

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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



**DATE:** June 16, 2020

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the  
Trump Administration and  
United States Secretary of  
State Michael R. Pompeo  
to designate the Sandinista  
National Liberation Front as  
a foreign terrorist organization

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 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  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)  
6-16-20

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION  
AND UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL R.  
POMPEO TO DESIGNATE THE SANDINISTA NATIONAL  
LIBERATION FRONT AS A FOREIGN TERRORIST  
ORGANIZATION

**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 as well as the absence of credible international and local electoral observers; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's current President and former Sandinista revolutionary, and the Sandinista National Liberation Front, known as the *Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional* in Spanish, (FSLN) have concentrated power and brought about the continuing deterioration of democratic conditions in Nicaragua; and

**WHEREAS**, the FSLN is a socialist political party and Nicaragua's sole leading party; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of FSLN are called Sandinistas; and

**WHEREAS**, the FSLN is named after August César Sandino, who led the Nicaraguan resistance against the United States occupation of Nicaragua in the 1930s; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Ortega and the FSLN have 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 FSLN, demanding a transparent non-corrupt government, demanding 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 FSLN 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**, a report by the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts, appointed by the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, determined that the FSLN used deliberate, lethal force against protesters and committed acts of torture that meet the international legal standard of crimes against humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 82,000 Nicaraguans fled the country between April 2018 and October 2019, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ortega government, led by the FSLN, failed to comply with its commitment to release all political prisoners, releasing just 392 people, of which 286 were released to house arrest with charges still pending; 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**, a United States citizen and Navy veteran, 57-year-old Eddy Montes, was shot and killed while in the custody of the Nicaraguan police at La Modelo Prison on May 16, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the FSLN has severely restricted freedom of the press by closing five local television stations, attacking independent radio stations, arbitrarily detaining journalists, and arbitrarily restricting print supplies from entering the country; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning on November 14, 2019, the FSLN directed the Nicaraguan police to conduct attacks on churches throughout the country, cut water to hunger strikers barricaded inside a church in Masaya, and arrested 13 people attempting to bring them water; and

**WHEREAS**, the FSLN has violated the economic and political rights of indigenous communities, Afro-descendent populations, rural campesinos, land rights defenders, and individuals living in the Caribbean Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua; and

**WHEREAS**, the unlawful acts taken or led by the FSLN constitute terrorist activities or terrorism, which threaten the security of United States nationals and the national security of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board believes that the terrorist activities of the FSLN necessitate a response from the United States government; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, this Board believes that designating the FSLN as a foreign terrorist organization is a critical step in the fight against terrorism,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the Trump Administration and United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo to designate the Sandinista National Liberation Front as a foreign terrorist organization in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to United States President Donald Trump and United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo.

**Section 3.** Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 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 Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. 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.           | Daniella Levine Cava |
| Jose “Pepe” Diaz               | Sally A. Heyman      |
| Eileen Higgins                 | Barbara J. Jordan    |
| Joe A. Martinez                | Jean Monestime       |
| Dennis C. Moss                 | Sen. Javier D. Souto |
| Xavier L. Suarez               |                      |

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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