

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

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

DATE: December 6, 2011

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

SUBJECT Resolution supporting the actions of Governor Rick Scott to review the anti-hazing policies at universities in the State University System; urging the Florida Legislature to require more robust policies at both public and nonpublic universities that implement stricter penalties, greater enforcement and additional education to address hazing incidents

Resolution R-1098-11

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

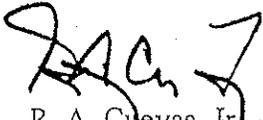


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(Revised)

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.11(A)(20)

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)(20)

Veto _____

12-6-11

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. R-1098-11

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT TO REVIEW THE ANTI-HAZING POLICIES AT UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO REQUIRE MORE ROBUST POLICIES AT BOTH PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC UNIVERSITIES THAT IMPLEMENT STRICTER PENALTIES, GREATER ENFORCEMENT AND ADDITIONAL EDUCATION TO ADDRESS HAZING INCIDENTS

WHEREAS, hazing needlessly endangers the mental and physical health and safety of students; and

WHEREAS, hazing can have a pervasive negative effect on victims and their families who, well after the incident, may still feel lasting psychological harm; and

WHEREAS, the recent alleged hazing incident at Florida A&M University is but one example of a growing and disturbing trend in college campuses across the country; and

WHEREAS, our universities should be safe havens for Florida's students where participation in organizations and activities is never discouraged; and

WHEREAS, universities are entrusted with the vital task of educating the future leaders of our communities; and

WHEREAS, hazing directly impedes that mission by intimidating many students from participating in the organizations and activities that instill the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to foster a positive and active civic life among Florida's students; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has demonstrated its shared concern on this issue through the passage of the Chad Meredith Act in 2005, which established hazing as a criminal offense punishable as a third degree felony for acts that result in serious bodily injury or death

and as a first degree misdemeanor for acts that create a substantial risk of physical injury or death; and

WHEREAS, current Florida law also requires all public and nonpublic universities whose students receive state student financial assistance to adopt a written anti-hazing policy which includes rules prohibiting students and other persons associated with any student organization from engaging in hazing; and

WHEREAS, recent incidents have plainly demonstrated a definitive need for Florida's university presidents to reevaluate their universities' anti-hazing policies to ensure greater conformity with the legislative intent of the Florida Statutes, as they relate to hazing; and

WHEREAS, a truly effective anti-hazing policy will undoubtedly require universities to adopt a comprehensive approach that includes stricter penalties, greater no-tolerance enforcement, and additional education; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Scott recently encouraged State University System of Florida Chancellor Frank Brogan and the Board of Governors to request all university presidents in the State University System to reevaluate their current hazing and harassment policies and procedures, to strictly condemn all hazing incidents on college and university campuses, and to remind students, faculty and staff of the policies and procedures relating to hazing; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature can also require nonpublic universities whose students receive state student financial assistance to adopt these more robust anti-hazing policies,

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

Section 1. Supports the actions of Governor Rick Scott to review the anti-hazing policies at universities in the State University System.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to require more robust policies at both public and nonpublic universities that implement stricter penalties, greater enforcement, and additional education to address hazing incidents.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in Section 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2012 state legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** 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
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	aye	Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Barbara J. Jordan	aye
Jean Monestime	aye	Dennis C. Moss	aye
Rebeca Sosa	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye
Xavier L. Suarez	absent		

5

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of December, 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

By: **Christopher Agrippa**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes

6