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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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

DATE: December 16, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the creation of a marine reserve within Biscayne National Park in order to better ensure the conservation and protection of the marine resources in Biscayne National Park
Resolution No. R-1125-14

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm

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MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: December 16, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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)(5)
12-16-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-1125-14

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A MARINE RESERVE WITHIN BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK IN ORDER TO BETTER ENSURE THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE MARINE RESOURCES IN BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK; URGING THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK TO CREATE SUCH A MARINE RESERVE WITHIN BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park (the "Park") is a national treasure which protects part of the third-largest coral reef system in the world and the longest remaining stretch of mangrove forest on the East Coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, about 95 percent of Biscayne National Park is covered by water, and the Park provides habitat and nursery grounds for important commercial and recreational fish, shellfish and crustaceans, in addition to providing refuge to threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park protects "a rare combination of terrestrial, marine, and amphibious life in a tropical setting of great natural beauty," and it is one of the largest marine parks in the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park is a significant economic driver; it directly sustains an estimated 374 jobs in the local area, and in 2013, it was visited by approximately half a million people who spent approximately $29 million, generating a large number of additional jobs; and

WHEREAS, within Biscayne National Park, the health of the coral reef has been deteriorating and some fish populations, including important commercial and recreational species such as snapper and grouper, have been notably declining; and

WHEREAS, these problems are believed to be due to many cumulative stressors including pollution, warming seas, over-fishing and over-use; and

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park is in the process of updating its General Management Plan, which will guide management of the Park over the next 20 years, and as part of that process, Biscayne National Park is considering the creation of a marine reserve in a portion of the Park, in order to protect the Park's severely threatened coral reef ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park is also considering other alternatives for its General Management Plan that would not include a marine reserve, and the Park currently intends to publish its final General Management Plan sometime in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the creation of marine reserves is a science-based tool that could be used by Biscayne National Park to protect coral reef ecosystems and fish populations, reduce impacts from marine debris, reduce damage to coral reefs, and provide areas where different types of recreational uses could enjoy marine resources; and

WHEREAS, marine reserves have been shown to work in other places; for example, a recent report on the Dry Tortugas marine reserve showed improvement in previously exploited fish stocks such as mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, red grouper, black grouper and hogfish, and the open areas that surround the Dry Tortugas marine reserve now have larger fish sizes and greater numbers of fish; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a marine reserve in Biscayne National Park would help ensure that a healthy, vibrant Biscayne National Park continues to exist to support the local economy of Miami-Dade County for many years into the future,

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

Section 1. Supports the creation of a marine reserve within Biscayne National Park in order to better ensure the conservation and protection of the marine resources in Biscayne National Park.

Section 2. Urges the Director of the National Park Service, the Regional Director of the South East Region of the National Park Service and the Superintendent of Biscayne National Park to create a marine reserve within Biscayne National Park through the Park's General Management Plan.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation, the Director of the National Park Service, the Regional Director of the South East Region of the National Park Service and the Superintendent of Biscayne National Park.

Section 4. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation and promulgation of rules accomplishing the goals set forth herein, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2015 federal legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman			**aye**
Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	**absent**
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	**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 16th day of December, 2014. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the 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.

Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell