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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

DATE: October 20, 2015

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting HB 153, or similar legislation that would establish a program to provide financing to retailers to construct, rehabilitate, or expand grocery stores and supermarkets in underserved communities situated in rural and low and moderate income areas in Florida

Resolution No. R-947-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/jls

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 20, 2015

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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)(4)
10-20-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-947-15

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB 153, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCING TO RETAILERS TO CONSTRUCT, REHABILITATE, OR EXPAND GROCERY STORES AND SUPERMARKETS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES SITUATED IN RURAL AND LOW AND MODERATE INCOME AREAS IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, House Bill 153 ("HB 153"), entitled "an act relating to the Healthy Food Financing Initiative," has been filed by Representative David Santiago (R – Deltona) for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2016 session; and

WHEREAS, many people in low and moderate income communities do not have ready access to healthy and nutritious food and rely instead on fast food outlets and convenience stores selling high-fat, high-sugar processed foods for meals and snacks; and

WHEREAS, residents of rural areas often face a different, but related, challenge: a complete lack of any nearby food options at all; and

WHEREAS, those living in urban and rural communities in Florida often must travel long distances to access fresh, nutritious food needed to live healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, many people living in such communities do not have the time or financial resources to travel and obtain healthy food options located far from where they live and work; and

WHEREAS, consequently, people living in such communities often have significantly higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other health issues and ailments related to poor nutrition; and

WHEREAS, the problem also goes beyond just health, as low income communities are frequently deprived of the concomitant economic development benefits that come with having readily-accessible local grocery stores nearby, such as the creation of steady jobs at decent wages and the sparking of complementary retail stores and services in the area; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report published by the Florida Department of Health and other agencies entitled "A Healthier Future for Miami-Dade County: Expanding Supermarket Access in Areas of Need," approximately 250,000 Miami-Dade County residents, including those in the cities of Miami, Opa-locka, and Hialeah, currently live in low-income areas that have poor supermarket access and higher than average death rates from diet-related causes; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 report concluded that Miami-Dade County, like other areas in Florida, should address the lack of food stores and supermarkets in underserved communities, especially in the aforementioned cities; and

WHEREAS, HB 153 would, among other things, direct the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish a program that is comprised of, and coordinates the use of, federal, state, and private loans or grants, federal tax credits, and other types of financial assistance for the construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of independent grocery stores, supermarkets, and community facilities to increase access to fresh produce and other nutritious food in distressed, underserved communities where a substantial number of residents currently have low access to a full-service grocery store or supermarket; and

WHEREAS, in this way, HB 153 offers a viable, effective, and economically-sustainable solution to the problem of limited access to healthy foods and can help achieve multiple goals: reducing health disparities and improving the health of families and children, facilitating job creation, and stimulating local economic development in low and middle income communities in distressed areas; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that all Floridians have ready access to healthy and nutritious food in their local communities is an important public policy imperative; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, this Board wishes to express its support for HB 153 or similar legislation and hereby urges the Florida Legislature to enact it,

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

Section 1. Supports HB 153, or similar legislation that would establish a program to provide financing to retailers to construct, rehabilitate, or expand grocery stores and supermarkets in underserved communities situated in low and moderate income areas in Florida.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Representative David Santiago, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, and Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson. It was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, 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	**absent**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**aye**
Sally A. Heyman	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Dennis C. Moss	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**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 20th 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 E. ("Eddie") Kirtley