

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

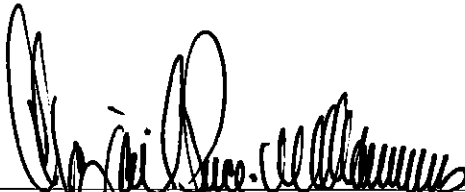
**DATE:** June 5, 2018

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution further urging the  
Florida Legislature to ban the  
commercial trade of ivory in  
the State of Florida

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.



Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/smm



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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 \_\_\_\_, 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)(10)  
6-5-18

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION FURTHER URGING THE FLORIDA  
LEGISLATURE TO BAN THE COMMERCIAL TRADE OF  
IVORY IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, with an estimated value of between \$10 billion and \$20 billion per year, illegal wildlife trade is a major transnational crime run by professional criminal networks worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, there is significant evidence that illegal trade in high-value wildlife parts, including African elephant ivory, is being used as a source of financing for criminal organizations and armed groups that pose a threat to the United States' economic and security interests in Africa and elsewhere; and

**WHEREAS**, the illegal ivory trade is responsible for the slaughter of some 30,000 elephants and 1,200 rhinoceroses per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the sale of ivory across international boundaries has been banned since 1990, but individuals in some states like Florida, for example, can continue to buy and sell ivory within state borders because the federal government only has the power to regulate trade across, but not within, state lines; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2016, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Commission promulgated regulations amounting to a "near-total" ban on domestic ivory trade in an effort to protect African elephants; and

**WHEREAS**, the July 2016 regulations also limited interstate commercial trade to antiques that are more than a hundred years old; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has no authority to limit ivory sales to items imported before the international ban in 1990 within individual states; and

**WHEREAS**, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington have all imposed intrastate ivory trading bans in some capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, as of December 31, 2017, China's legal, government-sanctioned ivory trade operations came to a close as the world's largest domestic market for ivory outlawed its sale; and

**WHEREAS**, ending the legal sale of ivory has been described as the "greatest single step" that can be taken to reduce elephant poaching in Africa by Peter Knights of WildAid, a San Francisco-based wildlife awareness group; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal trade in elephant ivory is the most significant threat to Africa's elephant population, which has dropped from more than 1 million in 1989 to just 500,000 now; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Kingdom and European Union have both recently introduced public comment periods regarding ivory bans; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board has always supported efforts to ban or prohibit the sale or trade of ivory products, including its adoption of Resolution No. R-944-14, which urged the Florida Legislature to ban the sale of ivory within the State of Florida,

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

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to ban the commercial trade of ivory in the State of 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, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation accomplishing the goals set forth herein, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2019 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

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

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Daniella Levine Cava	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Joe A. Martinez	Jean Monestime
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
District 5 - Vacant	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018. 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Javier Zapata

