



## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

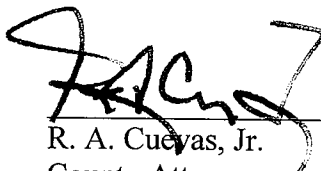
**DATE:** February 15, 2011

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging Congress to  
approve Free Trade Agreements  
with Colombia, Panama and  
South Korea

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/cp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** February 15, 2011

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

**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)(4)  
2-15-11

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE FREE  
TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH COLOMBIA, PANAMA AND  
SOUTH KOREA

**WHEREAS**, in Miami-Dade County, trade is the driving forces of our local economy, and Colombia, Panama and South Korea all play important roles in Miami-Dade County trade; and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia, Panama and South Korea are among Miami-Dade County's top trading partners, contributing over \$5 billion in total trade annually; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, Florida sold more than \$3 billion of its products and services to Colombia, about a third of total U.S. exports to Columbia; and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia is Miami's second largest trading partner, and Colombia has proven to be a trading partner resilient to economic downturn as trade with Colombia has dropped far less than with other countries during the current economic downturn; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's top exports to Colombia and Panama include computers, telecommunications, electronics and heavy machinery parts; and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia is the largest air trading partner for Miami International Airport (MIA) by weight with 192,000 tons of cargo moving through MIA to and from Colombia in 2009 with a value of almost \$4.3 million; and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner with the Port of Miami, trading 136,654 tons of cargo through the Port of Miami in fiscal year 2009-10; and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia is not only a prominent trade partner with the U.S., but has in recent decades emerged as a close military and political ally of the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia is also the longest standing democracy in South America, is the strongest ally to the U.S. in the region and now serves as a stabilizing influence in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, a Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Colombia will advance our national security by strengthening a key ally; and

**WHEREAS**, Colombia signed a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. in June 2007, and it is now pending Congressional approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. is by far Panama's largest trading partner, exporting \$4.3 billion worth of goods to Panama in 2009, with mineral fuel, machinery, electrical machinery and aircraft topping the list of exported goods; and

**WHEREAS**, among the fifty states, Florida is ranked first in exports to Panama; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2006 and 2008, exports from Florida to Panama increased by more than 71 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, Panama is Miami-Dade County's 18<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner; and

**WHEREAS**, Panama's total trade with Miami-Dade County was \$1.64 billion in 2008, which was up from \$1.04 billion in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining and expanding on our positive trade relationship with Panama is particularly critical in light of the expansion of the Panama Canal, projected to be completed in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Panama Canal is a critical trans-ocean shipping lane that plays a vital role for moving people and cargo from one side of the globe to the other; and

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of the Panama Canal is an infrastructure project that will influence trade patterns and affect U.S. port growth for decades to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Miami is the closest East Coast port to the Panama Canal and is therefore ideally positioned to advantage of increased trade from the expanded canal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Miami is working to deepen its channel to take advantage of the expansion of the Panama Canal in order to double the volume of cargo we currently process; and

**WHEREAS**, Panama signed a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. in July 2007, and it is now pending Congressional approval; and

**WHEREAS**, a Free Trade Agreement with South Korea would be the first Free Trade Agreement by the U.S. with a major Asian economy, and the largest trade deal by the U.S. since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, Enterprise Florida estimates that Florida's total import and export trade with South Korea was valued at more than \$806 million in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, South Korea is Miami-Dade County's 28<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner; and

**WHEREAS**, South Korea traded 61,160 tons of cargo through the Port of Miami in 2010 making South Korea the Port of Miami's 24<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner; and

**WHEREAS**, South Korea signed a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. in June 2007, with a renegotiated version signed in December 2010, and it is now pending Congressional approval; and

**WHEREAS**, Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea are all now pending approval by the U.S. Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, approval by the U.S. Congress of Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea would not only further enhance trade with these important allies, but also could serve to accelerate economic recovery, particularly in 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 U.S. Congress to approve Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2011 and 2012 Federal Legislative Packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. 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:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Natacha Seijas	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011. 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