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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(C)

TO:	Honorable Vice Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	December 4, 2012
FROM:	R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution codesignating West 12 Avenue from West 37 Street to West 49 Street as "Operation Pedro Pan Avenue"; urging the City of Hialeah to join in this codesignation Resolution No. R-995-12

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/lmp

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Vice Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 4, 2012

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5(C)

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.5(C)
12-4-12

RESOLUTION NO. R-995-12

RESOLUTION CODESIGNATING WEST 12 AVENUE FROM WEST 37 STREET TO WEST 49 STREET AS "OPERATION PEDRO PAN AVENUE"; URGING THE CITY OF HIALEAH TO JOIN IN THIS CODESIGNATION

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1960, Cuban Dictator Fidel Castro announced his intention to close secondary, religious and private schools and open revolutionary youth camps, taking children away from their families and homes; and

WHEREAS, the Castro regime intended to take Cuban children from their parents at age five and indoctrinate them to Castro's communist beliefs and Marxist-Leninist ideology; and

WHEREAS, Cuban parents urgently began looking for way to get their children out of the island nation; and

WHEREAS, a secret plan was developed to evacuate children from Cuba by parents in Cuba, Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh, who was the director of the Catholic Welfare Bureau for the Archdiocese of Miami, James Baker, who was head of the Ruston Academy, an American school in Havana, and the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Cuban children began boarding flights from Havana to Miami on December 26, 1960, and between then and October 23, 1962, more than 14,000 Cuban youths, most of whom were between the ages of 12 and 18, arrived alone in the United States through a secret program now known as Operation Pedro Pan; and

WHEREAS, Operation Pedro Pan was the largest recorded exodus of unaccompanied minors in the history of the Western Hemisphere, carried out at great danger to parents and other individuals who assisted in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of the Cuban youths who arrived in Miami through Operation Pedro Pan were united at the airport with relatives already living in the United States, while the other half who did not have relatives yet here were placed in the care of Monsignor Walsh and the Catholic Welfare Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the youths under the care of Monsignor Walsh initially were placed in temporary shelters in Miami-Dade County, including Camp Matecumbe at Southwest 137 Avenue and 120 Street in South West Miami-Dade County, as well as shelters in Florida City, Kendall, Opa-Locka, St. Raphael's and Casa Carrión; and

WHEREAS, many Operation Pedro Pan children eventually were relocated to stay with families in more than 30 states until such times as their parents arrived in the United States; and

WHEREAS, most but not all of the children of Operation Pedro Pan were eventually reunited with their parents in the United States although events such as the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis delayed the arrival of parent in many cases for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, many Operation Pedro Pan alumni are today leading citizens in Miami and hold high positions around the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, well known Pedro Pan alumni include former United States Senator Mel Martinez, musician Willy Chirino, developer Armando Codina and City of Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, a number of alumni of Operation Pedro Pan created the Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc. to help needy children and preserve the history of Operation Pedro Pan; and

WHEREAS, brave Cuban youths who came to the United States through Operation Pedro Pan were uprooted from their homes and separated from their families; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Cuban parents made incredible and dangerous sacrifices on behalf of their children through Operation Pedro Pan so that their children could live in a free society; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolutions R-1432-02 and R-498-03, this Board previously codesignated Southwest 120 Street from Southwest 117 Avenue to Southwest 147 Avenue as Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Street for his important role in Operation Pedro Pan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution R-862-12, this Board on October 23, 2012 approved the City of Miami codesignation of Southeast 15 Road from Brickell Avenue to Biscayne Bay as "Elly Chovel Road" in honor of the founder and chairperson of Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, this Board also would like to honor all of the youths, parents, religious leaders and government officials who made Operation Pedro Pan a success with this codesignation; and

WHEREAS, West 12 Avenue from West 37 Street to West 49 Street is a County road located in the City of Hialeah; and

WHEREAS, this proposed codesignation is located in County Commission District 13,

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

Section 1. Having considered this matter at a public hearing, codesignates West 12 Avenue from West 37 Street to West 49 Street as "Operation Pedro Pan Avenue."

Section 2. Urging the City of Hialeah to join in this codesignation.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the United States Postal Service, the Mayor of the City of Hialeah, the Hialeah Police Department, the Hialeah Fire Department, the Traffic Signals and Signs Division of the Public Works and Waste Management Department and the Development Services Division of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman **aye**

Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Lynda Bell	**absent**
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	**absent**	Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**absent**
Sally A. Heyman	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Jean Monestime	**aye**	Dennis C. Moss	**aye**
Rebeca Sosa	**aye**	Sen. Javier D. Souto	**absent**
Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**	Juan C. Zapata	**aye**

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of December, 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