



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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 President Obama's
Administration to allow 55,000
Haitians already approved for visas to
enter the U.S.

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



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: February 15, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11 (A) (8)

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. 11(A)(8)

Veto _____

2-15-11

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S
ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOW 55,000 HAITIANS
ALREADY APPROVED FOR VISAS TO ENTER THE U.S.

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Haiti was devastated by an unprecedented 7.0 Richter Scale earthquake that has killed at least 250,000 people, left millions homeless and injured, and destroyed important Haitian institutions and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, prior to the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had approved immigrant visa petitions for 55,000 Haitians that are currently waiting for their priority dates to become current, which is estimated to take from six (6) to twelve (12) years; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's Administration has the legal authority to promptly allow these 55,000 Haitians to enter the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, doing so would reunite families, provide for orderly migration, and ease the burden on Haiti's overwhelmed government without cost to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's prompt recovery and the preservation of its democracy are in the best interest of the U.S. and Miami-Dade County given Haiti's proximity and our large Haitian-American population; and

WHEREAS, allowing 55,000 legal Haitian immigrants approved to come to the U.S. and allowing them to work is a simple, effective way to help Haiti recover from the catastrophe now being suffered; and

WHEREAS, if allowed to work in the United States, the 55,000 beneficiaries would send remittances to Haiti supporting hundreds of thousands of people in Haiti,

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

Section 1. Urges President Obama's Administration to allow 55,000 Haitians already approved for visas to enter the U.S. in the coming months.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, the members of the Florida congressional Delegation and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the issue set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2011 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jean Monestime. 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 15th 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

5