MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(38)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	November 8, 2012
FROM:	R.A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles to increase the size of motorcycle license plates

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

DATE: November 8, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(38)

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)(38)
11-8-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY & MOTOR VEHICLES TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF MOTORCYCLE LICENSE PLATES OR ALTERNATIVELY TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF LETTERS AND NUMBERS USED ON MOTORCYCLE LICENSE PLATES IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM EASIER TO READ

WHEREAS, motorcycle license plates in Florida are currently small and often difficult to read; and

WHEREAS, Florida law currently provides that car and truck license plates must be at least 6 inches wide and not less than 12 inches in length, unless a plate with reduced dimensions is deemed necessary by the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles to accommodate motorcycles, mopeds, or similar smaller vehicles, pursuant to section 320.06, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles currently issues motorcycle license plates that are 7 inches wide by 4 inches high; and

WHEREAS, at the present time, motorcycle license plates in the United States are universal across all 50 states and the District of Columbia at 7 inches wide by 4 inches high, which is similar to car and truck license plates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia which are universal at 12 inches wide and 6 inches high; and

WHEREAS, these universal sizes were requested by vehicle manufacturers in order to have uniform mounting brackets and space on vehicles for all license plates across the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, European automobile and motorcycle license plates are generally larger than U.S. plates; and

WHEREAS, European automobile license plates are generally 20 inches wide and 4.3 inches high, while European motorcycle license plates are generally 9.5 inches wide and 5.1 inches high; and

WHEREAS, each state has the authority to determine the size of its motorcycle license plates; and

WHEREAS, Maryland was the last state to have motorcycle license plates that were bigger than other states at 8.5 inches wide and 4.5 inches high; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, however, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB 844 to change Maryland state law to conform the size of motorcycle license plates to the other 49 states and the District of Columbia at 7 inches wide by 4 inches high; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature should require larger motorcycle license plates that are easier to read, or alternatively increase the size of letters and numbers used on Florida motorcycle license plates to make them easier to read,

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 and the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles to increase the size of motorcycle license plates or alternatively to increase the size of letters and numbers used on motorcycle license plates in order to make them easier to read.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation and the Executive Director of the the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to lobby for passage of legislation as set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include these issues in the 2013 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board for approval.

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 8th day of November, 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. JMM

Jess M. McCarty