

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

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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 urging  
President Donald Trump to  
continue efforts to expeditiously  
renegotiate the North American  
Free Trade Agreement  
(NAFTA), with particular  
attention given towards  
addressing the significant  
disparity in agricultural labor  
costs between Mexico and the  
United States

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



Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/smm




# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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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 \_\_\_\_, 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)(20)

6-5-18

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

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO EXPEDITIOUSLY RENEGOTIATE THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA), WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION GIVEN TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE SIGNIFICANT DISPARITY IN AGRICULTURAL LABOR COSTS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

**WHEREAS**, viable agricultural production is vital to a secure and healthy community;  
and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture in Miami-Dade County and South Florida is essential to the health, safety and food security of the entire United States, providing a significant source of our country's fruits and vegetables during the winter months; and

**WHEREAS**, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came into effect on January 1, 1994 and is a treaty signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States creating a trilateral trade bloc in North America with the goal of removing barriers to the exchange of goods and services among the three countries; and

**WHEREAS**, while it was predicted that NAFTA would create a trade surplus for the United States of between \$9 billion to \$12 billion and create 170,000 jobs per year in its first five years, NAFTA has instead resulted in more than two decades of growing trade deficits with Mexico and Canada and massive job losses in the agricultural and manufacturing trades; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Economic Policy Institute, by 2013 the NAFTA trade deficit had already equated to an estimated net loss of roughly 850,000 United States jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States trade deficit with Mexico increased from \$64 billion in 2016 to \$71 billion in 2017, and its trade deficit with Canada increased from \$11 billion in 2016 to \$18 billion in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, NAFTA has benefited large agribusiness corporations over family farmers in all three nations, failing to address the very real problems of price volatility for producers and consumers alike, while damaging livelihoods in rural communities at home and abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, indeed, farmers in South Florida have faced a dramatic loss of revenue from unfair competition and trade practices following the passage of NAFTA, which has led to a significant loss of cropland in Miami-Dade County dedicated to growing food; and

**WHEREAS**, moreover, inequitable trade policies established by NAFTA have significantly lowered prices received by farmers while still not benefiting consumers with lower retail prices; and

**WHEREAS**, Mexico retains a significant advantage over Miami-Dade growers with dramatically lower production overhead than in the United States, primarily due to a significant disparity in labor costs; and

**WHEREAS**, provisions in NAFTA intended to address these issues, including floor prices, have not provided competitive balance due to “dumping” of low-cost product, nor have wages or working conditions improved in Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Los Angeles Times*, in a four part expose, recently outlined the deplorable working conditions and slave wages of farmworkers in Mexico’s fields that compete directly with South Florida producers; and

**WHEREAS**, by failing to condition trade benefits on countries enforcing strong labor and environmental standards, NAFTA incentivized corporations' offshoring of jobs and exploiting of workers across North America in a race to the bottom, and firms that remained in the United States faced unfair competition from imports subsidized through social dumping; and

**WHEREAS**, talks with Mexico and Canada on renegotiating NAFTA have been strained since they began in August of 2017, with no major breakthroughs as of yet in reaching a new agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous Democratic and Republican members from both houses of Congress have since urged President Trump to continue efforts to renegotiate NAFTA, with the goal of affording greater protections to American workers and industries and eliminating incentives for American agricultural and manufacturing companies to outsource jobs to Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board would like to urge President Trump to continue efforts to expeditiously renegotiate NAFTA, with particular attention towards addressing the significant disparity in agricultural labor costs between the United States and Mexico which has caused many farmers in South Florida to lose tremendous market share to low-cost Mexican produce,

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

**Section 1.** Urges President Donald Trump to continue efforts to expeditiously renegotiate NAFTA, with particular attention given towards addressing the significant disparity in agricultural labor costs between the United States and Mexico.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

**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 2018 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. 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.

MSM

Michael J. Mastrucci