

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(23)

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

**DATE:** December 2, 2014

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to create a program  
providing state funding for  
historic county courthouse  
preservation and restoration

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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/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)(23)

12-2-14

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO  
CREATE A PROGRAM PROVIDING STATE FUNDING FOR  
HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION AND  
RESTORATION

**WHEREAS**, county courthouses have long stood at the center of community life and represent a focal point of law, justice, administration, and civic discourse in Florida communities; and

**WHEREAS**, through the years, counties have constructed architecturally significant courthouses that reflect the aspirations of our ancestors and our own hopes for the future of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade County Courthouse, located at 73 West Flagler Street in Miami, was built in the 1920s and features a sky-scraping neo-classical design by prominent Atlanta architect A. Ten Eyck Brown, who was responsible for the design of numerous courthouses throughout the South; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade County Courthouse has been designated historically significant by the City of Miami, and also is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, historic preservation is an important public policy; and

**WHEREAS**, when properly maintained and preserved, historic county courthouses can be beacons that hold and attract many jobs and help stimulate economic investment in the downtowns of county seat communities; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, in 1999, the Texas Legislature and then-Governor George W. Bush established, through Texas House Bill 1341, the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, which provides partial matching grants to Texas counties for the restoration of their historic county courthouses; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Texas Historical Commission, the Texas Legislature has invested \$247 million in courthouse preservation through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program since 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Historical Commission further indicates that total courthouse contribution activity has generated nearly 10,000 jobs, \$269 million in income, and more than \$367 million in gross state product; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Texas Historical Commission, more than 50 historic courthouses have been fully restored, generating more than \$21 million in local taxes and an additional \$22 million in state taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida currently does not have a program similar to the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, and provides funding for capital improvements and historic preservation and restoration only for small county courthouses; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2014 session, the Florida Legislature provided \$9.6 million in funding for small county courthouse historic preservation and restoration, including \$9.2 million for the Washington County Courthouse and the remaining funding for the Calhoun County and Jefferson County Courthouses, all three of which are in the Florida Panhandle; and

**WHEREAS**, a similar program should be created to help preserve Florida's rich architectural history embodied in historic courthouses in counties of every size; and

**WHEREAS**, such a program could allocate funding to counties for historic courthouse restoration and preservation according to size, with appropriate percentages of overall funding being allocated for sharing among large counties (population greater than 800,000), medium counties (population between 250,000 to 800,000), and small counties (population less than 250,000); and

**WHEREAS**, this Board would like to urge the Florida Legislature to create such a program for the benefit of historic county courthouses throughout the State of Florida,

**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 create a program providing state funding for historic county courthouse preservation and restoration.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation and the Florida Secretary of State, who oversees the Division of Historic Resources.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation that would create and fund a program providing state funding for historic county courthouse preservation and restoration, 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

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bruno A. Barreiro    | Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. |
| Daniella Levine Cava | 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2014. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the 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.



James Eddie Kirtley