

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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

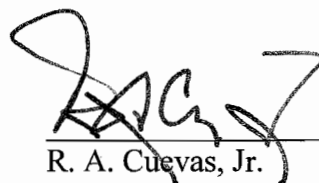
DATE: May 20, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging U.S.
Congress to pass the
Jubilee Act for Responsible
Lending

Resolution No. R-592-08

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of
Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RAC', is written over a horizontal line.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/bw




MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: May 20, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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)(5)

Veto _____

5-20-08

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. R-592-08

RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PASS THE
JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND
EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION FOR THE WORLD'S
MOST IMPOVERISHED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HAITI

WHEREAS, the world's most impoverished countries, where most people live on less than \$1.00 per day, spend over \$100 million daily serving debt to wealthy governments and institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, money desperately needed to provide people food, clean water, basic health care, and education; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 and again in 2005 leaders cancelled billions in debt for dozens of impoverished countries, freeing up money that has since been used to enroll children in school, provide clean water, fight AIDS, improve rural infrastructure, and more; and

WHEREAS, dozens of countries await debt relief, including Haiti, which is the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's stability is important to all residents of Miami-Dade County and to the protection of our families and borders; and

WHEREAS, recent riots in Haiti due to the global phenomenon of exorbitant food price increases have caused the ouster of Haiti's Prime Minister and threatens the stability of its democratic government, which enjoys good relations with Washington; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation ("Jubilee Act"), which includes Haiti, passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a bipartisan vote of 285 – 132 with the support of the entire Miami-Dade Congressional delegation; and

WHEREAS, in so doing the House adopted an amendment introduced by Congressman Alcee Hastings incorporating his Haiti Debt Cancellation Resolution, H. Res. 241, providing more favorable language for Haiti; and

WHEREAS, debt service is an extreme burden for countries such as Haiti which in 2008 is scheduled to pay over \$48 million, nearly \$1 million each week, in interest payments on a \$1.3 billion debt; and

WHEREAS, debt cancellation for Haiti and other similarly situated countries is the right thing to do for reasons of justice, decency, recovery, and common sense; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows that debt cancellation works: developing countries relieved of debt have increased their own domestic spending on reducing poverty by 75 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Jubilee Act will expand access to debt cancellation to all the countries that need it to fight extreme poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Jubilee Act requires that debt cancellation be provided without harmful economic policy conditions attached, and also calls for the initiation of a responsible lending framework, and requires a debt audit in countries like South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo which have a heavy burden of odious debt,

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. Congress to pass the Jubilee Act, S. 2166, H.R. 2634 or similar legislation, that provides debt relief to impoverished countries, including Haiti.

Section 2. Further urges the U.S. Senate to include in the legislation language related to debt cancellation for Haiti similar to what was successfully introduced in the House by Rep. Alcee Hastings.

Section 3. Urges both of Florida's Senators to co-sponsor and champion the Jubilee Act and to do all in their power to secure its prompt passage.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to Florida's two U.S. Senators and the other members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 5. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in Sections 1, 2 and 3, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2008 Federal Legislative Package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson 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	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
Dorin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	absent
Katy Sorenson	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	absent		

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The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of May, 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.

Jess M. McCarty