MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	November 17, 2015
FROM:	Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution supporting H.R. 3761 or similar legislation that would increase Social Security and military retirement benefits and tie future cost-of-living adjustments to the Consumer Price Index for the elderly

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/cp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: November 17, 2015

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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**

_____ **Statement of social equity 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)(3)

11-17-15

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 3761 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD INCREASE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MILITARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND TIE FUTURE COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE ELDERLY

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2015, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that it will not be implementing a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security in 2016; and

WHEREAS, this will mark only the third time that seniors have not received an increase in their Social Security benefits since automatic COLAs were enacted by Congress in 1975, with the other two times occurring in 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of our nation's seniors rely on earned Social Security benefits for a majority of their income; and

WHEREAS, currently, SSA determines the COLA by tracking inflation through the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, or CPI-W, which measures price changes in basic goods and services, such as food, housing, clothing, transportation, energy, medical care, recreation and education; and

WHEREAS, the current method of determining COLAs does not take into consideration that retirees have different spending patterns than urban wage earners; and

WHEREAS, the disparity is highlighted this year, given that the CPI-W fell in large part due to the decrease in gasoline prices, which retirees tend to consume in lesser amounts; and

WHEREAS, further, seniors spend more on health care than do younger workers, and medical care prices are rising faster than are prices of other goods; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2015, U.S. Representative Alan Grayson (D – Florida) introduced the Seniors Deserve a Raise Act, H.R. 3761 for consideration by the 114th Congress; and

WHEREAS, under H.R. 3761, future COLAs would be calculated based on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly, or CPI-E, a formula based on the price of items that seniors tend to buy, such as prescription drugs and medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, additionally, H.R. 3761 would increase retirees benefits by 2.9 percent in 2016; and

WHEREAS, passage of this bill would assist the many seniors who depend on Social Security for basic necessities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Supports H.R. 3761 or similar legislation that would increase Social Security and military retirement benefits and tie future cost-of-living adjustments to the Consumer Price Index for the elderly.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to U.S. Representative Alan Grayson and the remaining members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation as set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2016 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. 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 17th day of November, 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. MP

Matthew Papkin