Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date:	October 5, 2010
To:	Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners
From:	George M. Burgess County Manager
Subject:	Medical Examiner Department FY 10 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Project Grant Application

Agenda Item No. 18(A)(6)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) ratify the Mayor or Mayor's designee's action in applying for United States Department of Justice FY 2010 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program funds in the amount of $174,995. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to receive and expend grant funds, and to execute such contracts, agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and amendments, after approval by the County Attorney, as required by program guidelines. It is also recommended that the Board authorize the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to apply for, receive, and expend additional funds that may become available during the term of the grant; to file and execute any amendments to the application for and on behalf of the County; and to exercise amendments, modifications, renewal, cancellation, and termination clauses of any contracts and agreements, subject to the approval of the County Attorney's Office.

Scope

The scope of the project is countywide in nature, and will benefit families of unidentified decedents and missing persons throughout the nation/world. Funds will be used to support staffing resources required to enter over 200 backlogged cases, and new cases of unidentified deceased persons in three important Databases: 1) National Missing and Unidentified Person System (NamUs); 2) Florida UnIDentified Decedents DataBase (FLUIDDB); and 3) Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department's Coroner Medical Examiner (CME) database; each for the primary purpose of identifying unknown decedents. In addition to the forensic, medical, and research benefits of the project, family members will be able to obtain closure when a missing loved one is found and identified.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

If funded, this grant will provide a one-year grant award in the amount of $174,995. An in-kind match of $66,625 is provided in personnel and fringe benefits, Odontology consulting, records retrieval, database searches, and courier services.

Track Record/Monitor

Medical Examiner Department will serve as the administering agency for the grant project, and be responsible for overall grants management and fiscal administration. The department has an extensive history of managing grant projects. The Department will handle the disbursement and expenditure of grant funds, and manage programmatic and fiscal reporting in accordance with project reporting and auditing procedures stipulated by the Department of Justice.

Background

Ratification of this application is necessary because the short turnaround time imposed by the application deadline did not allow sufficient time for the processing of the resolution and its submission to the Board prior to submission of the application.

In May of 2006, the National Missing and Unidentified Person System (NamUs) was launched by the U.S. Department of Justice to serve as a central point for collection of unidentified decedent information across all Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, medical examiners and coroners. The FLorida UnIDentified Decedents DataBase (FLUIDDB) site is a clearinghouse of information on persons found dead in Florida whose identities remain unknown. A joint Unidentified Decedent Initiative launched by the Medical Examiner Commission and the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MECIP) in 2008, resulted in the use of a comprehensive uniform methodology to process unidentified decedents by the department since 1956.

The successful application of the uniform methodology for each unidentified decedent, which includes entering such information to both the NamUs and FLUIDDB databases, can take up to 45 days. Since 2008, the Investigation Bureau has successfully completed this activity for 48 unidentified remains of which one potential match is being processed. With only one full-time staff assigned to perform this time consuming procedure, limitations in staffing resources has not allowed for the department to complete this process for 200 backlogged cases. Ongoing budgetary constraints faced by Miami-Dade County government have and continue to significantly impact the department's staffing resources.

Assistant County Manager

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: October 5, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 18(A)(6)

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. 18(A)(6)
10-5-10

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE'S ACTION TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND EXPEND GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $174,995 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, FY 2010 PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO RECEIVE, EXPEND, AND EXECUTE SUCH CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, AND AMENDMENTS AFTER APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR THE MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND EXPEND ADDITIONAL FUNDS THAT MAY BECOME AVAILABLE

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, this Board has adopted Resolution No. R-784-10, authorizing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to administer County business during the Board of County Commissioners' 2010 summer recess as provided therein, and has directed that all actions taken pursuant to such authority be submitted to this Board for ratification at its October 5, 2010 meeting,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby ratifies the Mayor or Mayor's designee's action in applying for United States Department of Justice FY 2010 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program funds in the amount of $174,995. The Board further authorizes the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to receive and expend grant funds, and to execute such contracts, agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and amendments, after approval by the County Attorney, as required by

program guidelines. The Board also authorizes the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to apply for, receive, and expend additional funds that may become available during the term of the grant; to file and execute any amendments to the application for and on behalf of the County; and to exercise amendments, modifications, renewal, cancellation, and termination clauses of any contracts and agreements, subject to the approval of the County Attorney's Office.

The foregoing resolution 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 5th day of October, 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. JEB

Jason E. Bloch