

MEMORANDUM

CRC
Agenda Item No. 2(D)

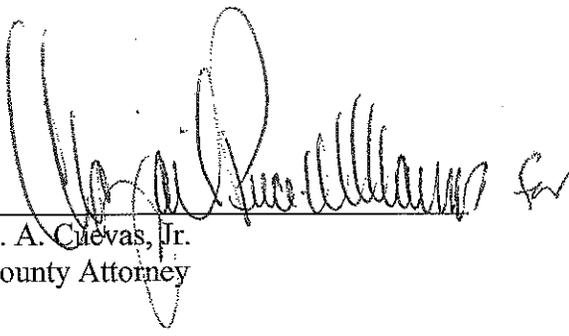
TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 7, 2013

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

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor, within thirty days, to study the feasibility of relocating the public libraries located within Commission District 10 that have been identified for closure into County parks within the same Commission District

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/lmp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: November 5, 2013

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

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

Agenda Item No.

Veto _____

11-5-13

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE, WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATING THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES LOCATED WITHIN COMMISSION DISTRICT 10 THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR CLOSURE INTO COUNTY PARKS WITHIN THE SAME COMMISSION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, public libraries are, in the words of author and Nobel Laureate, T.S. Eliot, "the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man," and serve as a vital educational and social resource to Miami-Dade County residents of all ages and from all socioeconomic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, public libraries have been recognized as a critical supplement to the school system, such that the noted science fiction author and biochemist, Isaac Asimov, commented that, although he "received the fundamentals of [his] education in school, [] that was not enough," because his "real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, [he] got out of the public library"; and

WHEREAS, research conducted in 2012 for the American Library Association found that 94% of those individuals polled "agreed that public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed because they provide free access to materials and resources"; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the American Library Association has further shown that "[m]ore than 92% of public libraries provide services for job seekers"; and

WHEREAS, the County Mayor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 may result in the closure of public libraries throughout the County, including in Commission District 10; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County parks system is the third largest in the United States, consisting of 260 parks and 12,825 acres of land, and some of the County's parks within Commission District 10 contain structures that may be suitable locations for small branch libraries, which structures are either wholly unoccupied or could be reconfigured so as to accommodate small branch libraries while maintaining existing uses; and

WHEREAS, the placement of public libraries in public parks will lead to decreased operating costs for the Miami-Dade Public Library System, reducing or eliminating the need for closures, increase usage of County parks and libraries, and create new programming opportunities at both parks and libraries; and

WHEREAS, experts on public spaces, such as the Project for Public Spaces, have opined that public libraries and public parks share important characteristics as "organizational and information hubs for community improvement projects" and serve as "natural partners" in a community's commons, by promoting civic participation, fostering local identity, and offering recreational, educational, and social engagement opportunities,

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

Section 1. Directs the County Mayor or Mayor's designee to, within thirty (30) days, study the feasibility of relocating the public libraries within Commission District 10 that have been identified for closure (the "Targeted Libraries") into County parks within Commission District 10.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or Mayor's designee, in connection with the feasibility study, to identify and/or quantify (1) the costs associated with continuing the operation of the Targeted Libraries from their existing location(s) under the existing arrangements; (2) the savings that would flow from moving the Targeted Libraries into County parks; (3) the costs

associated with the closure of the Targeted Libraries; and (4) the challenges associated with the relocation of the Targeted Libraries, along with proposed solutions to those challenges.

Section 3. In the course of this feasibility study, the County Mayor or Mayor's designee is further directed to study the viability of relocating the Targeted Libraries into Tropical Estates Park and Westwood Park. The County Mayor or Mayor's designee shall also identify other parks within Commission District 10 with facilities suitable for the relocation of the Targeted Libraries.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro. 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

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Jean Monestime

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Audrey M. Edmonson

Barbara J. Jordan

Dennis C. Moss

Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of November, 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.

GKS For MAGE

Miguel A. Gonzalez