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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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 County Mayor to develop a program to protect the County's avocado industry by encouraging property owners to remove trees infected by laurel wilt, educating property owners on the signs of laurel wilt and making recommendations on enforcement mechanisms to combat laurel wilt

Resolution No. R-880-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

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MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
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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)(8)
10-6-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-880-15

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO PROTECT THE COUNTY'S AVOCADO INDUSTRY BY ENCOURAGING PROPERTY OWNERS TO REMOVE TREES INFECTED BY LAUREL WILT, EDUCATING PROPERTY OWNERS ON THE SIGNS OF LAUREL WILT AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS TO COMBAT LAUREL WILT

WHEREAS, Florida's commercial avocado industry accounts for $55 million of the statewide economy; and

WHEREAS, 98 percent of the 7,500 acres of Florida's commercial avocado industry are planted in southwest Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 250,000 non-commercial avocado trees on property owned by private citizens in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, local avocado trees are being threatened by laurel wilt disease; and

WHEREAS, laurel wilt disease is caused by the fungus Raffaelea lauricola which is transmitted by the redbay ambrosia beetle; and

WHEREAS, redbay ambrosia beetles can grow to full maturity inside avocado trees within 40-50 days depending on temperatures; and

WHEREAS, when infected trees are not removed, the ambrosia beetle thrives and reproduces, killing the trees and leading to the infection of additional trees within a short amount of time; and

WHEREAS, the spread of laurel wilt disease threatens both the commercial avocado industry and the noneconomic benefits of canopy cover and wildlife habitat that avocado trees provide; and

WHEREAS, since its appearance in Miami-Dade County in 2009, laurel wilt disease has infected and killed approximately 12,000 trees in commercial avocado groves in the County; and

WHEREAS, combating the spread of this disease is an economic imperative of Miami-Dade County and requests for funding for eradication have been included in the County's State and Federal legislative package for many years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee is directed to develop a program, with input from the Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Advisory Board, to protect the County's avocado industry by: (1) encouraging property owners to remove trees infected by laurel wilt through (a) educating property owners on the importance of removal of trees infected by laurel wilt and (b) educating property owners on spotting the signs of laurel wilt in their trees; and (2) making recommendations for enforcement mechanisms and other means for encouraging the removal of trees infected with laurel wilt, including but not limited to recommending changes to the Code of Miami-Dade County. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall provide a report on the program to this Board within 90 days of adoption of the effective date of this resolution and place such report on an agenda of this Board pursuant to Ordinance 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. It was offered by Commissioner **Daniella Levine Cava**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Dennis C. Moss** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman **aye**
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman **absent**

Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**absent**	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.

Lauren E. Morse