

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

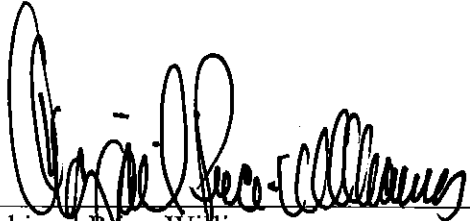
TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 5, 2018

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution condemning the Nicaraguan government for using violence and intimidation to suppress political opposition; urging the federal government and the Organization of American States to take appropriate diplomatic action; urging the United States Congress to pass S. 2265, H.R. 1918, S. 972, or similar legislation designed to promote democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua

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/smm

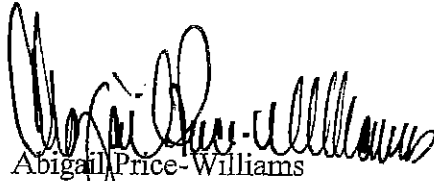


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: June 5, 2018

FROM: 
Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

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)(15)

6-5-18

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT FOR USING VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION TO SUPPRESS POLITICAL OPPOSITION; URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC ACTION; URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS S. 2265, H.R. 1918, S. 972, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN NICARAGUA

WHEREAS, Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's current President and former Sandinista revolutionary, has been the subject of protest by thousands of Nicaraguans who have recently staged the largest popular uprising since the end of the nation's civil war nearly 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS, while many of the protests originally began as small demonstrations by college students railing against Ortega's decision to cancel old-age pensions, they have since transformed into an expression of the many grievances Nicaraguans have with their government, including Ortega's meddling in the National Assembly, the elections council, mayoral races, and the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, chief among these concerns are complaints that Ortega has eliminated presidential term limits and selected his wife, Rosario Murillo, as his vice-presidential candidate in 2016; and

WHEREAS, although Ortega announced that he was reversing the social security overhaul, protests have continued as stakeholders from the Catholic Church, bankers, and students seek to open a dialogue with Ortega; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Embassy in the capital city of Managua removed all nonessential personal and family members on April 23, 2018 after five full days of violent clashes between antigovernment protestors and Ortega's enforcers; and

WHEREAS, news reports from Managua have shown thugs on motorcycles beating protestors with pipes and electrical cords, a journalist assassinated while live on the air, and police officers looting stores; and

WHEREAS, at least 45 people, mostly student protestors, have been killed in street protests since demonstrations began in mid-April 2018, with more than 400 others wounded; and

WHEREAS, violence should never be used to silence political opposition, especially in a country where Ortega is often reelected with a mere plurality of the popular vote; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R – Texas) and U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R – Florida) have introduced congressional bills directing the President to instruct the U.S. Executive Director at each international financial institution to oppose any loan for the government of Nicaragua's benefit, other than for basic human needs, unless the Department of State certifies that Nicaragua is taking certain steps to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the bills aim to support the rule of law and an independent judiciary and electoral council in Nicaragua, free and fair elections overseen by credible international observers, and government anti-corruption and transparency efforts in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that Ortega's dictatorship necessitates a response from the United States government and the Organization of American States,

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

Section 1. Condemns the Nicaraguan government for using violence and intimidation to suppress political opposition.

Section 2. Urges the federal government and the Organization of American States to take appropriate diplomatic action to help restore public safety and order to Nicaragua.

Section 3. Urges the United States Congress to pass S. 2265, H.R. 1918, S. 972, or similar legislation designed to promote democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to United States Senator Ted Cruz, United States Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of State, and the United States Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

Section 5. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action described in Section 3 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2018 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

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
Daniella Levine Cava
Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez
Dennis C. Moss
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime
Rebeca Sosa
Xavier L. Suarez
District 5 - Vacant

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of June, 2018. 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