

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

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

DATE: March 4, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution condemning the Venezuelan government for using violence and intimidation against its political opposition; expressing support for those Venezuelans who are valiantly fighting to restore their nation to a peaceful and democratic state; urging the Federal Government to take immediate diplomatic action

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/Imp



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(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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 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. 11(A)(25)

Veto _____

3-4-14

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT FOR USING VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION AGAINST ITS POLITICAL OPPOSITION; EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THOSE VENEZUELAN WHO ARE VALIANTLY FIGHTING TO RESTORE THEIR NATION TO A PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC STATE; URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC ACTION

WHEREAS, Nicolás Maduro—a member of the United Socialist Party—was declared the winner of Venezuela’s April 14, 2013 presidential election by an incredibly slim margin with 50.6 percent of votes cast; and

WHEREAS, Venezuela’s political opposition has highlighted widespread incidents of potential election fraud, voter intimidation, and other abuses by the Venezuelan government in support of Nicolás Maduro’s candidacy; and

WHEREAS, the Organization of American States and other multilateral institutions have called for a full recount and audit of the April 14, 2013 presidential election; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Republic of Chile, the Christian Democratic Organization of the Americas, the Socialist International, the Union of Latin American parties, and other political organizations in the region have issued declarations recognizing the possibility of election irregularities and have also urged a complete audit of the election results; and

WHEREAS, Venezuela’s National Electoral Council has nevertheless denied requests for a full and comprehensive audit of the election results; and

WHEREAS, the people of Venezuela have a right to a fair and democratic process and their government has an obligation to promote and defend it; and

WHEREAS, this right was usurped by the Venezuelan government during the April 14, 2013 presidential election and has continued to be infringed by the government's sustained actions against its political opposition; and

WHEREAS, for example, opposition parties in Venezuela were denied the right to speak in the national legislature from April 16, 2013 to May 21, 2013 and members from those parties were removed from key committee positions in response to raising concerns over the legitimacy of the presidential election results; and

WHEREAS, members of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela also violently assaulted opposition legislators on April 16, 2013 and April 30, 2013 in the National Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan government's rampant disregard for the free speech rights of its citizens has only persisted; and

WHEREAS, in recent weeks, the Venezuelan people have begun to courageously take to the streets in nationwide protests against President Maduro; and

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan government has responded to these protests with violent acts of repression, human rights violations, killing individuals who are doing nothing more than exercising their right to free speech, and arresting various members of the political opposition, including opposition leader Leopoldo López; and

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan government also recently expelled three U.S. diplomats from the country; and

WHEREAS, these are not the actions of a nation that purports to be democratic and governed by the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate has already passed S.Res.213, which urges the State Department to work in concert with other countries in the Americas to take meaningful steps to

ensure the rule of law in Venezuela and to strengthen the ability of the Organization of American States to respond to election fraud and human rights violations by its member states; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that the United States government should employ all available diplomatic options to address the pressing and escalating situation in Venezuela,

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

Section 1. Condemns the Venezuelan government for using violence and intimidation against its political opposition.

Section 2. Expresses its support for those Venezuelans who are valiantly fighting to restore their nation to a peaceful and democratic state.

Section 3. Urges the federal government to take immediate diplomatic action to help return democracy and the rule of law to Venezuela.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of State, and the United States Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. 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 4th day of March, 2014. 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.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes