

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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 expressing
concerns over the large
population of green
iguanas

Resolution No. R-1242-08

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Katy Sorenson, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/bw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman 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) (4)
11-20-08

RESOLUTION NO. R-1242-08

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERNS OVER THE LARGE POPULATION OF GREEN IGUANAS IN THE COUNTY AND REQUESTING THAT THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION ENACT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION AND RELEASE OF GREEN IGUANAS WITHIN THE STATE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has become home to a large population of green iguanas, as have other counties in the region, with said population rapidly expanding; and

WHEREAS, green iguanas are an invasive species in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the large population of free roaming green iguanas in South Florida is largely the result of the pet trade and owners who have released or allowed the green iguanas to escape; and

WHEREAS, free roaming green iguanas often destroy gardens and landscaping and sometimes eat native endangered plants and plants that are the primary food source for endangered animals; and

WHEREAS, free roaming green iguanas pose a danger to the Florida Burrowing Owl, a species of special concern found in Miami-Dade County, by overtaking the owls' burrows; and

WHEREAS, free roaming green iguanas dig burrows that undermine sidewalks, foundations, and seawalls, which may lead to the erosion and eventual collapse of seawalls; and

WHEREAS, green iguanas are large powerful animals with sharp teeth and claws that may pose a danger to people and pets; and

WHEREAS, the large numbers of free roaming green iguanas in Miami-Dade County have caused damage to property and created sanitary nuisances within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution vests the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with the authority and responsibility to regulate wild animal life such as the green iguana; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, therefore, has limited authority to control the possession, distribution, release and propagation of green iguanas within its borders,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board wishes to express their concerns to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding the widespread population of green iguanas within the County and the region and requests that the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission designate iguanas as “Reptiles of Concern” under the Florida Administrative Code or enact appropriate rules and regulations designed to control the possession, distribution, release and propagation of iguanas throughout the state.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Katy Sorenson and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. The Resolution was offered by Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Jose “Pepe” Diaz** 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 Chairperson 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.

Robert A. Duvall