MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

TO:	Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	June 17, 2014
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging Congress to enact the "Bella Bill" to advance pediatric cancer research

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chair Lynda Bell.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: June 17, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

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)(2)
6-17-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE "BELLA BILL" TO ADVANCE PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

WHEREAS, Bella Rodriguez-Torres was only four years old when she suddenly became paralyzed overnight and diagnosed with stage four pediatric cancer; and

WHEREAS, Bella Rodriguez-Torres was believed to never again walk, but demonstrated great bravery and faith, and regained the ability to walk, run, and jump; and

WHEREAS, despite being given a life expectancy of only a few months, Bella inspirationally fought her disease for almost six years; and

WHEREAS, Bella's life and journey inspired our community and people all around the world to live courageously; and

WHEREAS, Bella's life and legacy have brought great awareness to pediatric cancer and the need for greater research and support; and

WHEREAS, pediatric cancer is the top killer of children; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, every school day 46 children are diagnosed and every day seven children die of cancer; and

WHEREAS, the average age of death for a child with cancer is eight years of age, causing a child to lose 69 years of expected life; and

WHEREAS, funding from both the private sector and the federal government for pediatric cancer research is scarce; and

WHEREAS, despite significant advances in adult cancer research, there has only been one drug approved specifically for pediatric cancer in the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS, of the 120 new adult cancer therapies approved by the United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) between 1948 and January 2003, only 30 are shown for use in children; and

WHEREAS, this disparity in the number of oncology drugs labeled for use in adults as opposed to children is a manifestation of the many challenges pediatric cancer drug development faces; and

WHEREAS, the "Live Like Bella" Foundation for Childhood Cancer has developed federal legislation to address the challenges associated with pediatric cancer drug development; and

WHEREAS, the "Bella Bill" would offer a unique legislative solution to spark innovation specifically for pediatric cancer, allowing children to benefit sooner from the vast funding, research, and innovation that is currently ongoing for adult cancers; and

WHEREAS, the "Bella Bill" also would ensure that no one specific entity bears the financial or legal burden of this important and much needed initiative to help save our children's lives; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of new drugs in the United States is based on a New Drug Application (NDA) to the FDA, and, for many decades, every new drug has been the subject of a review and approval before it can be made available to the public; and

WHEREAS, the "Bella Bill" would ensure that, as each new cancer drug moves through the FDA approval process, researchers would test the drug as a possible treatment for the 12 major types of pediatric cancer; and

WHEREAS, if the new cancer drug shows efficacy against any of these 12 pediatric cancers, the "Bella Bill" would require further testing of the drug, with the outcomes of the tests related to pediatric cancer excluded from the final outcomes so as not to adversely affect the results for adults should the pediatric population be negative; and

WHEREAS, this change in how new cancer drugs are reviewed would allow children with cancer to benefit from cancer drug research sooner and not be left out of new treatment options because of the advanced status of their disease; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to express its support for the "Bella Bill", and urge Congress to enact the "Bella Bill",

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

Section 1. Urges Congress to enact the "Bella Bill" to advance pediatric cancer research.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation as set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2014 Federal Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2015 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chair Lynda Bell. 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 17th day of June, 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. JMM

Jess M. McCarty