MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(28)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	February 2, 2010
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the U.S. Congress and the Florida Legislature to create and fund emergency services programs for legally paroled Haitian nationals evacuated from Haiti as a result of the January 12, 2010 earthquake

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: February 2, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(28)

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)(28)
2-2-10

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO CREATE AND FUND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR LEGALLY PAROLED HAITIAN NATIONALS EVACUATED FROM HAITI AS A RESULT OF THE JANUARY 12, 2010 EARTHQUAKE

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010 a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, approximately 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince; and

WHEREAS, more than three million people -- a third of Haiti's population -- have been affected by the earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the earthquake is the latest in a series of events that have impacted Haiti in recent years, including four deadly storms that struck Haiti in 2008; and

WHEREAS, even before the earthquake, Haiti was one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S., no county has a larger Haitian-American community than Miami-Dade County, with Kings County (Brooklyn), New York, having the second largest Haitian-American community and Broward County, Florida having the third largest; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 95,669 Haitian-Americans living in Miami-Dade County at the last U.S. census in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is likely to see a large and rapid influx of Haitian migrants and nationals into our community as a result of the recent earthquake; and

WHEREAS, Haitian evacuees who come to our community are likely to quickly need housing, health care and social services; and

WHEREAS, federal and state agencies are providing emergency services programs for the processing and repatriation of U.S. citizens evacuated from Haiti; and

WHEREAS, there is limited or no financial assistance or programs available for legally paroled Haitian nationals evacuated from Haiti to the U.S. and specifically to Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, as well as the cities located in Miami-Dade County, are likely to incur substantial costs in the areas of housing, health care, social services, education, and emergency medical services for legally paroled Haitian nationals since they are not eligible for the existing emergency services programs; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should provide programs and funding to assist legally paroled Haitians evacuated due to the January 12, 2010 earthquake, and to offset the expenses Miami-Dade County and other local governments could be expected to incur without such programs being available,

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

Section 1. Urges Congress and the Florida Legislature to create and fund emergency services programs to assist legally paroled Haitians evacuated to the U.S. and to offset the expenses that Miami-Dade County and other local governments are likely to incur as a result of the anticipated migration of people from Haiti to Miami-Dade County.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation, the Governor, Florida Senate President, Florida House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegations and the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Broward County.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs that the 2010 Federal and State Legislative Packages be amended to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson. 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
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of February, 2010. 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

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