

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(A)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** May 6, 2014

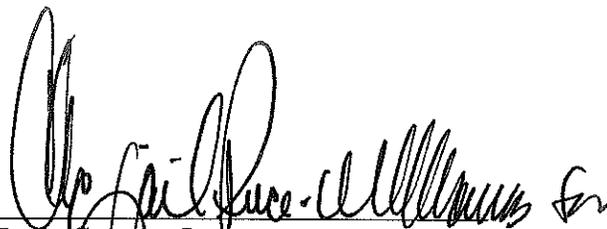
**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving naming  
the Community Center at Oak  
Grove Park located at 690 NE  
159<sup>th</sup> Street in District 2 as the  
"Father Gerard Jean-Juste  
Community Center"

Resolution No. R-393-14

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jean Monestime and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.

  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/jls



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** May 6, 2014

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

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

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 Mayor'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(A)  
5-6-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-393-14

RESOLUTION APPROVING NAMING THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT OAK GROVE PARK LOCATED AT 690 NE 159<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN DISTRICT 2 AS THE "FATHER GERARD JEAN-JUSTE COMMUNITY CENTER", AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING, AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO UNDERTAKE, AS PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY, THE INSTALLATION OF AN APPROPRIATE MARKER INDICATING THE DESIGNATION AND NAME OF THE FACILITY

**WHEREAS**, Father Gerard Jean-Juste was a Roman Catholic Priest, a rector of Saint Claire's church for the poor in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and the founder and director of the Haitian Refugee Center in Miami where he was a fierce and vocal advocate for Haitians seeking asylum in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Gerard Jean-Juste was born in 1946 in Cavaillon, Haiti, studied for the Catholic priesthood in Canada, and in 1971 became the first Haitian ordained as a Catholic priest in the United States in a ceremony at the Church of St. Avila in Brooklyn where he was a deacon; and

**WHEREAS**, back in the United States, while serving at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, he obtained bachelor degrees in engineering technology and civil engineering from Northeastern University; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Jean-Juste founded the Miami-based Haitian Refugee Center in the 1970s in order to help Haitian refugees, to protest government immigration laws and to fight local discrimination against Haitians who, despite fleeing from the political turmoil and extreme poverty in Haiti to seek asylum in the United States, were put into detention centers and, in all but a small number of cases, sent back to Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1980, the Haitian Refugee Center won an important victory in federal court when a federal district court ruled that the federal government had committed “wholesale violations of due process” and shown racial bias in ordering mass deportations of Haitian refugees, and the Court ordered that new hearings be held for more than 4,000 Haitian refugees represented by the class-action lawsuit; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Jean-Juste returned to Haiti in 1991, greatly in support of the democratically-elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and became the rector at the Church of Saint Claire in Port-au-Prince where he operated a soup kitchen to feed the poor which continues to operate till this day; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Jean-Juste, or “Father Gerry” as he was often called, died in Miami on May 27, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Jean-Juste is hailed as a defender of the human rights of Haitians and it is only appropriate that Miami should honor his legacy in the same neighborhood from where he, for many years, fought and was a tireless crusader for social justice for Haiti’s poor,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board, after a public hearing, desires to honor Father Gerard Jean-Juste’s legacy by approving the naming of the community center at Oak Grove Park located at 690 NE 159<sup>th</sup> Street in District 2 as the “Father Gerard Jean-Juste Community Center” and further directs the County Mayor or Mayor’s designee to undertake, as part of the construction of the community center, the installation of an appropriate marker indicating the designation and name of the facility.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jean Monestime and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by

Commissioner **Jean Monestime** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman	<b>aye</b>
	Lynda Bell, Vice Chair	<b>aye</b>
Bruno A. Barreiro	<b>aye</b>	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. <b>aye</b>
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	<b>aye</b>	Audrey M. Edmonson <b>aye</b>
Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>	Barbara J. Jordan <b>aye</b>
Jean Monestime	<b>aye</b>	Dennis C. Moss <b>aye</b>
Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>aye</b>	Xavier L. Suarez <b>aye</b>
Juan C. Zapata	<b>aye</b>	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014. 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.

Monica Rizo