

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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

DATE: December 2, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution declaring the
15th day of May beginning on
May 15th, 2015 and each May
15th thereafter as Farmer's Day
in Miami-Dade County
Resolution No. R-1072-14

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chair Lynda Bell.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/Imp



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(Revised)

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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 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. 11(A)(6)

12-2-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-1072-14

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE 15TH DAY OF MAY
BEGINNING ON MAY 15TH, 2015 AND EACH MAY 15TH
THEREAFTER AS FARMER'S DAY IN MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County's agricultural industry, which employs more than 20,000 people and produces more than \$2.7 billion in economic impact annually, is of great importance to our local economy and the quality of life of county residents; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has had a thriving agricultural economy for over a century, providing fresh vegetables, tropical fruits, and horticultural products to the residents of this county and to the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, Miami-Dade County produces 99 percent of the state's sweet potatoes, 64 percent of the squash and 35 percent of the beans; and

WHEREAS, many other states also rely on Miami-Dade County's vegetable production, as over 90 percent of the vegetables grown in this county are exported out of state; and

WHEREAS, additionally, with its warm, humid subtropical climate, Miami-Dade County is the number one producer of mangos, large sized avocados, carambola, lychees, longan, mamey sapote, banana/plantains, sugar apple/atemoya, coconut, sapodilla, jackfruit, and passion fruit; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is also the largest avocado-producing county in the State of Florida, and 5th largest in the United States; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the nursery industry in Miami-Dade County is the largest in Florida and second largest in the U.S., with 1,500 state-certified nurseries growing on 13,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, according to an economic study by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, total sales of nursery growers, landscape and garden centers in 2005 in Florida were over \$1 billion, and the employment impact of these industries was over 40,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, despite the support and contributions of numerous organizations, including the University of Florida/Miami-Dade County Extension, many challenges still face Miami-Dade County's agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, for instance, the vegetable industry faces high costs of production, direct competition with Mexico, and urbanization leading to the loss of land for vegetable production; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the horticulture industry faces constant introduction of invasive pests, irrigation restrictions, increasing input costs, declining sales, and an economy and housing market that have taken longer than expected to recover; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, to ensure the continued longevity of Miami-Dade County's agricultural industry, technological innovations are needed in the areas of farm management, land acquisition, irrigation, biofuels, plant nutrients, and web-based resource centers; and

WHEREAS, October 12th, a date nearing the close of the annual harvest in most parts of the U.S., is commonly recognized across the nation as National Farmers Day, an "unofficial" national holiday; and

WHEREAS, many crops in Miami-Dade County, however, including tropical sweet potatoes and taro, are grown year-round; and

WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the above issues, and to recognize the important and tireless work of farmers in our community, this Board would like to declare the 15th day of May, beginning May 15th, 2015 and each May 15th thereafter as Farmer’s Day in Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board declares the 15th day of May, beginning May 15th, 2015, and each May 15th thereafter as Farmer’s Day in Miami-Dade County.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chair Lynda Bell. 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:

	Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman	aye
Bruno A. Barreiro	aye	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. aye
Daniella Levine Cava	aye	Jose "Pepe" Diaz aye
Audrey M. Edmonson	aye	Sally A. Heyman aye
Barbara J. Jordan	aye	Jean Monestime aye
Dennis C. Moss	absent	Sen. Javier D. Souto absent
Xavier L. Suarez	aye	Juan C. Zapata aye

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of December, 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.

MJM

Michael J. Mastrucci

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