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

MEMORANDUM Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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 the Florida Legislature to establish a School of Veterinary Medicine in Miami-Dade County and explore affiliation with the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine

Resolution No. R-183-12

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

RESO\2078

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: February 21, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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 _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

2-21-12

RESOLUTION NO. R-183-12

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND EXPLORE AFFILIATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

WHEREAS, the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine is presently the state's only veterinary college; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine has allowed over 2400 graduates to obtain Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degrees and apply their expertise towards a variety of fields, including in-depth scientific research, traditional small and large animal practices, zoological and aquatic medicine, public health, epidemiology and veterinary services for the U.S. military; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has a sizeable pet and livestock population in constant need of high-quality veterinary services; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that employment of veterinarians is expected to increase by thirty-three percent (33%) over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the most recent BLS figures place the median wage for veterinarians at $79,050; and

WHEREAS, these figures should only be bolstered, on a national level, by the growth of pet care into a multi-billion dollar industry and, on a local level, by Miami-Dade County's rising status as an international gateway to domestic markets in the livestock industry through trade events such as the Miami International Agriculture & Cattle Show; and

WHEREAS, a local school of veterinary medicine would help create good-paying, local jobs in this growing field; and

WHEREAS, it is regrettable that students of Miami-Dade County interested in a veterinary career must go outside the County to pursue their education and often do so at an accredited college elsewhere in the United States or abroad; and

WHEREAS, these students should be able to pursue their passion and obtain their education at a local institution; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a local school of veterinary medicine affiliated with the University of Florida's fully accredited and prestigious College of Veterinary Medicine would help ensure that these students stay locally when deciding where to practice; and

WHEREAS, the local retention of qualified, well-educated, and talented future veterinarians can only be an asset to this community; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of this school in Miami-Dade County would help meet the increasing demand for veterinarians in the state's most populous metropolitan area while simultaneously conserving state resources and guaranteeing quality instruction through affiliation with the state's existing, accredited, and well-regarded College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida; and

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

Section 1. The Florida Legislature is urged to establish a School of Veterinary Medicine in Miami-Dade County and explore affiliation with the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and remaining members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. The County's state lobbyists are directed to advocate for the issues identified in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2013 state legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. 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. MBV

Michael B. Valdes