

MEMORANDUM

RCT

Agenda Item No. 2(B)

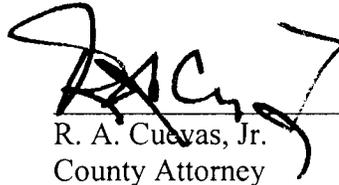
TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 10, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Resolution setting policy for
Miami-Dade County related
to head injuries by youths
participating in team sports
at County parks and other
County facilities

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



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

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

Agenda Item No.

Veto _____

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SETTING POLICY FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RELATED TO HEAD INJURIES BY YOUTHS PARTICIPATING IN TEAM SPORTS AT COUNTY PARKS AND OTHER COUNTY FACILITIES; REQUIRING STEPS TO REDUCE THE DANGERS OF A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION; DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE RISKS A CONCUSSION CAN PRESENT TO YOUNG ATHLETES

WHEREAS, a concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull; and

WHEREAS, concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) estimates that as many as 3.9 million concussions occur related to sports and recreational activities each year in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, concussions can occur in any sport or recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground or other obstacles; and

WHEREAS, continuing to play with a concussion leaves young athletes vulnerable to further injury and even death; and

WHEREAS, Zackery Lystedt is a 17-year-old teenager from the State of Washington who well illustrates the risks that a concussion can present; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Lystedt suffered a concussion while playing football and despite the injury, Lystedt was sent back into the game; and

WHEREAS, after the last play of the game, Lystedt collapsed and suffered a debilitating brain injury that left him paralyzed and with serious permanent disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in response to the events surrounding Lystedt's injury, the Washington State Legislature passed HB 1824 during its 2009 session; and

WHEREAS, HB 1824 provides that if a student athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion, coaches must immediately remove him or her from the game or practice, and the student athlete cannot play again until medically evaluated and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider who is trained in sports concussion management and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, HB 1824 also requires student athletes, their parents and coaches to be educated about the risks associated with a concussion; and

WHEREAS, Governor Charlie Crist recently encouraged the Florida Legislature and other state legislatures around the U.S. to follow the lead of the Washington State Legislature and pass legislation addressing the dangers a concussion can present for student athletes; and

WHEREAS, various Miami-Dade County parks throughout the County offer youth baseball, football and soccer leagues that are operated by Optimist Clubs, Khoury Leagues and other not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the dangers concussions can present to young athletes,

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

Section 1. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County that for any youth team sports taking place at Miami-Dade County Parks or other County owned or operated facilities:

1. Coaches shall immediately remove athletes from a game or practice if the athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion.

2. No such athlete shall return to any game or practice until he or she has been medically evaluated and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider who is trained in sports concussion management and evaluation.

Section 2. Within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution, the Mayor or Designee is directed to create an educational campaign about the dangers of concussions for athletes, parents and coaches who participate in youth team sports at Miami-Dade County Parks or other County owned or operated facilities.

Section 3. Beginning 90 days after the effective date of this resolution, all athletes, their parents and coaches who participate in youth team sports at Miami-Dade County Parks or other County owned or operated facilities shall be made aware of the dangers concussions can present to young athletes through the educational campaign created pursuant to section 2. The provisions of this section shall apply at the start of the next season of each youth team sport and for any youth team sports that are currently mid-season, within 120 days of the effective date of this resolution.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. 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 3rd day of June, 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.

Date per Jmm

Jess M. McCarty