

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

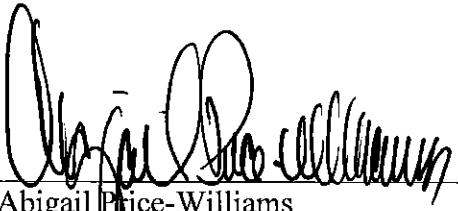
DATE: October 3, 2019

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging United States
President Donald J. Trump and
the Acting Secretary for the
United States Department of
Homeland Security to waive or
relax visa requirements for
Bahamian nationals entering the
United States in the aftermath of
Hurricane Dorian

Resolution No. R-1092-19

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. and Co-Sponsor Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson.


Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

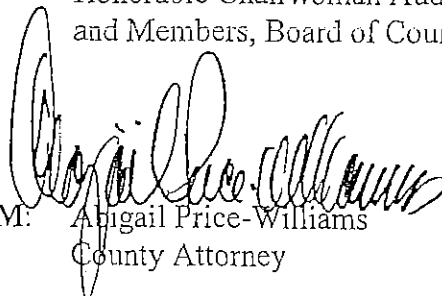
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MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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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
- Statement of social equity 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 present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____) 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)(22)
10-3-19

RESOLUTION NO. R-1092-19 _____

RESOLUTION URGING UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO WAIVE OR RELAX VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR BAHAMIAN NATIONALS ENTERING THE UNITED STATES IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE DORIAN

WHEREAS, with wind gusts as high as 220 miles per hour and sustained winds of 185 miles per hour, Hurricane Dorian ravaged the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama Island on September 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on record as the most powerful hurricane to strike The Bahamas, the Category 5 storm left at least 50 dead, with the death toll expected to rise as thousands remain missing; and

WHEREAS, the situation remains dire as there is an estimated 70,000 residents currently homeless, evidenced by devastating photos of homes and boats in complete rubble; and

WHEREAS, cruise ships and other rescue transports have carried Bahamians fleeing the destruction of Hurricane Dorian into the United States; and

WHEREAS, United States Senators Marco Rubio (R – Florida) and Rick Scott (R – Florida) penned a letter to President Donald J. Trump requesting that visa requirements be waived or suspended as The Bahamas works to recover from the devastating impact of Hurricane Dorian; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, on September 8, 2019, more than 100 Bahamians were forced off a ferry boat headed to Florida and told they would need to obtain visa documents before entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, Acting Commissioner for United States Customs and Border Protection Mark Morgan cleared confusion and announced the government would allow Bahamians who do not have a lengthy criminal history and who are fleeing the destruction on the islands to temporarily come to the United States without visa documents; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the deep ties this state, and even more, this community shares with The Bahamas, as it was Bahamian settlers who helped build Miami; and

WHEREAS, now more than ever, it is incumbent upon us, as members of this community, to assist The Bahamas, and this Board wishes to join the requests for waived or relaxed visa requirements,

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

Section 1. Urges United States President Donald J. Trump and Acting Secretary for the United States Department of Homeland Security to waive, or at the very least, relax visa requirements for Bahamian nationals entering the United States in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, United States Senator Marco Rubio, United States Senator Rick Scott, the remaining Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the Acting Secretary for the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2019 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. and Co-Sponsor is Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson. It was offered by Commissioner **Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.** who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman			aye
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman			aye
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	aye	Daniella Levine Cava	aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Sally A. Heyman	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Barbara J. Jordan	aye
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Dennis C. Moss	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye
Xavier L. Suarez	aye		

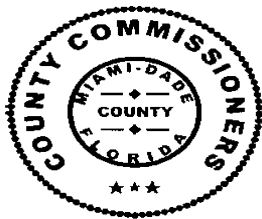
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of October, 2019. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override 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

Linda L. Cave

By: _____
Deputy Clerk



Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

APP

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