

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 1, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the U.S.
Department of Homeland
Security not to resume
deportation of Haitian
immigrants until conditions
improve in Haiti

Resolution No. R-100-11

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

Please note any items checked.

- "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
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)
2-1-11

Veto _____

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. R-100-11 _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY NOT TO RESUME DEPORTATION
OF HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS UNTIL CONDITIONS IMPROVE
IN HAITI

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010 a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, approximately 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince; and

WHEREAS, more than three million people -- a third of Haiti's population -- were affected by the earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the earthquake was the latest in a series of events that have impacted Haiti in recent years, including four deadly storms that struck Haiti in 2008; and

WHEREAS, even before the earthquake, Haiti was one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S., no county has a larger Haitian-American community than Miami-Dade County, with Kings County (Brooklyn), New York, having the second largest Haitian-American community and Broward County, Florida having the third largest; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the earthquake, federal officials suspended deportations to Haiti and extended temporary protected status to Haitians in the U.S., allowing them to remain and work; and

WHEREAS, these steps assisted the recovery by allowing Haitians in the U.S. to provide support to Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently indicated that it would resume deportation of Haitian immigrants in mid-January, 2011, around the one-year anniversary of the earthquake; and

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WHEREAS, recent news reports have indicated that ICE has begun rounding up Haitian immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Haiti is currently dealing with a cholera epidemic, political turmoil and a slow reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, a year after the earthquake, an estimated 1.3 million Haitians are still displaced from their homes, the cholera outbreak has killed more than 2,500 people and hospitalized another 58,000, and the preliminary results of last month's presidential election escalated into violence; and

WHEREAS, conditions in Haiti have not improved sufficiently from the earthquake for ICE to resume deportations; and

WHEREAS, Haitian advocacy groups currently are urging the Department of Homeland Security not to resume Haitian deportations until conditions improve in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, this Board joins these advocacy groups in urging the Department of Homeland Security not to resume deportation of Haitian immigrants until conditions improve in Haiti,

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 Homeland Security not to resume deportation of Haitian immigrants until conditions improve in Haiti.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and the Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the issue set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2011 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson. It was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, 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:

	Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	aye
	Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	aye
Bruno A. Barreiro	aye	Lynda Bell aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Carlos A. Gimenez aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Barbara J. Jordan aye
Jean Monestime	aye	Dennis C. Moss absent
Natacha Seijas	aye	Rebeca Sosa aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye	

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of February, 2011. 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

DIANE COLLINS

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Jess M. McCarty