

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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

DATE: February 2, 2016

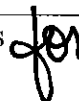
FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to reinstate the prohibition on bear hunting throughout the State of Florida and focus more attention on removing conflicts between bears and suburban areas through deterrent techniques; alternatively, urging the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to, at a minimum, prohibit future bear hunts in the South region of the state

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/lmp

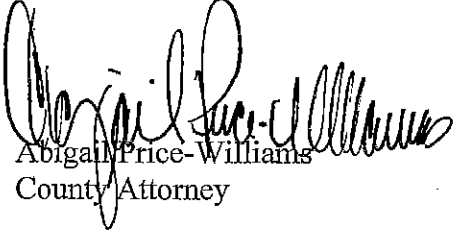


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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County Attorney

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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
- 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

2

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

Veto _____

2-2-16

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO REINSTATE THE PROHIBITION ON BEAR HUNTING THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON REMOVING CONFLICTS BETWEEN BEARS AND SUBURBAN AREAS THROUGH DETERRENT TECHNIQUES; ALTERNATIVELY, URGING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO, AT A MINIMUM, PROHIBIT FUTURE BEAR HUNTS IN THE SOUTH REGION OF THE STATE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Constitution, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (the “Commission”) has regulatory and executive powers over wild animal life, which includes the regulation of bear hunting; and

WHEREAS, in June 2015, the Commission approved bear hunting in certain regions throughout the State of Florida, including the East Panhandle, North, Central, and South regions, reversing the statewide ban on bear hunting in place since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Commission approved bear hunting without the benefit of a statewide bear count that was slated for completion in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the killing of a total of 304 bears in just the first two days of a planned week-long hunt was documented during the 2015 season; and

WHEREAS, the first hunt in 21 years was ended early because the number of Florida black bears in the East Panhandle was three times the established quota and the number of bears killed in Central Florida exceeded the limit by nearly 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, accounts of unreported killings of bears, bears suffering a slow death, and the killing of lactating bears, which was forbidden, likely increased the death toll; and

WHEREAS, the black bear is the only bear found in Florida and is estimated to have a total population of approximately 3,000 throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the bear population is not sufficient to sustain hunting throughout the state, having been listed as a threatened species until 2012; and

WHEREAS, black bears tend to avoid confrontation with humans; and

WHEREAS, although the bears foraging for food may lead to their unintentional presence in suburban areas, precautionary methods may help prevent their return; and

WHEREAS, the Commission Director of Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Thomas Eason, noted that the more than two decades of no bear hunting has made Florida black bears “relatively naive” to the danger of hunters; and

WHEREAS, the Commission should prohibit bear hunting statewide and focus on providing “bear-proof garbage cans” and reducing palmetto berry harvest in bear habitats instead, as recommended by Leon County Circuit Judge George Reynolds III; and

WHEREAS, if the Commission insists on conducting a future bear hunt, the South region of the state, which includes Miami-Dade County, should be excluded,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to reinstate the prohibition on bear hunting throughout the State of Florida and focus more attention on removing conflicts between bears and suburban areas through deterrent techniques.

Section 2. Alternatively, urges the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to, at a minimum, prohibit future bear hunts in the South region of the State.

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, and the Commissioners and Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Section 4. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 State Legislative Package to include this item.

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 2nd day of February, 2016. 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.

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