

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

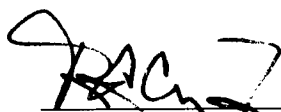
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 3, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to authorize two or
more destination resort casinos
in Miami-Dade County with
revenues generated to be used
to reduce countywide property
taxes

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Joe A. Martinez.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

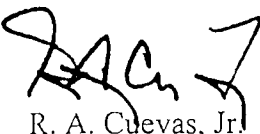


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(Revised)

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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)(6)
11-3-11

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
AUTHORIZE TWO OR MORE DESTINATION RESORT
CASINOS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WITH REVENUES
GENERATED TO BE USED TO REDUCE COUNTYWIDE
PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, destination resort that include casinos (“destination resort casinos”) would result in a multi-billion dollar investment into Florida's economy and would provide thousands of construction jobs as well as permanent, high-paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, these projects would put Florida residents back to work and provide a much-needed jolt to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the people of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties have twice expressed their support for Class 3, Las Vegas-style gaming, by way of a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment and local referenda; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos would enhance Florida's position as a leading location for conventions, especially in South Florida, and would make South Florida an even more attractive place for conventions to be held; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is already a strong magnet for international tourism, and destination resort casinos offers the potential to only further enhance international tourism here; and

WHEREAS, gaming tourists currently travel to Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Biloxi, Mississippi, the Bahamas and the rest of the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos would attract such gaming tourists to Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos would benefit hotels, restaurants and all aspects of the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos also could keep Florida gaming dollars in Florida, and provide venues here for Florida gamblers that currently travel to Las Vegas and other gaming destinations; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos have helped to propel the economies of a number of metropolitan areas around the world, such as Singapore, by adding tens of thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos would not promote a Las Vegas style strip in Miami-Dade County because the gaming component would not be the focal point of the destination resort; and

WHEREAS, destination resort gaming would be strictly limited and highly regulated and required to mitigate local impacts to their operation; and

WHEREAS, with both pari-mutuel and Indian slot machines and gaming already in place, casino gambling is and has been present in South Florida for a number of years now; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos promise jobs and economic development that our community desperately needs at this time; and

WHEREAS, destination resort casinos also promise increased government revenue that can be used to reduce Countywide property taxes; and

WHEREAS, legislation was filed in Rhode Island, for example, that would have placed a question on the statewide ballot to expand casino gaming to two additional sites and use net casino gaming revenue for the sole purpose of reducing the property tax burden on the people of Rhode Island, H 6350 (2005 session); and

WHEREAS, in Nevada, casino gaming revenue makes up nearly half of the state's entire tax revenue, which is generated in large part by tourists visiting Las Vegas and other Nevada gaming destinations from other states; and

WHEREAS, casino gaming in Nevada has substantially reduced the tax burden on Nevada residents; and

WHEREAS, on a smaller scale than in Nevada, Florida residents also can shift some of their tax burden to tourists by using revenues from casino gaming for the sole purpose of reducing the property tax burden; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize that in Miami-Dade County, pari-mutuels have been longtime employers providing jobs to many people and have invested millions of dollars to build their business operations over decades; and

WHEREAS, as such, existing pari-mutuels should receive due consideration in any legislation related to destination resort casinos,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to authorize two or more destination resort casinos in Miami-Dade County with revenues generated to be used to reduce countywide property taxes, and with pari-mutuels that have authority to have slot machines receiving parity with destination resort casinos in terms of taxation rates and games that can be offered.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2012 and 2013 state legislative packages.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Joe A. Martinez. 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
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

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



Jess M. McCarty

