

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

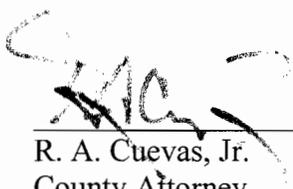
TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 30, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging President Obama's Administration to support and Congress to approve trade promotion agreements with both Colombia and Panama

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice-Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

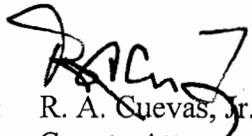


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(Revised)

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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 Mayor'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)(5)
6-30-09

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S
ADMINISTRATION TO FACILITATE AND CONGRESS TO
APPROVE TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENTS WITH
BOTH COLOMBIA AND PANAMA

WHEREAS, in Miami-Dade County, trade is the driving forces of our local economy, and Colombia and Panama both play important roles in Miami-Dade County trade; and

WHEREAS, Colombia and Panama are among our top trading partners, contributing over \$5 billion in total trade annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Florida exported over \$2.1 billion worth of merchandise to Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is currently Florida's fifth-ranked export market, valued at \$2,060,172,000 in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Florida's top exports to Colombia and Panama include computers and electronic products and transportation equipment; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is the largest air trading partner for Miami International Airport serving over 147 weekly passenger flights and 86 all-cargo flights; and

WHEREAS, Colombian floriculture generates an estimated 225,000 jobs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, over 250,000 Colombians visited Miami and contributed \$321 million to Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 Colombian-Americans reside in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is not only a prominent trade partner with the U.S., but has in recent decades emerged as a close military and political ally of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is one of the 49 nations that comprised the Coalition of the Willing related to the Iraq War, and is slated to be the first Latin American country to send troops to Afghanistan this year; and

WHEREAS, Colombia trails only Israel, Egypt and Iraq among the world's U.S. aid recipients, with Colombia receiving more than \$6 billion in U.S. aid since the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has provided Colombia with military assistance in Colombia's campaign against the drug-funded Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which is Latin America's longest-running insurgency; and

WHEREAS, a free trade agreement between the U.S. and Colombia will advance our national security by strengthening a key democratic ally; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is the longest standing democracy in South America, is the strongest ally to the U.S. in the region and now serves as a stabilizing influence in the region; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Florida exported over \$779 million worth of merchandise to Panama, which was up 130% over the 2003 level of \$339 million; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami supports 175,000 jobs that produce an annual impact of over \$17 billion; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and expanding on our positive trade relationship with Panama, in addition to Colombia, is particularly critical in light of the planned \$5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal, an infrastructure project that will influence trade patterns and affect U.S. port growth for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, the Panama Canal is a critical trans-ocean shipping lane that plays a vital role for moving people and cargo from one side of the globe to the other; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami is the closest East Coast port to the Panama Canal and is therefore ideally positioned to advantage of increased trade from the expanded canal; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami is working to deepen its channel to take advantage of the expected improvements to the Panama Canal and double the amount of cargo we currently process; and

WHEREAS, among the fifty states, Florida is ranked second in exports to Colombia; and

WHEREAS, Florida exports to Colombia accounted for 23 percent of U.S. exports to Colombia during the last two years in areas including agriculture, transportation equipment, and electronic products; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is among Miami-Dade's top five trading partners; and

WHEREAS, among the fifty states, Florida is ranked first in exports to Panama; and

WHEREAS, Panama is among Miami-Dade's top 25 trading partners; and

WHEREAS, small and medium-sized firms generated nearly two-thirds (61 percent) of Florida's total exports of merchandise in 2005, which was the highest figure among the 50 states; and

WHEREAS, increased trade with these two partners will boost exports and create thousands of new jobs across the state; and

WHEREAS, Trade Promotion Agreements between the U.S. and Colombia and between the U.S. and Panama would further enhance trade between allies; and

WHEREAS, Colombia approved a Trade Promotion Agreement with the U.S. in June 2007 and Panama approved one with the U.S. in July 2007, and both agreements must now be approved by the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance that the U.S. Congress approve Trade Promotion Agreements with both Colombia and Panama,

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

Section 1. Urges President Obama's Administration to support and U.S. Congress to schedule hearings and approve Trade Promotion Agreements with both Colombia and Panama.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal 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 and 2010 Federal Legislative Packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice-Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz. 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:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

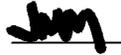
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 30th day of June, 2009. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

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