



**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (13)

**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 Florida  
Legislature and the Florida  
Department of Transportation to  
make infrastructure investments in  
the Port of Miami and other existing  
large seaports in Florida

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Co-Prime Sponsors Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Senator Javier D. Souto.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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) (13)  
12-16-08

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAKE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN THE PORT OF MIAMI AND OTHER EXISTING LARGE SEAPORTS IN FLORIDA, RATHER THAN PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION OF THE PORT OF PANAMA CITY IN FLORIDA'S PANHANDLE

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County faces significant economic challenges given the current downturn in the nation's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Miami along with Miami International Airport are the primary economic engines that drive the economy of Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Miami and other existing large Florida seaports face intense competition for both cargo and cruise passengers from other seaports in the U.S. and the Caribbean; and

**WHEREAS**, there are unmet capital needs at the Port of Miami and other existing large Florida seaports that could benefit from additional state funding; and

**WHEREAS**, proposals have surfaced to make a substantial infrastructure investment in the Port of Panama City, a small seaport in the Florida Panhandle that would compete with the Port of Miami and other existing large Florida seaports not only for cargo and cruise passenger business, but also for state funding; and

**WHEREAS**, focusing state funding on building the Port of Panama City into a large seaport in Florida's Panhandle could simply divert cargo and cruise passenger business from the

Port of Miami and other existing large Florida seaports, rather than add new business in Florida;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida is facing one of the more severe financial crises in the state's history, with a \$2.2 billion budget gap and state revenues estimated to return to levels last seen in fiscal year 2004-05; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in existing and established large Florida seaports is a better investment of state tax dollars that will yield a better return on public funds at the current time than making a substantial infrastructure investment to build the Port of Panama City into a large seaport to compete with existing Florida seaports; and

**WHEREAS**, given the current state of the economy, investing substantial Florida tax dollars in developing them small Port of Panama City into a large seaport in the Florida Panhandle is not the best investment of public funds for the state,

**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 and the Florida Department of Transportation to make infrastructure investments in the Port of Miami and other existing large seaports in Florida, rather than provide funding for the substantial expansion of the Port of Panama City in Florida's Panhandle.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation, and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation.

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

The Co-Prime Sponsors of the foregoing resolution are Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Senator Javier D. Souto. 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
Dorrin 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

5