

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (24)

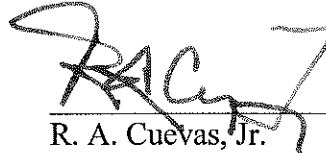
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 2, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress and
the Federal Government to
increase funding for Head Start
and Early Head Start to reduce
the number of children on
waiting lists

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



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/lmp



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A) (24)

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) (24)
10-2-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR HEAD
START AND EARLY HEAD START TO REDUCE THE
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON WAITING LISTS

WHEREAS, the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs (collectively “Head Start”) provides comprehensive child development services for low income children and families in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Head Start serves children from birth to age 5, and provides care and instruction for children in a classroom setting; and

WHEREAS, Head Start also connects children and families to individualized services in areas such as parental involvement; medical, dental and mental health services; and nutrition; and

WHEREAS, Head Start is funded and regulated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is the governing body of the Head Start program in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Head Start is administered by the Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, Head Start currently serves more than 6,000 children in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a waiting list for children in Miami-Dade County to enter Head Start that includes hundreds of children; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies of Head Start programs have found that Head Start increases educational achievement, raises test scores, decreases the need for children to receive special education services and makes it less likely that children will repeat a grade; and

WHEREAS, studies also have found that Head Start positively impacts children's health, reducing by as much as 50 percent (50%) the mortality rates for 5- to 9-year-olds, and researchers attribute this impact to the fact that Head Start provides medical screenings, vaccinations and an emphasis on nutrition; and

WHEREAS, studies also have shown that Head Start graduates are twelve percent (12%) less likely to be booked or charged with a crime, which translates into savings for crime victims, taxpayers and local, state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, based on these outcomes, Head Start is a wise investment of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, increased federal funding for Head Start can reduce waiting lists and have a long term positive impact on our community,

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

Section 1. Urges Congress and the federal government to increase funding for Head Start and Early Head Start to provide additional slots to reduce the number of children on waiting lists.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in Section 1 above and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2013 federal legislative packages when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. 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 2nd day of October, 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.



Jess M. McCarty