

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

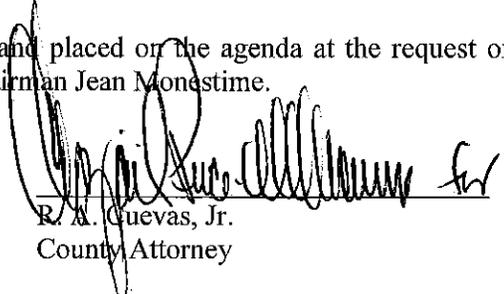
DATE: June 30, 2015

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; 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

This item was amended at the 6-11-15 Economic Prosperity Committee to indicate that: (1) the 96 citizenship clinics will now be held countywide rather than once a month at each of eight Community Action and Human Services' Neighborhood Service Centers; (2) the Mayor or Mayor's designee is no longer directed to include offering "scholarships" for up to half of the citizenship application fee in the portion of the Citizenship Initiative plan that relates to providing incentives to eligible County employees to apply for citizenship; (3) the provision relating to swearing-in ceremonies for new citizens now states that Miami-Dade County will support those ceremonies rather than host them; (4) Section 4, which directed the Mayor or Mayor's designee to include a plan to fund the implementation of the Citizenship Initiative in the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 County budget, has been removed; and (5) the item's title has been amended to reflect the removal of Section 4.

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/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: June 30, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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)
6-30-15

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; 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 >>countywide<<¹ ~~[[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 >>encourage<< eligible County employees ~~[[applying]]~~ >>to apply<< 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]]~~ >>supporting<< 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)

¹ Committee amendments are indicated as follows: Words stricken through and/or ~~[[double bracketed]]~~ are deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

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

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Dennis C. Moss

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Juan C. Zapata

Daniella Levine Cava

Audrey M. Edmonson

Barbara J. Jordan

Rebeca Sosa

Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 30th day of June, 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