

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)  
02-20-07

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NO. R-193-07

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
IN OPPOSITION TO THE 69% INCREASE IN THE  
NATURALIZATION FEES CHARGED BY THE UNITED  
STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND  
CALLING UPON THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO  
ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE EXISTING  
METHODS FOR FINANCING IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, our nation's and county's newcomers are making valuable contributions to the social, cultural, and economic life of the United States of America and Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County is home to many hardworking, tax-paying, legal permanent residents who are eager to become full Americans by pursuing the dream of U.S. citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2007, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced a proposal that would raise the fees for starting the naturalization process from \$400 to \$675, an increase of 69%; and

**WHEREAS**, the USCIS anticipates that the fee hike will go into effect in June; and

**WHEREAS**, naturalization fees have been soaring since 1991, when newcomers paid \$90 to apply for U.S. citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, naturalization fee increases result from our nation's fundamentally flawed system of financing immigration services, which requires the USCIS to rely almost exclusively on application fees to fund the delivery of services to immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, the USCIS believes that it needs this massive fee hike to pay for major infrastructure investments and process enhancements, such as improvements in the timeliness of background checks, modernization of its outdated business systems through technology upgrades, facilities improvements and enhancements in its personnel training and recruitment programs; and

**WHEREAS**, there are at least 300,000 legal permanent residents in Miami-Dade County who are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed fee increase would place a nearly insurmountable barrier in the path of these legal permanent residents, many of whom have limited financial resources; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that our system for funding immigration services should be a partnership between newcomers and the federal government where applicants pay a reasonable fee for quality services; and

**WHEREAS**, the USCIS' proposed fee increase is contrary to the spirit of our nation's and county's tradition of welcoming and integrating immigrants, and sends newcomers the wrong message at a time when they are seeking to embrace U.S. citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, naturalization benefits Miami-Dade County by helping to ensure that newcomers become full participants in our nation's civic life; and

**WHEREAS**, the full participation of newcomers enriches and maintains the vitality of our democracy,

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

Section 1. We strongly oppose the proposed fee increase by USCIS and demand a halt on the fee increase for all naturalization applications.

Section 2. We call on the Director of the USCIS to immediately provide President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress with accurate information to ascertain the amount of federal appropriations that would be needed to enable the USCIS to modernize its operations, and enhance its naturalization services, without raising the naturalization fee.

Section 3. We call on President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress to address the fundamental problems in our nation's system for financing immigration services by providing appropriations to supplement fee revenue to cover costs of major USCIS expenses such as infrastructure investments, process enhancements and capital improvements.

Section 4. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the USCIS, to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate for inclusion in the Congressional Record.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Natacha Seijas, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto and offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows: Dorrin D. Rolle

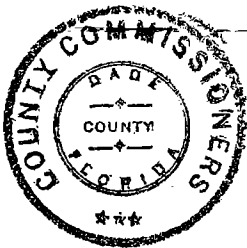
Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	aye		
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	aye		
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Audrey M. Edmonson	aye
Carlos A. Gimenez	aye	Sally A. Heyman	absent
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Dennis C. Moss	aye
Dorrin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	absent
Katy Sorenson	absent	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of February, 2007. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK



By: **KAY SULLIVAN**  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. A. Duvall", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Duvall

**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

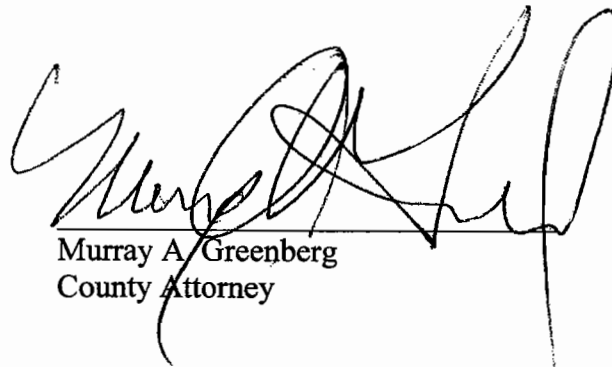
**DATE:** February 20, 2007

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution in opposition to  
69% increase in the  
naturalization fees charged by  
the U.S. Citizenship and  
Immigration Services

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Natacha Seijas, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto.



Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

MAG/bw



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** February 20, 2007

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("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
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review