

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Item No. 14(A)2
5-22-07

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

RESOLUTION NO. R-636-07

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A SYMBOLIC MORATORIUM
ON THE USE OF THE "N-WORD" IN UNINCORPORATED
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND URGING MUNICIPALITIES
TO APPROVE SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the first documented written use of the "N-word" was in 1786 when the "N-word" was used by slave masters to label African slaves and has its origins in the contempt and hatred that slave masters had for African slaves; and

WHEREAS, the late 1960's produced a surge of racial pride when the terms "Black" and "Black is Beautiful" were taken on by the African American community as positive and affirming and participants of the Black Power Movement denounced use of the "N-word"; and

WHEREAS, although the term remained extremely degrading in the Black Community, some African Americans started using the "N-word" to refer to themselves during the 1970's cultural era known as Black Exploitation and also during the beginning of the 1990's cultural era known as Hip Hop; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) successfully influenced Merriam-Webster lexicographers to change the dictionary definition of the "N-word" to no longer mean African Americans; at the same time, the term "N-word" began being used in popular culture and in media reports in an effort to avoid publicly using the controversial and disparaging word's full spelling or pronunciation; and

WHEREAS, the "N-word" remains a symbol of racism and prejudice against African Americans and numerous high profile incidents involving use of the "N-word" have elicited

outrage and condemnation from the African American community, as well as from the community at-large; and

WHEREAS, this Board encourages the residents of unincorporated Miami-Dade County to cease from using the "N-word" and to encourage others with whom they may encounter to do the same; and

WHEREAS, this Board further urges municipalities to approve similar resolutions encouraging its residents not to use the "N-word",

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

Section 1. Declares a symbolic moratorium on the use of the "N-word" in unincorporated Miami-Dade County and urges the residents of the County to refrain from using this offensive word and to encourage others to cease using the word.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the League of Cities and to each municipality within Miami-Dade County.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Vice-Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and offered by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	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	aye
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Dennis C. Moss	aye
Dorrin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	aye
Katy Sorenson	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	absent		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of May, 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 black ink, appearing to read "APW", written over a horizontal line.

Abigail Price-Williams

A handwritten mark or scribble at the bottom center of the page, possibly a stylized number or symbol.

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

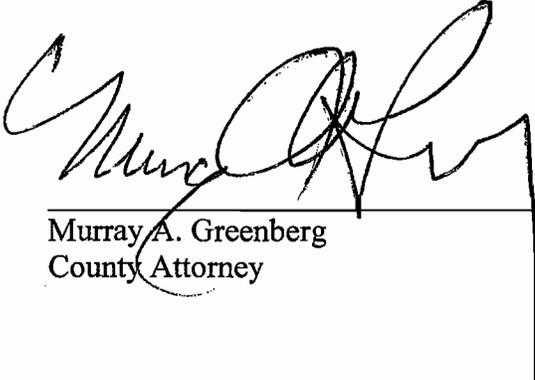
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 22, 2007

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution declaring a
symbolic moratorium on the
use of the "N-Word"

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Vice-Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.



Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

MAG/bw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: May 22, 2007

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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