MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

TO:	Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	November 5, 2014
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to increase state funding for additional Florida Highway Patrol troopers; urging the Florida Highway Patrol to assign additional troopers to Miami-Dade County

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

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MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: November 5, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

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)(23)
11-5-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE STATE FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPERS; URGING THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL TROOPERS TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Florida Highway Patrol is a division of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the law enforcement agency charged with ensuring and promoting a safe driving environment on Florida's highways and roads through proactive law enforcement, public education, and safety awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Division of the Florida Highway Patrol has statutory responsibility for the investigation of traffic crashes, assisting disabled motorists, investigating incidents of highway criminal violence, seizing contraband transported on Florida's highways, apprehending felons and wanted persons, assisting other state and local law enforcement officers, and providing a quality level of preventative patrol activity; and

WHEREAS, while all Florida law enforcement officers receive training specified by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, Florida Highway Patrol troopers receive advanced training in crash and traffic homicide investigation, traffic law, and other subjects pertaining to highway safety; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Highway Patrol accounts for 23 percent of all traffic citations issued in the state, 32 percent of all traffic crash investigations, and 58 percent of the traffic homicide investigations; and

WHEREAS, today, the Florida Highway Patrol has primary responsibility for more than 12,000 miles of interstates, toll roads and other state highways and 71,000 miles of secondary roads; and

WHEREAS, for the past decade, however, the Florida Highway Patrol has been understaffed with inadequate resources and not enough troopers; and

WHEREAS, while there were approximately 1,200 state troopers in 2008, those numbers have declined over the years due to budget cuts and many troopers either retiring or leaving for other agencies due to pay issues; and

WHEREAS, the starting salary for a trooper is about $34,000 a year, lower than many other police agencies in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the number of Florida Highway Patrol troopers assigned to Miami-Dade County, for instance, has dropped from 250 troopers in 1984 to about 100 today; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, the number of licensed drivers in Florida has swelled to nearly 14 million, third highest of any state in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, these staffing shortages have slowed traffic homicide investigations and crash response times, as well as caused local law enforcement to divert more of their limited time and resources to traffic incidents; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicle travel results in more fatalities and injuries than all other forms of transportation combined; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, there were approximately 281,000 reported crashes in Florida, of which approximately 131,000 resulted in injury and 2,400 in death, according to the Traffic Crash Facts Annual Report released by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles on October 7, 2013; and

WHEREAS, according to the report, approximately 50,000 of the 281,000 statewide reported crashes occurred in Miami-Dade County, of which approximately 30,000 resulted in injury and 233 in death, the highest figures by far of any county in the state; and

WHEREAS, increased funding for additional Florida Highway Patrol troopers will allow for quicker response times for commuters and residents involved in traffic accidents and will also alleviate the burden on local law enforcement in investigating and responding to the ever-increasing number of traffic incidents, particularly in large and heavily populated counties like Miami-Dade County,

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 increase state funding for additional Florida Highway Patrol troopers.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Highway Patrol to assign additional troopers to Miami-Dade County.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of this Board to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Florida, and the Director of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the appropriation set forth in Section 1 above and for the action set forth in Section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2015 state legislative package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto. 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	

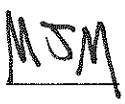
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of November, 2014. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

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.



Michael J. Mastrucci