



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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

DATE: November 20, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to pass legislation
authorizing the use of cameras
at intersections with traffic
signals in an effort to reduce
red-light running and "Blocking
the Box"

Resolution No. R-1246-08

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez.

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: November 20, 2008

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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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)
11-20-08

RESOLUTION NO. R-1246-08

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CAMERAS AT INTERSECTIONS WITH TRAFFIC SIGNALS IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE RED-LIGHT RUNNING AND "BLOCKING THE BOX"

WHEREAS, red-light running is one of the major causes of accidents, deaths and injuries at intersections with traffic signals; and

WHEREAS, recent crash statistics show that there were 206,000 red-light running accidents nationwide, with nearly 1,000 deaths and 176,000 injuries; and

WHEREAS, red-light cameras can help reduce red-light running by automatically photographing vehicles whose drivers run red lights; and

WHEREAS, studies in California and Virginia have shown that red-light cameras can reduce red-light running by approximately 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has concluded that red-light cameras can be an effective measure to prevent red-light running and encourages the use of red-light cameras; and

WHEREAS, Florida law authorizes the use of cameras to enforce toll collections on the Florida Turnpike System and other toll roads; and

WHEREAS, cameras at intersections could also be used to enforce traffic laws that prohibit blocking an intersection; and

WHEREAS, reducing the number of drivers who block intersections could substantially improve safety; and

WHEREAS, the use of cameras could help to reduce traffic congestion in Miami-Dade County and all available means should be undertaken given the state of the County's traffic situation; and

WHEREAS, cameras could be used solely to photograph the license plates of vehicles that run red lights and block intersections; and

WHEREAS, photographs of license plates could be used to create a rebuttable presumption that the owner of the vehicle violated traffic laws related to running red lights or blocking intersections; and

WHEREAS, citations issued as a result of photographic evidence could be limited only to nonmoving violations, so that fines might apply, but no points would issue as a result of the violation if the citation is based on photographic evidence, similar to parking tickets; and

WHEREAS, having citations based on photographic evidence of running a red-light or blocking an intersection could nonetheless prohibit a driver from renewing license tags or a driver's license to increase enforcement; and

WHEREAS, during the 2008 session, the Florida Legislature considered several bills that would have expressly authorized cities and counties to use red-light cameras, but in the end, none of these bills passed; and

WHEREAS, cameras also could assist with curtailing "Blocking the Box" when motorists block an intersection after a light turns red, which is a major contributor to traffic congestion,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to allow the limited use of cameras at intersections with traffic signals to enforce traffic infractions in an effort to reduce red-light running and the blocking of intersections, provided that license tags or drivers' licenses may not be renewed with outstanding citations of this type and further provided that only nonmoving violations could be issued and the cameras only photograph license plates.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation and the implementation of the reforms set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2009 State Legislative Package.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez. It was offered by Commissioner **Joe A. Martinez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Carlos A. Gimenez** 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	aye	

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

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

Jess M. McCarty