

MEMORANDUM

EPC
Agenda Item No. 2(A)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 11, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor to apply for Miami-Dade County to be designated as a participating Community of "Cities for Citizenship"; develop and implement a plan to launch an initiative in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 that will promote increasing the number of legal permanent residents in Miami-Dade County who apply for citizenship; include a plan for funding this initiative in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 County budget; identify and utilize legally available funding sources in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 County budget to launch a publicity campaign during "National Citizenship Month" to raise awareness about the initiative; submit a status report

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Co-Prime Sponsors Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Chairman Jean Monestime.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 14, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

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.

7-14-15

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO BE DESIGNATED AS A PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY OF "CITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP"; DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO LAUNCH AN INITIATIVE IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 THAT WILL PROMOTE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WHO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP; INCLUDE A PLAN FOR FUNDING THIS INITIATIVE IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 COUNTY BUDGET; IDENTIFY AND UTILIZE LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 COUNTY BUDGET TO LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN DURING "NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP MONTH" TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INITIATIVE; SUBMIT A STATUS REPORT

WHEREAS, there are over 8.8 million immigrants in the United States that are currently eligible to become citizens; and

WHEREAS, 1.17 million of the nation's legal permanent residents reside in Florida, and approximately 494,000 reside in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center found that roughly one-third of immigrants eligible to naturalize fail to do so for various reasons including, but not limited to, the cost and complexity of the citizenship process; and

WHEREAS, naturalization provides benefits to legal permanent residents by providing them with full civil and political rights, protection against deportation, easier travel abroad, and full access to government jobs and assistance; and

WHEREAS, recent research from the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration has also found that immigrants who become citizens typically see an increase in earnings of 8% to 11%; and

WHEREAS, this research suggests that a targeted initiative to reach out to and assist the 494,000 Miami-Dade County residents that are eligible for citizenship could provide a significant boost to our local economy; and

WHEREAS, by way of example, if only half of the currently eligible residents in Miami-Dade County became citizens, an estimated \$2.5 billion to \$3.2 billion could be added to our local economy over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, Cities for Citizenship is a collaboration co-chaired by the Mayors of Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York that was established to promote large-scale naturalization campaigns in metropolitan areas with large immigrant populations; and

WHEREAS, participating cities in Cities for Citizenship include Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chattanooga, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Redding, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, participating communities are required to commit to (1) track naturalization numbers and report those figures regularly to the Cities for Citizenship Leadership Council, (2) establish a target for annual naturalization numbers, (3) participate in at least one Cities for Citizenship initiative each year, and (4) share citizenship initiative materials and plans with the Cities for Citizenship initiative; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is a natural fit for this initiative due to its considerable immigrant population and the extensive existing network of profit, non-profit, and governmental

organizations that currently and capably work towards reducing the barriers that deter legal permanent residents from becoming citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Mayor or Mayor's designee is directed to:

Section 1. Apply and engage in all necessary outreach and coordination for Miami-Dade County to be designated as a participating community of "Cities for Citizenship."

Section 2. Develop a plan within 45 days of the effective date of this resolution to launch an initiative in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 that will promote increasing the number of legal permanent residents in Miami-Dade County who apply for citizenship ("Citizenship Initiative"). The Citizenship Initiative shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) partnering with local organizations to host a total of 96 citizenship clinics that will be held once a month at each of eight Community Action and Human Services' Neighborhood Service Centers (Accion, Coconut Grove, Edison, Florida City/Homestead, Hialeah, Miami Gardens, Perrine, and Wynwood) or any other comparable County facilities; (2) providing in-kind services to host the citizenship clinics, to recruit, train, and assist both legal and non-legal volunteers, and to publicize the dates, times, and locations of the citizenship clinics; (3) providing incentives to eligible County employees applying for citizenship by offering "scholarships" for up to half of the citizenship application fee; (4) training County staff at the 211 and 311 Call Centers to be able to direct residents inquiring about the citizenship process to the proper organizations or to their nearest and next available citizenship clinic; (5) hosting swearing-in ceremonies for Miami-Dade County residents who become citizens; and (6) engaging in any other activities or campaign commitments necessary for designation as a participating community in "Cities for

Citizenship.” The citizenship clinics will include (1) information sessions where the process to obtain citizenship will be explained to interested residents, (2) document preparation sessions where staff and volunteers will help applicants compile and complete the necessary documents, and (3) application completion sessions where residents can obtain assistance for completing applications under the legal supervision of volunteer law students and lawyers. The Citizenship Initiative shall have the goal of serving 5,000 eligible Miami-Dade County residents during its term.

Section 3. Identify legally available funding sources from the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 County Budget for a publicity campaign during September 2015 or “National Citizenship Month” to raise awareness for the upcoming Citizenship Initiative, and, if such sources are identified, to implement said campaign.

Section 4. Include, as part of the Mayor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 County budget, a plan to fund the implementation of the provisions of the Citizenship Initiative. The plan set forth in the Mayor’s proposed budget shall, at a minimum, include details regarding the fiscal impact of implementing the Citizenship Initiative and the funding source(s) identified to fund the implementation.

Section 5. Submit a report to this Board within 45 days of the effective date of this resolution and to place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65. The report shall, at a minimum, include details regarding the manner in which the Citizenship Initiative will be implemented, the fiscal impact of implementing the Citizenship Initiative, any funding sources identified to fund the implementation, and the current status of any implementation.

The Co-Prime Sponsors of the foregoing resolution are Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Chairman Jean Monestime. 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:

Jean Monestime, Chairman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 14th day of July, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 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.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes