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

MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 3, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor to examine the feasibility and advisability of providing locations, such as Miami-Dade Police stations or other locations that would deter criminal activity, to serve as safe havens in Miami-Dade County for anyone seeking to complete a Craigslist transaction or similar transaction related to a classified advertisement website; further directing the Mayor to prepare a report

Resolution No. R-126-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Sally A. Heyman.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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 _____

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)
2-3-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-126-15

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF PROVIDING LOCATIONS, SUCH AS MIAMI-DADE POLICE STATIONS OR OTHER LOCATIONS THAT WOULD DETER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, TO SERVE AS SAFE HAVENS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR ANYONE SEEKING TO COMPLETE A CRAIGSLIST TRANSACTION OR SIMILAR TRANSACTION RELATED TO A CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT WEBSITE; FURTHER DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO PREPARE A REPORT

WHEREAS, classified advertisement websites, such as Craigslist, have sections devoted to jobs, housing, goods for sale, items wanted, services, and discussion forums; and

WHEREAS, individuals who are looking to buy and sell items will usually contact each other through classified advertisement websites and arrange to meet in person to conduct the sales transaction; and

WHEREAS, classified advertisement websites do not oversee how their users conduct the sale of items posted on the site; and

WHEREAS, classified advertisement websites are becoming a popular place for criminals to prey on the innocent and hardworking residents of Miami-Dade County and South Florida; and

WHEREAS, there have been a number of cases in South Florida in 2014 alone in which people selling cellphones, computers, or other valuable goods through classified advertisement websites have been targeted by criminals who intend to rob them when they meet to exchange goods for cash; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2014, a 17-year-old resident of the City of Hialeah was robbed at gunpoint when he went to sell a pair of sneakers to a buyer he met on a classified advertisement website; and

WHEREAS, when the two met at a local park, the buyer pulled a gun, a struggle ensued and one shot was fired at the teen; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2014, a man and woman robbed and briefly kidnapped a father of three after meeting him at a Target parking lot in the City of Sunrise, Florida, where the couple was supposed to buy an iPhone the victim was selling on a classified advertisement website; and

WHEREAS, the victim leaned into the car to show the phone to the woman, at which point the couple took off, dragging the victim through the street; and

WHEREAS, the victim suffered lacerations to his hands and legs; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2014, a South Florida man who was trying to sell his iPhone on a classified advertisement website met up with a person he believed wanted to buy the phone, only to find himself in the midst of an armed robbery; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2011, shortly before the Christmas holiday, a South Florida U.S. Marine veteran was the victim of an internet sales transaction gone awry during which he was shot and then forced to plug his wounds with his fingers, benefiting from a military background that police say, possibly saved his life; and

WHEREAS, even when the victims of these internet sales crimes pick locations for the transactions that they feel would be safe, such as public and populated shopping centers or parks, they still fall prey to criminals; and

WHEREAS, in response to robberies in the Cities of Sunrise and Weston, the Broward Sheriff's Office announced in July of 2014 that its Weston substation, 17300 Royal Palm Blvd., would serve as a safe haven for anyone seeking to complete an internet sales transaction; and

WHEREAS, police in the City of Boca Raton announced the same safe haven plan in early 2014 after there were three armed robberies in a three week period that began as cellphone and computer sales via a classified advertisement website; and

WHEREAS, police in the Cities of Sunrise, Fort Lauderdale, Delray Beach, and Boynton Beach have announced that they have no formal program, but that the public is welcome to complete transactions at police stations during regular business hours if it makes them feel safer; and

WHEREAS, identifying a location that would deter criminal activity, such as Miami-Dade Police stations, to serve as a safe haven in Miami-Dade County for internet sales transactions related to classified advertisement websites could have a positive impact on the safety of our local community and potentially cause a decline in robberies related to internet sales transactions,

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

Section 1. Directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to examine the feasibility and advisability, including any potential liability to the County, of providing at least four locations, one in the north, south, west, and central areas of the County, to serve as a safe haven for anyone seeking to complete an internet sales transaction related to a classified advertisement website. The safe haven locations should be sites that deter criminal activity, such as a Miami-Dade Police station or other well-populated and safe locations.

Section 2. Directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to prepare a report containing the findings and recommendations resulting from the study identified in Section 1 and provide the report to this Board within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution and place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

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

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of February, 2015. 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.

Annery Pulgar Alfonso