MEMORANDUM

Non-Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)

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

DATE: March 3, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing support for Florida City's grant application to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the construction of a detention and correction facility and committing to the extension of Miami-Dade Transit bus service to the proposed facility should said grant application be approved

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: March 3, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Non-Agenda Item No. 14(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 _____

Non-Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)
3-3-11

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FLORIDA CITY'S GRANT APPLICATION TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DETENTION AND CORRECTION FACILITY AND COMMITTING TO THE EXTENSION OF MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT BUS SERVICE TO THE PROPOSED FACILITY SHOULD SAID GRANT APPLICATION BE APPROVED

WHEREAS, the City of Florida City has applied to ICE for the construction of a detention and correction facility of up to 2,300 beds; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the proposed detention facility would create an estimated three hundred construction jobs within Miami-Dade County, plus upon completion an additional six hundred permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, in order to service employees and visitors to the proposed detention and correction facility, officials from ICE have indicated a strong preference for public transportation to be extended to said facility; and

WHEREAS, the current Miami-Dade Transit Bus Route 344 currently services the Dade Correctional Institute, which is less than a mile from the proposed ICE detention facility; and

WHEREAS, an extension of the Route 344 to the proposed ICE facility could be performed at minimal cost; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2011, Miami-Dade County received correspondence from the Mayor of Florida City, seeking support for its proposal, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby expresses its support for Florida City's grant application to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the construction of a detention and correction facility and commits to the extension of Miami-Dade Transit bus service to the proposed facility should said grant application be approved.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and 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
Barbara J. Jordan
Sally A. Heyman
Jean Monestime
Lynda Bell
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Carlos A. Gimenez
Dennis C. Moss
Natacha Seijas
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of March, 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 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.

Office of the Mayor

March 3, 2011

Office of Commissioner Dennis C. Moss
District 9
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 320
Miami, FL. 33128

Dear Commissioner Moss:

The City of Florida City has applied to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E) for the construction of a detention and correction facility of up to 2,300 beds. The project is proposed on forty (40) acres of city owned land just south of our city limits. The application to I.C.E is a result of a partnership agreement between the city and the GEO Group Inc. Under our agreement GEO will design, construct and operate the facility if our application is successful.

The GEO Group is one of the largest providers of correction facilities in the world. There are currently three applications including ours before I.C.E. The other applicants are groups located in Broward and Palm Beach County. If we are successful, the institution will be providing jobs to approximately three hundred (300) residents of Miami-Dade County during the eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) month construction period. Upon opening, the facility will generate over six hundred (600) permanent jobs in the public and private sector. The construction budget for the facility is approximately 150 Million dollars.

On Tuesday, March 1, 2011, I along with the CEO of the GEO Group and their development team appeared at a hearing at I.C.E. headquarters in Washington to discuss our application. Our presentation was received very favorably. One of the questions asked however was whether there was public transportation to the site which we indicated there was not. I.C.E. voiced that a bus stop at the site would be critical so that inmate families would have access to the proposed facility. It is our belief that a commitment from the County to add a stop at this location would separate our application from the competition in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

A review of current county service indicates that route number 344 currently has a stop at the Dade Correctional Institute (DCI). DCI institution has four scheduled stops per day and the location is only one half mile from the city owned site on the same street. If we can get a confirmation that the county would provide that bus stop upon completion of the facility it would significantly increase our application's chance of success.

March 3, 2011

Office of Commissioner Dennis C. Moss
District 9
Stephen Pl. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 320
Miami, FL. 33128

Any questions regarding this matter can be directed to me if needed. I would appreciate a quick response as I am sure that Miami-Dade County can use the jobs and the recirculation of dollars connected with the project.

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

OTIS T. WALLACE, MAYOR

March 3, 2011

The GEO Group, Inc.

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621 Northwest 53rd Street
Boca Raton, Florida 33487

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866 301 4436
www.geogroup.com
amartin@geogroup.com

Mayor Otis T. Wallace
Cit of Florida City
404 West Palm Drive
PO Box 343570
Florida City, FL 33034-0570

Re: Florida City Proposal for Florida City ICE Processing Center
Public Transportation Needs

Dear Mayor Wallace:

First of all, I would like to thank you for your support in this project as well as for your assistance at the meeting with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Washington DC on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. As you know one of the concerns brought up by the ICE is the availability of public transportation in facilitating travel between the proposed facility and the Miami area.

Since we are in close competition with two other counties, we believe having the ability to provide readily accessible public transportation through a bus stop near the proposed facility is critical to the project's success.

We greatly appreciate your support in assisting in the establishment of a bus stop in close proximity to the proposed facility.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information regarding our submission, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jennifer Houston, Vice President – Proposal Development, at 866-301-4436, ext. 7341, or via email at jhouston@geogroup.com.

Sincerely,
The GEO Group, Inc.

Amber D. Martin
Vice President, Contract Administration

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