

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the
Mayor or his designee to
study alternatives for funding
the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue
Department

Resolution No. R-360-08

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of
Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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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

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

Veto _____

4-8-08

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-360-08

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO STUDY ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES AND ALL OPTIONS FOR FUNDING THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT; DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS

WHEREAS, MDFR has 64 fire rescue stations that serve 30 of the 35 municipalities and all of the unincorporated area in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, MDFR is funded through a dependent fire rescue district (the Miami-Dade Fire District) that consists of the entire county except for the five (5) municipalities that have their own municipal fire departments, Coral Gables, Hialeah, Key Biscayne, Miami and Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, during Special Session B in June, 2007, the Florida Legislature passed HB 1-B, Chapter 2007-321, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, HB 1-B required local governments to reduce property tax revenues for Fiscal Year 2007-08 by rolling back revenues to Fiscal Year 2006-07 levels and then deducting an additional three (3) to nine (9) percent; and

WHEREAS, amendments were successfully run to HB 1-B that allowed dependent fire districts, such as the Miami-Dade Fire District, to rollback and deduct three percent (3%), rather than the percentage that would otherwise apply to the county overall, which was nine percent (9%) in the case of the Miami-Dade Countywide General Fund; and

WHEREAS, rollback plus an additional three percent (3%) reduction nonetheless required MDFR to reduce its budget by approximately \$51 million; and

WHEREAS, during Special Session D in October, 2007, the Florida Legislature passed legislation that placed a property tax relief package on the statewide ballot; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2008, Florida voters approved this property tax relief package by the required 60 percent margin; and

WHEREAS, the voter-approved property tax relief package is estimated to have an additional fiscal impact on the Miami-Dade Fire District of more than \$20 million, which is in addition to the \$51 million impact that occurred as a result of statutory rollbacks and percentage deductions from Special Session B; and

WHEREAS, in light of these fiscal impacts to the Miami-Dade Fire District, alternatives for funding MDFR need to be explored in order to sustain this essential life-safety function of the County,

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

Section 1. Directs the Mayor or his designee to study all possible alternatives and all options for funding the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, including but not limited to surveying and analyzing how other public safety departments are funded.

Section 2. Directs the Mayor or designee to provide a report and recommendations to the Board on these issues within thirty (30) days from the date of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan** 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	absent
Dorrian D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	absent
Katy Sorenson	aye	Rebeca Sosa	absent
Sen. Javier D. Souto	absent		

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 8th day of April, 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