

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

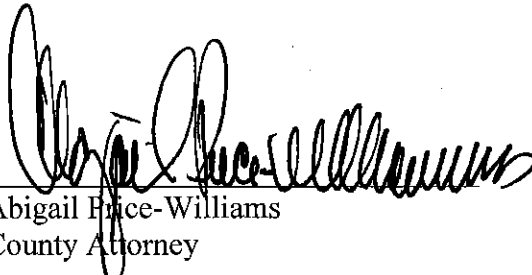
TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 18, 2018

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide more funding for federal and state regulators' efforts to capture invasive snakes in South Florida

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/smm

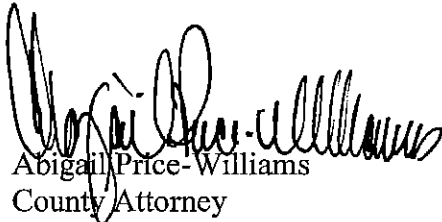


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

Veto _____

12-18-18

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE MORE
FUNDING FOR FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATORS'
EFFORTS TO CAPTURE INVASIVE SNAKES IN SOUTH
FLORIDA

WHEREAS, as part of an international pet trade market, many exotic animals have been removed from their native lands and placed where they are not always welcome; and

WHEREAS, among these invasive species are a growing number of Burmese pythons, boa constrictors, and other large constrictor snakes that now live in the Florida Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the same conditions that allow the vast diversity of wildlife to thrive in the Everglades also support invasive snakes, which are particularly well-adapted for survival and propagation in the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, these invasive snakes have spread into other, more developed parts of South Florida, including residential communities in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the snakes' size and power make them top predators in South Florida, posing an outsized threat to many indigenous species, including endangered species; and

WHEREAS, Burmese pythons in particular have voracious appetites, and their consumption of native prey is destabilizing South Florida's ecosystems not only because Burmese pythons are depleting populations of native prey, but also because they are depriving native predators, such as panthers and alligators, of prey that those native predators would otherwise eat; and

WHEREAS, in addition to harming wildlife, invasive constrictor snakes pose a safety threat to humans and their pets; and

WHEREAS, invasive snakes also add economic burdens to private landowners and public land managers, who must expend resources to rid their properties of these undesirable animals; and

WHEREAS, efforts have been undertaken by federal and state regulators to capture invasive snakes in order to remove them from our ecosystems and our communities; and

WHEREAS, for example, the National Park Service has been expending resources to remove Burmese pythons from Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (the "District") has implemented a Python Elimination Program that provides financial rewards to hunters who capture invasive pythons from District lands; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission has implemented a similar program known as the Python Removal Contractor Program; and

WHEREAS, invasive snakes nevertheless continue to exist in South Florida ecosystems, where they breed and repopulate quickly; and

WHEREAS, this Board previously urged the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to take action to prevent the proliferation of these invasive snakes, in Resolution No. R-1115-11; and

WHEREAS, this Board now wishes to urge the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide more funding for federal and state regulators' efforts to capture invasive snakes in South Florida,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide more funding for federal and state regulators' efforts to capture invasive snakes in South Florida.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Florida Governor, the Florida Senate President, the Florida House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in Section 1, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2019 State Legislative Package to include this item and include this item in the 2019 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. 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 | Jose "Pepe" Diaz |
| Sally A. Heyman | Eileen Higgins |
| Barbara J. Jordan | Joe A. Martinez |
| Jean Monestime | Dennis C. Moss |
| Rebeca Sosa | Sen. Javier D. Souto |
| Xavier L. Suarez | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of December, 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.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl