

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

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

DATE: February 21, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress
and the Florida Legislature to
fund and/or increase funding
of the Africa Trade
Development Center

Resolution No. R-180-12

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

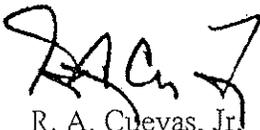


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(Revised)

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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

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)
2-21-12

RESOLUTION NO. R-180-12

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA
LEGISLATURE TO FUND AND/OR INCREASE FUNDING OF
THE AFRICA TRADE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

WHEREAS, the United States of America has been encouraging US companies to expand trade and investment ties with the Nations of Africa, as evidenced by the passage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (“AGOA”) of 2000; and

WHEREAS, since passage of the AGOA, trade volume between the eligible countries of Africa and the U.S. has increased from \$23.4 billion in 2001 to \$64.3 billion in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) is a development organization committed to promoting participatory democracy, economic growth and sustainable development throughout Africa. Founded in 1994, FDA is an international non-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan institution with offices in Miami, Florida, and several African countries, including: Nigeria; Sierra Leone and Liberia. FDA’s mission is to: (1) implement culturally sensitive programs designed to strengthen and enhance the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom and economic plurality throughout Africa, and (2) integrate emerging African democracies into the mainstream of the global economy, thus cultivating the pathway for peace and prosperity in Africa; and

WHEREAS, at its’ annual Africando Trade and Investment Symposium (“Africando Conference”), now in its fifteenth year, the FDA brings together US and African policy makers, private and civil society leaders to address cutting edge issues and challenges to US-Africa trade development, particularly, expansion of markets for African products in the international marketplace, especially in the United States; and

WHEREAS, FDA has worked with the County in the past to bring the annual Africando Conference, the Africa USA Air Transportation Summit and the first Sister City airport and seaport agreements with countries in Africa to Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the focus at the 2011 Africando Conference, held in Miami-Dade County, was the development of the Africa Trade Development Center (“ATDC” or “Center”); and

WHEREAS, the FDA created ATDC, located in the Miami Free Trade Zone, which is an 850,000 square feet facility that serves as a fully functioning trade hub to the Americas, in an effort to leverage Florida as a trading hub that will provide market access to the Americas in support of U.S-Africa Trade and make the goal of positioning Florida as the gateway to Africa, achievable; and

WHEREAS, ATDC is designed to create demand for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (“MSME”) products by providing a presence for their products in the show room of the ATDC; marketing their products via various trade shows in the Americas; and by providing logistical support, and access to distribution networks throughout the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, thereby resulting in the expansion of US-Africa trade and investment; and

WHEREAS, the Center will also be responsible for promoting commercial business transactions and trade activities between Miami Dade County, Florida and the Sub-Sahara Africa, and informing potential exporters, importers, investors and businesses, and service providers, about business opportunities in the United States, and Africa; and

WHEREAS, the Center requires the funding of the United States Congress and the Florida State Legislature in order to continue to promote the goal of positioning Florida as the

gateway to Africa and to expand trade and investment ties between the United States and Africa;
and

WHEREAS, funding of the Center could yield a substantial return for the United States, the State of Florida and Miami-Dade County as demand for the MSME’s products flourish,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress, federal agencies, and the Florida Legislature to fund ATDC.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, U.S. Representative Brian Higgins, Florida’s Governor, Florida’s Senate President, Florida’s House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County’s state and federal lobbyists to advocate for the funding of the ATDC and authorizes the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2012 Federal Legislative Package and the 2012 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. It was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, 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 absent
Rebeca Sosa	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto aye
Xavier L. Suarez	absent	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st 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.

JRA

Juliette R. Antoine