

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

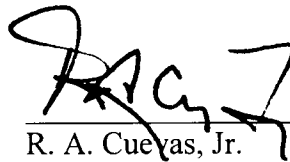
TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 18, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to restore funding for
refugee services provided by
Miami-Dade County following
the recent earthquake in Haiti

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 18, 2010

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RACJ", is written over the printed name of the County Attorney.

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

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)(18)

2-18-10

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
RESTORE FUNDING FOR REFUGEE SERVICES PROVIDED
BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOLLOWING THE RECENT
EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

WHEREAS, as a result of the January 12, 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti, Miami-Dade County is likely to see a large and rapid influx of Haitian refugees into our community; and

WHEREAS, already more than 1,000 Haitian children who survived the January 12th earthquake have enrolled in schools in Miami-Dade and Broward counties; and

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

WHEREAS, Haitian refugee children and adults alike will face the challenges not only of adapting to a new environment, but also of dealing with the physical harm, emotional scars and loss of family members, friends, homes and communities from the earthquake; and

WHEREAS, through its Department of Human Services, Miami-Dade County currently provides services to newly-arrived refugees from Cuba, Haiti and Colombia; and

WHEREAS, services are outreach in nature and frequently involve immigrant children who are identified by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools System, although referrals are also received from other community service agencies within Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, refugee services are provided to children, youth and families including prevention and intervention services, tutorial after school care services, individual and group counseling services, and summer camp; and

WHEREAS, refugee services are aimed at reducing the stresses and barriers associated with the immigration process and increasing the likelihood of successful acculturation and achievement of self-sufficiency in the shortest time possible; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the Florida Legislature, through the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), has provided funding to Miami-Dade County to partially offset the cost of providing refugee services; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2005-06, DCF provided Miami-Dade County \$2.134 million in funding for refugee services, but in fiscal year 2006-07, this funding was reduced to \$1.035 million and has remained relatively constant at the reduced level since then; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida should do its part to provide funding and services for Haitian refugees from the January 12th earthquake; and

WHEREAS, estimates from the latest U.S. Census show that Miami-Dade receives 74 percent of all refugees arriving in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the January 12th earthquake in Haiti, the time has come for the Florida Legislature to reinstate funding for refugee programs provided by Miami-Dade County,

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 restore funding for refugee services provided by Miami-Dade County, through its Department of Human Services following the recent earthquake in Haiti to meet the increased demand for services.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs that the 2010 State Legislative Package 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
Dorin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

5

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th 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.

Att for JMM

Jess M. McCarty