MEMORANDUM Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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

DATE: December 19, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact HB 973, SB 1270 or similar legislation establishing the Dan Marino Foundation Florida Vocational College

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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/up

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(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. 11(A)(6)
12-19-11

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT HB 973, SB 1270 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE DAN MARINO FOUNDATION FLORIDA VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

WHEREAS, there are presently over 341,000 students in Florida who have a disability; and

WHEREAS, seventy-seven percent (77%) of Florida students who have a disability will currently graduate or age out of the school system without a standard diploma; and

WHEREAS, currently seventy-nine percent (79%) of Florida students who have a disability will no longer be eligible for further educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a paltry eight percent (8%) of companies in the United States report hiring people who have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this system leaves countless individuals who have disabilities without any foreseeable employment opportunities or the necessary life and vocational skills to live independent lives; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent (70%) of students who have a disability tragically do not believe that they will ever have the means to live independently; and

WHEREAS, this lack of opportunity and supplementary education causes many individuals with disabilities to be largely dependent on government funding throughout their entire lives; and

WHEREAS, these facts underscore the significant additional cost—both in money from our taxpayers and in lost opportunities for our communities—that can be incurred when the status quo is perpetuated; and

WHEREAS, a better approach is undeniably necessary and definitively feasible; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has commendably taken up this issue through companion House and Senate bills that have been filed for consideration during the 2012 session, respectively, HB 973 by Representative Jose Felix Diaz (R-Miami) and SB 1270 by Senator Anitere Flores (R-Miami); and

WHEREAS, these companion bills would establish the Dan Marino Foundation Florida Vocational College, a residential school that will provide students who have developmental disabilities, who are 18 to 28 years of age, and who are no longer eligible for exceptional student education funding due to age or graduation from high school with the opportunity to obtain a post secondary education on a college campus setting; and

WHEREAS, passage of these bills would allow eligible students with developmental disabilities to obtain the education and attain the vocational, life, social, and independent living skills that they need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, the Dan Marino Foundation Florida Vocational College would better prepare these students to be an integral part of our community and significantly less dependent on government funding; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to express its support for these bills and such similar legislation,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact HB 0973, SB 1270, or similar legislation establishing the Dan Marino Foundation Florida Vocational College.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Senator Anitere Flores, Representative Jose Felix Diaz and the Chair and remaining members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

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

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
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 19th day of December, 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. MBV

Michael B. Valdes