OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(29)

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

DATE: October 6, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor to review Miami-Dade County's Green Business Certification Program, to develop a plan to further incentivize, promote, and improve business participation in the program, and to submit the plan in a report for Board approval

Resolution No. R-901-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Commissioner Sally A. Heyman.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 6, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(29)

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)(29)
10-6-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-901-15

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO REVIEW MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO FURTHER INCENTIVIZE, PROMOTE, AND IMPROVE BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, AND TO SUBMIT THE PLAN IN A REPORT FOR BOARD APPROVAL

WHEREAS, a growing number of businesses in Miami-Dade County (the "County") have taken steps to incorporate sustainable practices into their operations, thereby improving performance and achieving operational cost savings; and

WHEREAS, some recognized benefits to green business operations include 15 to 30 percent savings on cleaning costs, up to 35 percent in energy savings, and as much as 20 to 60 percent in water savings; and

WHEREAS, the County has developed the Green Business Certification Program to recognize environmentally-conscience businesses in our community, to help local enterprises maximize their social, ecological, and financial performance, and to provide the public with important information about which local businesses employ green practices; and

WHEREAS, such green certification provides the County's residents with knowledge as to which businesses in the community are employing green and environmentally-conscience practices, resulting in better-informed consumers; and

WHEREAS, a local business can obtain certification from the County through a series of steps, beginning with online registration and the completion of an online certification questionnaire pertaining to environmental, economic, and social sustainability practices that, when followed, tend to help make a business greener and more environmentally-conscience; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cost or fee for businesses wishing to obtain green certification through the County; and

WHEREAS, despite the importance of the County's green certification program, it appears that very few local businesses have obtained certification and availed themselves of the benefits of being recognized as green; and

WHEREAS, in fact, approximately 600 applications have been received, and less than 25 businesses have become green certified, since the program's inception in 2012; and

WHEREAS, to increase the number of green certified businesses in the community, this Board wishes for the current program to be reviewed and for a plan to be developed to further incentivize, promote, and improve green business certification in the County; and

WHEREAS, among other options, the Mayor's review and plan should, at a minimum, explore and address the following:

- the possibility and feasibility of implementing a tiered certification program that would allow businesses to more readily obtain some level of green certification, with the ability to graduate to higher certification levels;
- ways to improve marketing the existence of the green certification program and the benefits of participation to businesses;
- ways to improve general public awareness of the County's green certification program to facilitate more educated consumer decisions for those wishing to patronize green businesses;
- the possibility of seeking federal and state grants that can provide incentives for businesses that obtain green certification; and
- the possibility of implementing a fee program for participation and certification to help cover the County's operating and marketing costs,

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

Section 1. This Board directs the Mayor or designee to review Miami-Dade County's Green Business Certification Program, to develop a plan to further incentivize, promote, and improve green business certification, and to submit the plan in a report for Board approval.

Section 2. The plan and report referenced in Section 1 above shall, at a minimum, explore and address the following:

- the possibility and feasibility of implementing a tiered certification program that would allow businesses to more readily obtain some level of green certification, with the ability to graduate to higher certification levels;
- ways to improve marketing the existence of the green certification program and the benefits of participation to businesses;
- ways to improve general public awareness of the County's green certification program to facilitate more educated consumer decisions for those wishing to patronize green businesses;
- the possibility of seeking federal and state grants that can provide incentives for businesses that obtain green certification; and
- the possibility of implementing a fee program for participation and certification to help cover the County's operating and marketing costs.

Section 3. The Mayor or designee shall provide the plan and report referenced in Section 1 above for Board within 120 days of the effective date of this resolution and shall 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 Rebeca Sosa, and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Commissioner Sally A. Heyman. It was offered by Commissioner **Dennis C. Moss**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** 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	**aye**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**aye**
Sally A. Heyman	**absent**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Dennis C. Moss	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**	Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**
Juan C. Zapata	**absent**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of October, 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.

James Eddie Kirtley