

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

---

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

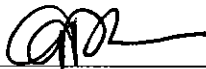

**DATE:** May 2, 2017

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution further condemning the Venezuelan government for using violence and intimidation to suppress political opposition; expressing continued support for those Venezuelans fighting to restore their nation to a peaceful, democratic state; urging the federal government and the Organization of American States to take appropriate diplomatic action

---

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney 

APW/cp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** May 2, 2017

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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. 14(A)(2)  
5-2-17

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION FURTHER CONDEMNING THE  
VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT FOR USING VIOLENCE AND  
INTIMIDATION TO SUPPRESS POLITICAL OPPOSITION;  
EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THOSE  
VENEZUELAN FIGHTING TO RESTORE THEIR NATION TO  
A PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC STATE; URGING THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC  
ACTION

**WHEREAS**, Nicolás Maduro, a member of the United Socialist Party, was declared the winner of Venezuela's April 14, 2013 presidential election by an incredibly slim margin with 50.6 percent of votes cast; and

**WHEREAS**, Maduro, who claims to have been elected democratically, has frequently resorted to dictatorial tactics including silencing the media, jailing political opponents, and postponing elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the Venezuelan government continuously suppresses the voices of its citizens through political arrests, with more than 100 political prisoners currently in jail, including opposition leader Leopoldo López and the former Mayor of Caracas, Antonio Ledezma; and

**WHEREAS**, police and military raids have led to widespread allegations of abuse, including extrajudicial killings, mass arbitrary detentions, torture in prisons, forced evictions, and arbitrary deportations; and

**WHEREAS**, Venezuela is mired in a deep economic crisis, with the highest inflation in the world and current inflation estimated to top roughly 1,600 percent in 2017, according to the International Monetary Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2016, President Maduro handed over control of the food supply system to the military, which has enabled corruption, fraud, and food trafficking by the military contributing to food shortages, a scarcity of basic goods, and political discrimination in the distribution of food and basic goods; and

**WHEREAS**, Venezuela is the leading country for asylum requests to the United States in the world, according to data reported by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the protestors in Venezuela hail from the poorest segments of society, normally the largest bedrock of support for the government; and

**WHEREAS**, since mass-scale protests erupted in Caracas last month, at least 24 protestors have died, with many killed by the Venezuelan military or other pro-government paramilitary groups; and

**WHEREAS**, polls indicate that over 80 percent of the country wants Maduro out of office; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board previously passed Resolution No. R-253-14 condemning the Venezuelan government for using violence and intimidation against its political opposition as early as 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Venezuelan government's rampant disregard for the free speech rights of its citizens has only persisted; and

**WHEREAS**, these are not the actions of a nation that purports to be democratic and governed by the rule of law; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board believes that the United States government should address the pressing and escalating situation in Venezuela,

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

**Section 1.** Further condemns the Venezuelan government for using violence and intimidation to suppress political opposition.

**Section 2.** Continues to express support for those Venezuelans who are valiantly fighting to restore their nation to a peaceful, democratic state.

**Section 3.** Urges the federal government and the Organization of American States to take appropriate diplomatic action to help return democracy to Venezuela.

**Section 4.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of State, and the United States Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. 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:

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

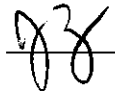
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2017. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override 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.



Javier Zapata