform the residents of Florida and other affected states about the threats posed by the red bay ambrosia beetle and ways to combat them, including identification of the beetle, proper movement of plant material that may contain the beetle or its eggs or larvae, and available treatment options.

**Section 4.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Governor of Florida, the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 5.** Directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Sections 1, 2 and 3 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2009 Federal and State Legislative Packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Katy Sorenson and the Co-Sponsor 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	
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 16th day of December, 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

