MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	September 7, 2016
FROM:	Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to select environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas or civil rights leader Mary Mcleod Bethune to replace the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary Hall

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Sally A. Heyman.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: September 7, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

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)(14)
9-7-16

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SELECT ENVIRONMENTALIST MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS OR CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE TO REPLACE THE STATUE OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL EDMUND KIRBY SMITH IN THE NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

WHEREAS, in 1864, the United States Congress enacted legislation authorizing the United States President to invite each state to contribute two statues of distinguished citizens for display in the National Statuary Hall; and

WHEREAS, in the National Statuary Hall, Florida currently has a statue of Dr. John Gorrie, a physician, scientist, inventor, and humanitarian who is referred to as the father of air conditioning and refrigeration as well as a statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith; and

WHEREAS, congressional law was changed in 2000 to allow states to request a replacement of either or both of their statues; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2015, this Board passed Resolution No. R-1121-15, which urged the Florida Legislature to enact Senate Bill (SB) 310, House Bill (HB) 141, or similar legislation that would authorize the replacement of the statue of Confederate General Smith with a prominent Florida citizen recommended by the ad hoc committee of the Great Floridians Program within the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State, and urged the ad hoc committee to consider environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas or civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune as a statue replacement; and

WHEREAS, SB 310 was passed during the 2016 session of the Florida Legislature, and later signed into law by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, in June 2016, the ad hoc committee recommended three prominent Florida citizens as a potential replacement—Mary McLeod Bethune, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and George Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, these three recommendations now go to the Florida Legislature to make a selection during the 2017 session; and

WHEREAS, George Jenkins was the founder of Publix Supermarkets, Inc. and opened his first store in Winter Haven, Florida, which has now grown into a collection of 1,077 supermarkets; and

WHEREAS, of the 100 statues currently in the National Statuary Hall Collection, there are only nine statues of women; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to urge the Florida Legislature to select either Marjory Stoneman Douglas or Mary McLeod Bethune to replace the statue of Confederate General Smith; and

WHEREAS, Douglas was an important environmentalist in the 20th century who made improvements in the quality of life of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, her book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, published in 1947, was one of Douglas' most influential works because it redefined the popular conception of the Everglades as a treasured river instead of an insignificant swamp; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's headquarters building in Tallahassee was named after Douglas; and

WHEREAS, the National Parks Conservation Association established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award in 1986, which honors individuals who go to great lengths to advocate and fight for the protection of the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Douglas was named a great Floridian by the ad hoc committee of the Great Floridians Program; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, she was honored with a visit from Queen Elizabeth II; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, former President Bill Clinton awarded Douglas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to a civilian; and

WHEREAS, Douglas was inducted into the National Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame in 1999; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, instead of gifts and celebrations on her birthday, Douglas asked that trees be planted, resulting in over 100,000 planted trees across the state; and

WHEREAS, Douglas would be the tenth woman in the National Statuary Hall Collection should the Florida Legislature select her as a statue replacement; and

WHEREAS, another possible statue replacement is Mary McLeod Bethune, an important civil rights leader and educator in the 20th century who also made significant improvements in the quality of life of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, Bethune served as an advisor to five United States presidents; and

WHEREAS, she established the school now known as Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach; and

WHEREAS, Bethune advocated for equal opportunity and helped establish the National Council of Negro Women, United Negro College Fund, and the Federal Council on Negro Affairs; and

WHEREAS, in 1935, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) awarded Bethune the Spingarn Medal, awarded annually by the NAACP for outstanding achievement by an African-American; and

WHEREAS, Bethune played an important role during World War II as the Assistant Director of the Women's Army Corps; and

WHEREAS, Bethune served as one of three African-American consultants to the United States delegation involved in developing the Charter of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Bethune was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Bethune became the first African-American woman to be honored by a public sculpture in Lincoln Park, in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp in Bethune's honor; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the International Astronomical Union named the Bethune Patera, a geological feature similar to a crater, on planet Venus in Bethune's honor; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the National Park Service acquired Bethune's last residence and designated it as the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the ad hoc committee named Bethune a great Floridian; and

WHEREAS, when voting on prominent Florida citizens, the ad hoc committee unanimously nominated Bethune as one of the recommended statue replacements; and

WHEREAS, Bethune would become the tenth woman and the first African-American in the National Statuary Hall Collection should the Florida Legislature select her as a statue replacement,

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 select environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas or civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune to replace the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary Hall.

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 ad hoc committee of the Great Floridians Program within the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2017 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Sally A. Heyman. 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 7th day of September, 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. APP

Altanese Phenelus