

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

DATE: July 1, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Secretary of State and all other relevant federal agencies to intervene and secure the prompt release and safe return to the United States of United States Marine Reserve Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi who is currently being held in a Mexican jail

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/lmp



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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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

7-1-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO INTERVENE AND SECURE THE PROMPT RELEASE AND SAFE RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES OF UNITED STATES MARINE RESERVE SERGEANT ANDREW TAHMOORESSI WHO IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN A MEXICAN JAIL

WHEREAS, 25-year old United States Marine Corps Reserve Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi has been jailed in Mexico on weapons charges for the past two months since making a wrong turn near San Diego, California and unwittingly crossing the Mexican border with three firearms in his trunk; and

WHEREAS, Tahmooressi, who is originally from Weston, Florida, said he was driving to meet friends for dinner and missed his exit, mistakenly winding up at a border crossing point; and

WHEREAS, Tahmooressi attempted to stop at the crossing gates but was waved through for inspection; and

WHEREAS, Tahmooressi apparently became lost due to checkpoint closures and redirected traffic in an area where there was no opportunity to turn around before the border; and

WHEREAS, media reports have indicated that Tahmooressi had the three firearms, along with other belongings, in his car because he had just moved from Florida to California; and

WHEREAS, the three firearms were registered in the United States, but are illegal in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Tahmooressi had recently moved to San Diego, California, to receive treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, he has served three combat tours in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, he says he never intended to leave the United States; and

WHEREAS, while in a Mexican jail, Tahmooressi has been chained and strapped to his cot day after day, and has received rape and death threats; and

WHEREAS, a number of members of Congress have written letters or expressed concerns on the record in committee hearings regarding Tahmooressi's captivity, including several members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to join these members of Congress in calling on the federal government to intervene and secure Tahmooressi's prompt release and safe return to the United States,

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 Secretary of State and all other relevant federal agencies to intervene and secure the prompt release of United States Marine Corps Reserve Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi from his unjust detention in a Mexican jail.

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 United States Secretary of State.

Section 3: Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the action 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.

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
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 1st day of July, 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.



Estephanie Resnik