



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

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

DATE: June 5, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Federal Government, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to ban the use of "pink slime" in meat products, or at the very least, require that meat products containing "pink slime" include labels that clearly indicate that the meat contains the filler

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/up



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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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) (25)
6-5-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE UNITED STATES FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO BAN THE USE OF "PINK SLIME" IN MEAT PRODUCTS, OR AT THE VERY LEAST, REQUIRE THAT MEAT PRODUCTS CONTAINING "PINK SLIME" INCLUDE LABELS THAT CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THE MEAT CONTAINS THE FILLER; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO BAN THE USE OF MEAT PRODUCTS CONTAINING "PINK SLIME" IN FOOD THAT THE STATE OF FLORIDA PREPARES OR SERVES; URGING THE OTHER COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO BAN THE USE OF MEAT PRODUCTS CONTAINING "PINK SLIME" IN FOOD THAT THE COUNTY PREPARES OR SERVES

WHEREAS, the meat industry is adding low-grade beef trimmings, known in the industry as "lean finely textured beef" and now widely known as "pink slime," to most ground beef as an inexpensive filler; and

WHEREAS, the low-grade beef trimmings come from the parts of the cow most likely to harbor pathogens, often close to the hide, which is highly exposed to fecal matter; and

WHEREAS, "pink slime" was once only used in dog food and cooking oil; and

WHEREAS, "pink slime" is made by gathering waste trimmings, such as fatty beef byproducts and connective tissue, simmering them at low heat so the fat separates easily from the muscle, and spinning the trimmings using a centrifuge to complete the separation; and

WHEREAS, the beef trimmings mixture is then sent through pipes where it is sprayed with ammonia gas to kill bacteria; and

WHEREAS, the process is completed by packaging the filler into bricks, freezing the filler and shipping it to grocery stores and meat packers, where it is added to most ground beef; and

WHEREAS, several United States food manufacturers, including ConAgra Foods Inc., Sara Lee Corporation, and Kraft Foods Inc., publicly stated in early 2012 that they do not use “pink slime” in their meat products; and

WHEREAS, Costco Wholesale Corporation, Publix, Whole Foods Market, and H-E-B also announced in March 2012 that they do not sell meat products containing the low-grade ammonia treated filler; and

WHEREAS, in March 2012 Safeway, SUPERVALU, Kroger, and Food Lion announced that they will no longer carry meat products containing “pink slime” due to customer concerns; and

WHEREAS, McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Burger King announced in early 2012 that their meat products will no longer contain “pink slime;” and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture announced in March 2012 that beginning in fall 2012, the United States National School Lunch Program will allow participating school districts to decide whether or not to purchase ground beef containing “pink slime;” and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, one of the nation's largest school districts, stated that it will choose “pink-slime-free” beef; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture announced in April 2012 that it agreed to allow voluntary labeling of meat products containing “pink slime;” and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has never and currently does not require the labeling of meat products containing “pink slime;” and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to acknowledge the consumer concerns regarding the low-grade ammonia treated filler,

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

Section 1. Urges the Federal government, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the United States Food & Drug Administration to ban the use of “pink slime” in meat products, or at the very least, require that meat products containing “pink slime” include labels that clearly indicate that the product contains the ammonia treated filler.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to ban the use of meat products containing “pink slime” in food that the State of Florida prepares or serves.

Section 3. Urges the other sixty-six (66) counties in the State of Florida to ban the use of meat products containing “pink slime” in food that the county prepares or serves.

Section 4. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, Chair and members of the Boards of County Commissioners and the County Manager or other head county administrator for each of the other sixty-six (66) counties in the State of Florida, members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and the Commissioner of the United States Food & Drug Administration.

Section 5. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2012 and 2013 Federal Legislative Packages.

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Section 6. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in Section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2013 State Legislative Package.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. 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 5th day of June, 2012. 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.

APA

Annery Pulgar Alfonso

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