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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM Agenda Item No. 5(B)

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

DATE: February 7, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution after a public hearing designating the Domino Pavillion Area within the Francisco Human Rights Park as Father Miguel Angel Loredo Domino Pavilion

Resolution No. R-107-12

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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

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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**

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Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 5(B)
2-7-12

RESOLUTION NO. R-107-12

RESOLUTION AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING DESIGNATING THE DOMINO PAVILION AREA WITHIN THE FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS PARK IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA AS FATHER MIGUEL ANGEL LOREDO DOMINO PAVILION

WHEREAS, Father Miguel Angel Loredo, a symbol of all those who have suffered as political prisoners in Fidel and Raul Castro's gulag without sacrificing their principles, died September 10, 2011 of cancer at 73 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Father Miguel Angel Loredo dedicated his life to serving the church, but also fighting for the freedom of the Cuban people and denouncing the human rights violations by the Communist Regime in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Franciscan priest Miguel Angel Loredo was born and raised in Havana, Cuba, in 1938. He attended the De La Salle School from 1944 until his graduation in 1956. He then entered the Franciscan preparatory seminary of the Cantabria Province in Havana in 1956. Father Miguel Angel Loredo became a novice in the Franciscan Order in Zarauz, Spain in 1959 and professed his vows in 1960. After ordination to the priesthood in 1964, he was assigned to the Casablanca parish in Havana as pastor; and

WHEREAS, Father Miguel Angel Loredo's fiery sermons against atheism and Communism enraged Cuban officials who accused him of being a spy for the CIA, hiding weapons, and participating in a counter-revolutionary conspiracy, leading to his arrest in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Father Miguel Angel Loredo always maintained his innocence, but after a fraudulent trial he was sentenced to 15 years and he spent time in numerous prisons, where he underwent forced labor and beatings for not accepting the "re-education" that the government tried to force upon him; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated June 11, 1968, Father Miguel Angel Loredo told Msgr. Cesar Sacchi, at the time the representative of the Apostolic Nunciature in Havana, that he felt "proud to participate in this struggle with thousands of men of great courage and patriotism like those in this Cuban prison. … I also want to tell you that I am sorry to see how the free West has forgotten us, how everyone is silent and indifferent, except for the complaints of helpless loved ones;" and

WHEREAS, Abel Nieves Morales, one of many prisoners who shared a cell with the priest, said Father Miguel Angel Loredo "was a very courageous man, firm in his principles and in his faith, and who never ceased to raise his voice to denounce the horrors … in the prisons of Cuba;" and

WHEREAS, On February 2, 1976, he was released and ordered not to speak in public or give interviews to the press. From 1976 through 1984, Father Miguel Angel Loredo was in residence at the Convento (Friary) Santo Domingo in Guanabacoa. However, the government would not accept his appointment as professor of theology at the Seminary of Sts. Charles and Ambrose in Havana, and he was exiled to Rome in 1984; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Father Miguel Angel Loredo moved to Puerto Rico where he served as Guardian, Vocation Promoter and Director of Formation for young Franciscans preparing for their solemn vows; and

WHEREAS, during this period, he began collaborating with the International Commission for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, testifying against the Castro government, a collaboration that would last for the next 18 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, he became a member of Holy Name Province and was assigned to the second busiest church in New York City, St. Francis of Assisi on West 31st St.; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Father Miguel Angel Loredo was chosen to be part of a group of priests who were going to travel to Cuba for Pope John Paul II's visit. However, the Cuban government refused to allow him to enter the country; and

WHEREAS, Father Miguel Angel Loredo was transferred to St. Anthony Friary in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Father Miguel Angel Loredo was an accomplished author and painter. His written works include: Despues del Silencio (a memoir), De La Necesidad y Del Amor (poetry), and Uno (poetry). As a painter he is internationally recognized and has had many personal and group exhibits in the United States and abroad. His first significant painting in St. Petersburg is a large triptych which greets visitors as soon as they enter the main entrance of the friary. Entitled "Zoomorphic Images" and painted in the tradition of Lyrical Abstractionism, the triptych alludes to aquatic creatures common to the St. Petersburg waterfront parks on Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, Father Miguel Angel Loredo is survived by his sister, Silvia Fernandez; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County would like to recognize Father Miguel Angel Loredo's lifetime accomplishments and his international efforts in pursuit of human rights for all the people of the world,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board, after a public hearing, hereby designates the Domino Pavilion Area within the Francisco Human Rights Park, located at 9445 SW 94th Street in Miami-Dade County Florida, as the Father Miguel Angel Loredo Domino Pavilion and directs the Mayor or designee to work with the Commissioner of District 10 to install an appropriate marker to indicate this designation and to educate all visitors to the park on the life history of Father Miguel Angel Loredo, using District 10 office funds.

The prime sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, 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**
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	**aye**	Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**
Sally A. Heyman	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Jean Monestime	**absent**	Dennis C. Moss	**aye**
Rebeca Sosa	**aye**	Sen. Javier D. Souto	**absent**
Xavier L. Suarez	**absent**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of February, 2012. 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. D.F.

Daniel Frastai