



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

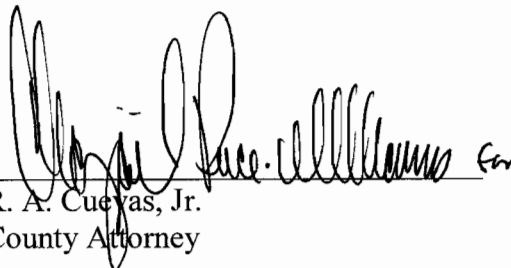
TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 15, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to reinstate funding for
the Florida Forever Program by
seeking an appropriation of \$15
million for the Fiscal Year 2010-11
State budget

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/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: December 15, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- "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
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)
12-15-09

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
REINSTATE FUNDING FOR THE FLORIDA FOREVER
PROGRAM BY SEEKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15
MILLION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 STATE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever program and its predecessor Preservation 2000 have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, since 2000 through Florida Forever, the Florida Legislature has allocated \$300 million annually to purchase over one million acres of environmentally sensitive and other significant lands throughout the state through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water managements districts, nonprofit organizations and private landowners; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever produces benefits that include cleaner air and water, healthier fisheries and wildlife habitat, improved water supply protection and protected open space including greenway corridors, park lands, forests, and water bodies; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, directing development away from coastal high hazard areas and floodplains, fostering a healthier lifestyle for Floridians, and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our \$3 billion tourism industry that attract more than 70 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, 50 Florida local governments including Miami-Dade County have enacted land acquisition financing programs in the past several decades, and these conservation finance programs have served to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of state land conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, the many important places in Miami-Dade County whose purchase and protection have benefited from Florida Forever include the Deering Estate, Jose Marti Riverfront Park, Biscayne Coastal Wetlands, Little River Preserve, Oleta River Corridor, and Camp Matecumbe; and

WHEREAS, research by the Florida Forever Coalition has found that over \$20 billion is currently needed to purchase parks and recreational facilities, wildlife and wilderness areas and open space for our state's increasing population; and

WHEREAS, a 2005 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that 78 percent of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever had been scheduled to sunset in 2010, but during the 2008 session, the Florida Legislature passed SB 542, which extended the program an additional 10 years and increased the bonding capacity for Florida Forever to \$5.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, during a budget-cutting special session in January, 2009, however, the Legislature suspended Florida Forever, but the Governor vetoed the action; and

WHEREAS, during the 2009 regular session, the Legislature eliminated funding for any future Florida Forever land acquisitions effective July 1, 2009, as part of broader budget cuts, and the Governor did not veto this action; and

WHEREAS, because land values have declined in the last few years, Florida Forever funds could have gone farther in purchasing and preserving environmentally-sensitive lands had the program not been ended; and

WHEREAS, there is a bipartisan effort underway by four former Florida governors, Republicans Bob Martinez and Jeb Bush and Democrats Reubin Askew and Bob Graham, to reinstate Florida Forever by seeking an appropriation of \$15 million in the Fiscal Year 2010-11 State budget; and

WHEREAS, a \$15 million appropriation for Florida Forever for Fiscal Year 2010-11 would reinstate Florida Forever to its previous level of funding and create \$300 million in Florida Forever bonds to restart land purchases and continue the program,

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 reinstate funding for the Florida Forever Program by seeking an appropriation of \$15 million for the Fiscal Year 2010-11 State budget consistent with the bipartisan initiative by four former Florida governors.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the chair and members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issues identified in section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2010 state legislative package.

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	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorrian D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 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

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