Clerk of the Board
Date and Time Recorder Stamp

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

VETO AND VETO MESSAGE

CLERK OF THE BOARD
2011 DEC 28 PM 4:01
CLERK, CIRCUIT & COUNTY
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.
#1

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and
Members of the Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County, Florida

From:

Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County, Florida

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 2.02.E of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby veto Resolution number R-1113-11 adopted at the December 19, 2011 Board of County Commissioners Meeting:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT(S) TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTING SERVICES IN TALLAHASSEE, FL, WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTIONS 2-8.3 AND 2-8.4 OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO BID PROTESTS, BY A TWO-THIRD VOTE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT(S) FOR AND ON BEHALF OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND TO EXERCISE ANY CANCELLATION AND RENEWAL PROVISIONS, AND TO EXERCISE ALL OTHER RIGHTS CONTAINED THEREIN CONTRACT NO(S). RFQ801 (Internal Services)

VETO MESSAGE

On Monday, December 19, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Resolution number R-1113-11 and in doing so awarded contracts to four firms to obtain governmental representation and consulting services in Tallahassee. Ronald L. Book, P.A. (Book) was awarded a contract for $170,000 per year; Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell, P.A. (Rutledge) was awarded $170,000 per year; Ballard Partners, Inc. was awarded $55,000 per year; and Akerman Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A. was awarded $55,000 per year. These four new agreements total $450,000.

On October 18th, the Board approved Resolution number R-923-11 directing the County Mayor to bring back to the Board a request to advertise a competitive solicitation for the procurement of state lobbying contracts which would allow the Board to rank and select the highest qualified firms in its sole discretion. On October 24th, the Administration received a copy of a letter addressed to Chairman Joe A. Martinez from the principals of the two incumbent firms, Gary R. Rutledge and Ronald L. Book, whereby their respective firms offered to reduce their current contracts by $25,000 each, from $225,000 to $200,000. This would have resulted in the state lobbying contracts cost being lowered to $400,000 for the year, down from $450,000 last year. Subsequent to receiving this proposal from Rutledge and Book, the Board on November 3rd approved Resolution number R-928-11 authorizing the advertisement of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 801, Governmental Representation and Consulting Services in Tallahassee, FL.

In the six months since taking office, my highest priorities have been to provide property tax relief to the residents of Miami-Dade County and to make County government more efficient and effective. With the support of the Board, we have been able to accomplish much, including rolling back property tax rates to FY 2009-10 levels and reducing the number of County departments from 42 to 25. While much remains to be done, I believe we are moving in the right direction.

Unfortunately, Resolution number R-1113-11 moves Miami-Dade County in the wrong fiscal direction. I believe that the intent of the Board was to reduce the cost of the state lobbying contract(s), not increase it. However, the Resolution, as approved, does just that – increases the costs to taxpayers.

CLOSING

The Board of County Commissioners is encouraged to work to provide the cost-savings that we all want, while ensuring that Miami-Dade County has the most effective representation in Tallahassee to advocate for those issues in the best interest of our community.

The effect of this veto is that the two incumbent firms (Book and Rutledge) will continue on a month-to-month basis until a successor contract(s) is approved. The Board is reminded that per their joint letter on October 24th, Book and Rutledge were willing to reduce their contracts by a total of $50,000. Based on the discussion at the December 19th Board meeting, they accepted a further reduction of their new contracts to $170,000 each, representing savings of $110,000 from the current cost.

I am confident that savings can be achieved and my Administration stands ready to continue to work with the Board as we strive to make the right decisions entrusted to us by the residents of Miami-Dade County.