

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

DATE: September 18, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the
Federal Government to
provide additional programs
and funding for housing for
disabled veterans; supporting
H.R. 6111, which allows
certain disabled veterans to
qualify for additional federal
housing benefits

Resolution No. R-742-12

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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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

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

Veto _____

9-18-12

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. R-742-12

RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND FUNDING FOR HOUSING FOR DISABLED VETERANS; SUPPORTING H.R. 6111, WHICH ALLOWS CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS TO QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL HOUSING BENEFITS

WHEREAS, for more than 200 years, individuals from all walks of life have taken up arms and sworn an oath to support and defend the principles upon which our country was founded; and

WHEREAS, throughout our history, courageous men and women have donned the uniform of our Armed Forces and built a noble tradition of faithful and dedicated service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen has preserved our freedoms and saved millions around the world from tyranny; and

WHEREAS, we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to those heroic men and women who served, and this is particularly the case for those veterans who were killed or wounded in battle; and

WHEREAS, when disabled veterans return home from fighting, they should receive every opportunity for medical care, education, jobs and housing; and

WHEREAS, nonetheless, the U.S. Veterans Administration estimates that there were over 60,000 homeless veterans living in the United States in 2011, many with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration has three types of accessible housing grants available to veterans:

- The Specially Adapted Housing grant, currently limited to \$50,000, is generally used to create a wheelchair-accessible home for those who may require such assistance for activities of daily living;
- The Special Housing Adaptations grant, currently limited to \$10,000, is generally used to assist veterans with mobility throughout their homes due to blindness in both eyes, or the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow; and
- The Temporary Residence Adaptation grant, is available to eligible disabled veterans who are temporarily living or intend to temporarily live in a home owned by a family member; and

WHEREAS, while the Specially Adapted Housing and Special Housing Adaptations grants require ownership and title to a house, in creating the Temporary Residence Adaptation grant, Congress recognized the need to allow veterans and active duty members who may not yet own homes to have access to the adaptive housing grant program; and

WHEREAS, Congress should provide additional programs and funding for disabled veterans given the sacrifices they have made for our nation; and

WHEREAS, low income severely disabled veterans also may receive “aid and attendance” benefits to help offset the cost having another person to assist in performing activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing and using the restroom; and

WHEREAS, such a disabled veteran can receive \$8,191 in “aid and attendance” benefits annually for assisted living care to supplement the cost of their medical care; and

WHEREAS, this amount only partially offsets the cost of such medical care, as the Congressional Research Service estimates that the median annual cost for a licensed home health aide is \$18,179, the cost of an assisted living facility is \$39,600 and the median cost of a room in a nursing home is between \$73,000 and \$81,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, to make matters worse, the \$8,191 in “aid and attendance” benefits counts as income for the receiving disabled veteran, creating financial hardship and making it more difficult for the disabled veteran to qualify for federal housing programs; and

WHEREAS, a bill has been introduced for consideration during the 112th Congress, H.R. 6111 by Representative Joseph Heck (R – Nevada) that would exempt “aid and attendance” benefits from income when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determines veteran housing subsidies; and

WHEREAS, passage of H.R. 6111 would allow low income severely disabled veterans to qualify for additional federal housing benefits,

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

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Congress to provide additional funding for housing for disabled veterans.

Section 2. Supports the passage of H.R. 6111 or similar legislation allowing disabled veterans to qualify for additional federal housing benefits.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation and Representative Joseph Heck.

Section 4. Directs the County’s federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2013 federal legislative packages when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sen Javier D. Souto** 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 | absent |
| 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 | aye | | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th 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.

Jess M. McCarty