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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(27)

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

DATE: February 5, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Office of Foreign Assets Control within the U.S. Dept. of Treasury to review Unilever's compliance with the Helms-Burton Law and the U.S. Embargo against Cuba

Resolution R-138-08

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Senator Javier D. Souto.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: February 5, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(27)

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

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(27)
02-05-08

RESOLUTION NO. **R-138-08**

RESOLUTION URGING THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL WITHIN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY TO REVIEW UNILEVER'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELMS-BURTON LAW AND THE U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA

WHEREAS, in 1996, Congress passed the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996, also known as the Helms-Burton Law, in response to Cuban fighter jets shooting down two unarmed civilian planes in international waters and killing the planes' occupants who were members of Brothers to the Rescue; and

WHEREAS, the Helms-Burton Law strengthened and codified the previous U.S. embargo against the Cuban government; and

WHEREAS, the Helms-Burton Law extended the territorial application of the embargo to apply to foreign companies trading with Cuba, and made foreign companies potentially liable that "traffic" in property formerly owned by any U.S. national that was confiscated by the Cuban government after January 1, 1959; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Foreign Assets Control within the U.S. Department of Treasury administers and enforces economic and trade sanctions based on U.S. foreign policy, including the U.S. embargo against Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Unilever is a large multi-national corporation with parent companies in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom that has over 400 brands of products in the areas of home, personal care and food, including such brands as Lipton teas, Dove soap, All detergent, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that one of Unilever's parent companies is engaged in a joint venture with Suchel S.A., a state-owned company in Cuba that produces soap, detergent and other household products; and

WHEREAS, it also has been reported that the U.S. has warned Unilever not to invest in properties in Cuba once owned by U.S. nationals so as not to violate the Helms-Burton Law,

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

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control to review Unilever's compliance with the Helms-Burton Law and the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Director of the Office of Foreign Asset Control.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Senator Javier D. Souto and offered by Commissioner **Joe A. Martinez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman **aye**
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman **absent**

Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**aye**
Carlos A. Gimenez	**aye**	Sally A. Heyman	**aye**
Joe A. Martinez	**aye**	Dennis C. Moss	**absent**
Dorrin D. Rolle	**aye**	Natacha Seijas	**absent**
Katy Sorenson	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**		

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of February, 2008 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. JMM

Jess M. McCarty