MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO:	Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	February 20, 2013
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the United States Congress to increase funding for Customs & Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 20, 2013

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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 Mayor'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)(3)
2-20-13

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION STAFFING AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the federal government continues to increase inspections of inbound international passengers; 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, 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 makes 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 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

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 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 entering Miami-Dade County, but in a broader sense, creates a bottleneck for tourism, economic development and job creation in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, in November 2012, this Board enacted Resolution number 968-12, urging the United States Congress and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to provide more Customs & Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport; and

WHEREAS, increased funding by Congress will make it more feasible for the federal government to provide the additional Customs & Border Protection staffing at Miami International Airport, which is absolutely necessary to meet the growing passenger demand at this airport,

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 to increase funding for Customs & 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 2013 federal legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairwoman 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:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of February, 2013. 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