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

MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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

DATE: October 7, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to prepare a plan for the development of a Black History Museum commemorating and celebrating the history of black citizens in Miami-Dade County
Resolution No. R-911-14

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Jean Monestime, Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/lmp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 7, 2014

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

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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**

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Amended

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)
10-7-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-911-14

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR THE COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PREPARE A PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM COMMEMORATING AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF BLACK CITIZENS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BLACK ARCHIVES, RESEARCH AND HISTORY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC. FOR THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH MUSEUM

WHEREAS, people of African descent, often referred to as black, began inhabiting Miami-Dade County ("County") in the 1890's; and

WHEREAS, black people living in the County, or their ancestors, have come from many areas of the world including the Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica, the West Indies, other islands in the Caribbean Basin, other parts of the United States, particularly the South, nations in Africa, and other nations in the world; and

WHEREAS, quoting from an article written by Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields, "developing a new city depends on dreamers and laborers;" this County was developed by black people who, while dreamers, made up the bulk of the pioneer labor force that helped make this County into the thriving metropolis it is today; and

WHEREAS, indeed, since the 1890's black people have made substantial contributions to the construction of many buildings and other elements of infrastructure in the County, including, but not limited to, significant projects such as (1) construction of the railroad owned by Henry Flagler which connected the County to the rail system of the United States, dramatically increasing tourism and immigration to the County, (2) construction of the hotels on Miami Beach that contributed significantly to the start of the tourist industry in the County,

(3) construction of Vizcaya (currently a County owned museum drawing thousands of tourists annually), and (4) construction of the Dade County Courthouse completed in 1925, and still serving as the main civil court house in the County; and

WHEREAS, similarly, Bahamian and southern black people were the primary workforce that was enlisted by George Merrick and other founders of the City of Coral Gables to build the City Beautiful and the black Bahamians brought with them their skill in masonry building with native coral limestone- the unique material incorporated into structures throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, black people have contributed to the political history of the County including some black people representing one third of the required number of persons necessary to effectuate the incorporation of the City of Miami in 1896; and

WHEREAS, black residents have contributed substantially to the social and cultural history of the County including the founding of the first black newspaper in the County known as "The Industrial Reporter," the development of literary, visual and performing arts highlighting such notable communities as Overtown's Little Broadway and entertainment nightlife where artists like Billy Holiday, Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald performed regularly, and the continuing development of the music scene in Miami, with some black artists being nationally known, and the work of prominent black leaders to have the MacFarlane-Homestead Subdivision, consisting of the original homes of Bahamian black immigrants, placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, black residents were contributors to the business and real estate history of the County with notable persons such as D.A. Dorsey who was Miami's first black millionaire and who once owned Fisher Island; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a museum commemorating and celebrating the history referenced above, including the history of immigration from the various nations making up the national backgrounds of black people in the County would enrich the education and lives of all citizens of the County, as well as attract tourism; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to have the County Mayor prepare a plan for the development of a Black History Museum in the County in accordance with the policy direction set forth by the Board pursuant to this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc. ("The Black Archives") is uniquely qualified and positioned to be the entity to operate, manage, archive, and curate the Black History Museum in the County, as The Black Archives, founded in 1977, has the largest and most comprehensive repository of black history and memorabilia in the County, inclusive of documents, photographs and other source materials telling the story of the black experience in the County; and

WHEREAS, The Black Archives also has experience in developing, restoring and operating facilities; The Black Archives owns and operates the historic Lyric Theater, the D.A. Dorsey House and the Dr. S. H. John's X-Ray Clinic, the first black private medical clinic in the County, which The Black Archives is also preparing to restore,

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

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated in this Resolution and are approved.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to prepare a plan for the development, design, and construction of a Black History Museum located on the waterfront in either Museum Park or Watson Island, including working with the City of Miami to get any necessary permission(s) from the City for construction of a Black History Museum in any of the foregoing locations, to the extent necessary and where applicable ("Plan"). The Plan shall include an expected timeline for completion of the project, and shall further identify possible funding sources for the development, design, and construction of the Museum including future bond programs like the Safe Neighborhood Parks Program (SNP) or the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program (GOB).

Section 3. This Board directs the Mayor to negotiate an agreement with The Black Archives to operate, manage, archive, and curate the Black History Museum. In preparing the Plan, the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee is directed to consult with and coordinate with The Black Archives on the development of the Museum.

Section 4. The Boards directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to submit a written report on the development of the plan required by Sections 2 and 3 above to this Board within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this resolution and to place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65. Every one hundred eighty (180) days after the initial report is provided, this Board further directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to submit a written report to the Board detailing the status of the development of the plan required by Sections 2 and 3 above and to place such reports on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Jean Monestime, Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner **Dennis C. Moss**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of October, 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