

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(40)

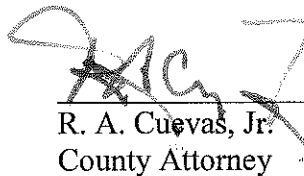
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 8, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to provide more customs & border protection staffing at Miami International Airport

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



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/lmp

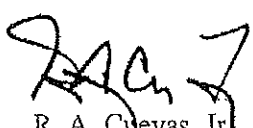


MEMORANDUM

(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

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(40)

Veto _____

11-8-12

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
AND THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOMELAND
SECURITY TO PROVIDE MORE CUSTOMS & BORDER
PROTECTION STAFFING AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

WHEREAS, Miami International Airport is the leading economic engine for Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Miami International Airport is the largest United States gateway for Latin America and the Caribbean, and is one of the leading international passenger and freight airports in the world; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Miami International Airport was ranked second among United States airports in international passengers and was ranked first among United States airports in international cargo; and

WHEREAS, as such, United States Customs & Border Protection staffing for international passenger and cargo inspections is a critical component of operations at Miami International Airport; and

WHEREAS, the federal government continues to increase inspections of inbound international passengers and impose additional cargo security measures; and

WHEREAS, as inspections and security increase, maintaining sufficient Customs & Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport is critical for operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, excessive wait times occur when there is insufficient Customs & Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport to efficiently process inbound international passengers; and

WHEREAS, costly inspection delays occur when there is insufficient Customs & Border Protection staffing to efficiently process cargo, which is particularly problematic when it negatively impacts time-sensitive cargo and perishables that are flown into Miami International Airport; and

WHEREAS, time-sensitive cargo and perishables flown into Miami International Airport make up a significant part of inbound international cargo into Miami International Airport; and

WHEREAS, insufficient Customs & Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport leaves a negative impression with tourists who wait in line a long time, impedes business and has a negative impact on South Florida's regional economy, of which tourism and international trade make up a significant part; and

WHEREAS, insufficient Customs & Border Protection staffing will only get worse as the global economy continues to recover and international passengers and cargo increase; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should take immediate action to eliminate the Customs & Border Protection staffing shortfalls at Miami International Airport; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the Customs & Border Protection staffing shortfalls at Miami International Airport is critical to continuing to keep Miami International Airport's competitive advantage among U.S. airports for international passengers and cargo; and

WHEREAS, in July 2012, Miami International Airport opened a new Federal Inspection Services facility in the North Terminal at a cost of over \$180 million; and

WHEREAS, this new Federal Inspection Services facility features 72 passport control lanes and is able to process over 2,100 passengers per hour provided it is fully staffed by Customs & Border Protection; and

WHEREAS, Miami International Airport temporarily closed the Central Terminal Federal Inspection Services facility to allow Customs & Border Protection staff to concentrate its limited resources to on the North and South Terminal facilities; and

WHEREAS, even with the closure of the Central Terminal Federal Inspection Services facility, Customs & Border Protection functions continue to be understaffed and unable to meet the minimum staffing requirements for the North Terminal Federal Inspection Services; and

WHEREAS, a study of queuing at the North Terminal Federal Inspection Services facility by JRD & Associates concluded that in order for North Terminal to be operationally productive in the processing of inbound passengers within normal wait times, a minimum of 60 to 64 lanes must be staffed at all times; and

WHEREAS, using 64 booths, average processing times are below 45 minutes for all passenger types, including visitors and residents; and

WHEREAS, insufficient Customs & Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport creates not only a bottleneck for passengers and cargo entering Miami-Dade County, but in a broader sense, creates a bottleneck for tourism, economic development and job creation in Miami-Dade County,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to provide more Customs and Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport.

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 Homeland Security.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislation and funding set forth in Section 1 above and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2012 federal legislative package to include this item, and to include this item in the 2013 federal legislative package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and the Co-Sponsor 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 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.



Jess M. McCarty