MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

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

DATE: March 18, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact Legislation authorizing certain Counties and Municipalities with Homeless Organizations to install signage on state and local roads where significant panhandling occurs to inform the public on more effective methods of contributing towards programs that assist the homeless

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/lmp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: March 18, 2014

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
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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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)
3-18-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WITH HOMELESS ORGANIZATIONS TO INSTALL SIGNAGE ON STATE AND LOCAL ROADS WHERE SIGNIFICANT PANHANDLING OCCURS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON MORE EFFECTIVE METHODS OF CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST THE HOMELESS

WHEREAS, there are certain areas and roadways in Miami-Dade County where significant panhandling occurs; and

WHEREAS, panhandling can lead to other problems including reduced traffic and pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, panhandling is a significant problem in many urban counties in Florida, and many counties and municipalities in Florida have considered or enacted limitations on panhandling; and

WHEREAS, many panhandlers are also homeless; and

WHEREAS, many Miami-Dade County citizens give money to panhandlers because they are not aware of how to best assist these panhandlers, especially those who are homeless; and

WHEREAS, many homeless panhandlers may suffer from drug or alcohol addiction and/or mental health issues, and money given directly to them may be misused to purchase drugs or alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is fortunate to have in place the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and the Miami-Dade County Community Homeless Plan, which have been

hailed as national models (and "Best Practice") for their progressive approach to addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Trust has been given grants by both the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") and Florida's Department of Children and Families (the "DCF") to assist the homeless community in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, for Miami-Dade County residents wishing to donate funds, the best way to assist is by giving to the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust or one of its partners, to ensure that any donated funds provide real benefits to the homeless community; and

WHEREAS, installing signage requesting that the public not provide funds to panhandlers and providing a telephone number to call or text to contribute funds to a homeless organization ("Signage") will assist the public to more effectively help the homeless; and

WHEREAS, State legislation is required to allow such signage to be installed on state roads, streets, and highways,

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 to adopt legislation authorizing counties and municipalities having an established ten year plan or a community plan to end homelessness that is recognized by HUD and the DCF to install Signage on state roads, streets, and highways in areas where significant panhandling occurs.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Representative Frank Artiles (R-Miami), and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate the passage of legislation accomplishing the goals set forth herein, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2014 state legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson. 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 18th 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 for JME

Jorge Martinez-Esteve