

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

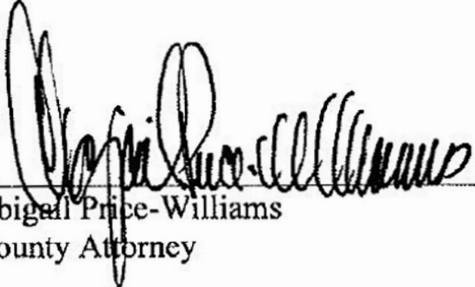
**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** May 5, 2020

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution supporting the Nicaraguan people in their efforts to promote the restoration of democracy and the defense of human rights; urging the United States Congress to pass S. 525, H.R. 754, or similar legislation designed to promote democracy and prevent human rights abuses in Nicaragua, and increase political and economic pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega

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

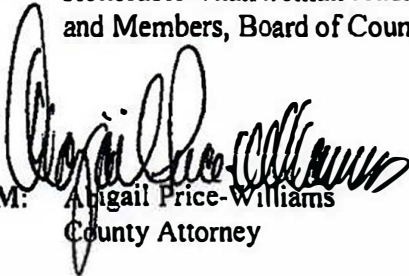
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**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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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 present \_\_\_\_, 2/3 membership \_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) \_\_\_\_ 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)(25)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

5-5-20

Override \_\_\_\_\_

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

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS; URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS S. 525, H.R. 754, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND PREVENT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NICARAGUA, AND INCREASE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF DANIEL ORTEGA

**WHEREAS**, recent elections in Nicaragua, including the 2016 presidential election, have been marred by irregularities and characterized by significant restrictions on the participation of opposition political parties and the absence of credible international and local electoral observers; and

**WHEREAS**, the government of Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's current President and former Sandinista revolutionary, has concentrated power and brought about the continuing deterioration of democratic conditions in Nicaragua; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Ortega 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**, since April 18, 2018, the people of Nicaragua have protested against the Nicaraguan government, demanding a transparent non-corrupt government; access to necessities such as food and medicine; and free, fair and multiparty elections; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Organization of American States, Nicaraguan security forces, paramilitary, police, and other actors working under the direction of the Ortega regime

committed gross violations of human rights and acts of repression, resulting in more than 325 deaths, over 2,000 injuries, and at least 800 arbitrary detentions during the peaceful protests that took place in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 29, 2019, there remain over 150 political prisoners held in Nicaraguan prisons, according to Nicaragua's Civil Alliance for Justice and Democracy; and

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

**WHEREAS**, related Senate and House Bills, Senate Bill (S.) 525 by U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R – Texas) and House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 754 by U.S. Representative Albio Sires (D – New Jersey), were filed for consideration during the 116th United States Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the House passed H.R. 754 on March 9, 2020 and H.R. 754 is pending consideration before the Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills call on Nicaragua to release all political prisoners and cease all acts of repression against dissenting voices, urge the Nicaraguan government to respect its citizens' constitutional rights and implement electoral reforms, and recognize and encourage efforts to promote democracy in Nicaragua by holding corrupt actors and human rights abusers in the Nicaraguan government accountable for their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board supports the Nicaraguan people in their efforts to promote the restoration of democracy, human rights, and freedom in Nicaragua; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board believes that Ortega's dictatorship necessitates a response from the United States government; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board believes that S. 525 and H.R. 754 will assist in promoting democracy and preventing human rights abuses in Nicaragua,

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

**Section 1.** Supports the Nicaraguan people in their efforts to promote the restoration of democracy and the defense of human rights.

**Section 2.** Urges the United States Congress to pass S. 525, H.R. 754, or similar legislation designed to promote democracy and prevent human rights abuses in Nicaragua, and increase political and economic pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega.

**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to United States Senator Ted Cruz, United States Representative Albio Sires, and the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

**Section 4.** Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action described in section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 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:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman

Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Eileen Higgins

Joe A. Martinez

Dennis C. Moss

Xavier L. Suarez

Daniella Levine Cava

Sally A. Heyman

Barbara J. Jordan

Jean Monestime

Sen. Javier D. Souto

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020. 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.

RC

Ryan Carlin