MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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

DATE: September 1, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress to pass S. 373, H.R. 2811 or similar legislation prohibiting the importation of python genera

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: September 1, 2009

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

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

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**

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Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)
9-1-09

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO PASS S. 373, H.R. 2811 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION OF PYTHON GENERA

WHEREAS, the number of pythons, a non-native species, has risen dramatically in South Florida over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, pythons became a popular exotic pet in the 1990s, but are often turned loose into the wild because they can grow to be as long as 20 feet and weigh as much as 250 pounds; and

WHEREAS, pythons lay 50 to 100 eggs at a time and have reproduced unchecked because they have no natural predators in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2009, an 8-foot long pet python broke out of a terrarium and strangled a 2-year old girl to death in her central Florida bedroom; and

WHEREAS, the Humane Society estimates that at least 12 people have been killed in the U.S. by pet pythons since 1980, including five children; and

WHEREAS, pythons not only pose a threat to humans, but also a significant threat to the environment, and especially the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, there are now an estimated 150,000 to 180,000 pythons in Everglades National Park, upsetting the ecological balance and posing dangers to endangered species, such as the, Key Deer and Florida Panther; and

WHEREAS, the python is the only known predator of the adult American Alligator, which is listed as a species of special concern by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has recently began trapping pythons in the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, legislation has also been filed in Congress, S. 373 by Senator Bill Nelson and H.R. 2811 by Representative Kendrick Meek, that would ban importation of the python genera into the U.S. and limit their transfer across state lines,

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

Section 1. Urges Congress to pass S. 373, H.R. 2811 or similar legislation prohibiting the importation of python genera.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Florida's two U.S. Senators and the members of the Florida 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 authorizes 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 Commissioner Katy Sorenson. 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
Carlos A. Gimenez
Barbara J. Jordan
Dorrin D. Rolle
Katy Sorenson
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez
Natacha Seijas
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of September, 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. JMM

Jess M. McCarty