OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)

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

DATE: September 6, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the Absentee Ballot Fraud Task Force recently created by the State Attorney
Resolution No. R-731-12

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/lmp

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: September 6, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(4)

Resolution No. R-731-12

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. 14(A)(4)
9-6-12

RESOLUTION NO. R-731-12

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ABSENTEE BALLOT FRAUD TASK FORCE RECENTLY CREATED BY THE MIAMI-DADE STATE ATTORNEY AND REQUESTING THAT THE TASK FORCE CONSIDER CERTAIN COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEASURES; DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH AND FULLY SUPPORT THE TASK FORCE'S WORK

WHEREAS, the right to vote is fundamental to democratic government; and

WHEREAS, the public's confidence that each vote is counted and that any ballots cast, including absentee ballots, will not be altered or stolen is essential to ensuring the integrity of the elections process; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County recently experienced examples of alleged absentee ballot fraud; and

WHEREAS, while specific investigations into particular cases of alleged absentee ballot fraud are taking place, the issue of absentee ballot fraud needs to be addressed on a comprehensive, countywide basis; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade State Attorney recently convened a task force related to absentee ballot fraud; and

WHEREAS, this Board fully supports this task force, and directs the Mayor or designee to work cooperatively with and support the task force's work; and

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

Section 1. Fully supports the task force related to absentee ballot fraud created by the State Attorney.

Section 2. Directs the Mayor or designee to work cooperatively with and support the task force, especially providing assistance from the Elections Department, law enforcement and other applicable departments as appropriate.

Section 3. Requests that the task force consider measures that might improve community outreach related to absentee ballots and avoiding absentee ballot fraud, including but not limited to:

1. Improving community outreach to educate the public about absentee ballots and avoiding illegal activity related to absentee ballots, with an emphasis on elderly voters at senior centers, assisted living facilities, public housing and religious centers; and

2. Effectively using county resources to educate the public generally about absentee ballots, with a focus on elderly residents, such as the effective use of Miami-Dade Television, announcements and posters at senior centers, public libraries, parks, transit and other county facilities and the County's 311 Service Centers. As part of its deliberations, the task force may want to consider how other jurisdictions educate voters, especially elderly voters, about absentee ballots, fraud and other illegal activity.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Miami-Dade State Attorney.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson. It was offered by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman			**nay**
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman			**aye**
Bruno A. Barreiro	**absent**	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	**absent**
Rebeca Sosa	**aye**	Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**
Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**		

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

Jess M. McCarty