

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

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

**DATE:** September 16, 2014

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing the Mayor  
to conduct a study on the  
economic impact of Miami-Dade  
County's agricultural industry,  
with particular focus on  
innovative farming technology  
entrepreneurs

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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/smm



**MEMORANDUM**  
(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)(1)  
9-16-14

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON INNOVATIVE FARMING TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURS, AND TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITHIN 120 DAYS

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County's agricultural industry is of great significance to the county, employing more than 20,000 people and producing more than \$2.7 billion in economic impact annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County's agricultural industry produces the most tropical fruits, tropical vegetables, and ornamental nurseries in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005 Cornell University opened the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park, referred to as the Technology Farm, in Geneva, New York with the purpose of providing a campus for research and development in the areas of food, agriculture, and medicine; and

**WHEREAS**, other similar agricultural technology incubators have been created nationwide to provide farmers creative research and products in the areas of farm management, land acquisition, irrigation, biofuels, plant nutrients, and web-based resource centers, with the purpose of reaching underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County is a gateway between North America and Latin America with regard to agricultural innovation and may develop stronger bridges through agricultural technology training facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture has provided funding and resources in support of the creation of farm incubators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to encourage and facilitate the development of entrepreneurial farm incubators in Miami-Dade County with strong relationships between local land grant universities and the private sector, both locally and internationally,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to conduct a study on the economic impact of the agricultural industry within Miami-Dade County. Within the study, the Mayor or Mayor's designee is further directed to include a particular emphasis on:

(1) the effect of innovative entrepreneurs and agricultural incubators around the country and within the County;

(2) an analysis of the impact of agricultural incubators on jobs, output, and tourism around the country and within the County;

(3) a summary of the present relationships and potential future relationships between local land grant universities and the private sector within the County to foster entrepreneurial opportunities by research and value-added commercialization of farmlands.

The Mayor or Mayor's designee shall provide the report to this Board within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution and shall place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

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 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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.

Lauren E. Morse

