

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

---

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

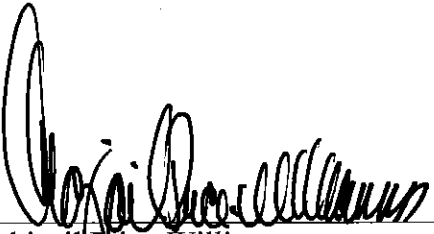
**DATE:** February 19, 2020

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to enact SB 906, HB  
1415, or similar legislation that  
would prohibit green iguanas and  
black and white tegus from being  
kept, possessed, imported into  
this state, sold, bartered, traded,  
or bred in this state

---

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa.



Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/lmp



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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

**DATE:** February 19, 2020

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

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

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)(11)  
2-19-20

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SB 906, HB 1415, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROHIBIT GREEN IGUANAS AND BLACK AND WHITE TEGUS FROM BEING KEPT, POSSESSED, IMPORTED INTO THIS STATE, SOLD, BARTERED, TRADED, OR BRED IN THIS STATE

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to article IV, section 9 of the Florida Constitution, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (“FWC”) exercises the regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life, fresh water aquatic life, and marine life, including the power to control and manage nonnative species; and

**WHEREAS**, nonnative species are animals living outside captivity and which are not historically present in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 500 fish and wildlife nonnative species have been documented in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, not all nonnative species pose a threat to Florida’s ecology, but some nonnative species become invasive species by causing harm to native species, posing a threat to human health and safety, or causing economic damage; and

**WHEREAS**, to manage and minimize the impacts of nonnative species, it is unlawful to import for sale or use, or to release within the state, any species not native to Florida unless authorized by the FWC; and

**WHEREAS**, the black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*), commonly referred to as a tegu, is a large species of lizard that can grow up to four feet in length and is native to South America; and

**WHEREAS**, tegus are an invasive species and have known breeding populations in Miami-Dade and Hillsborough counties and an emerging population in Charlotte County; and

**WHEREAS**, the tegu causes harm to native species by disturbing alligator nests and consuming their eggs, and utilizing gopher tortoise burrows and consuming juvenile gopher tortoises; and

**WHEREAS**, green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) are large, typically green lizards, though they can sometimes be brown or almost black in color, that can grow to over five feet in length and weigh up to 17 pounds; and

**WHEREAS**, green iguanas are a nonnative, invasive species that can live on the ground, in shrubs, or in trees in a variety of habitats including suburban developments, urban areas, small towns, and agricultural areas, and particularly thrive in South Florida's warm, humid climate; and

**WHEREAS**, green iguanas cause damage to residential and commercial landscape vegetation and are often considered a nuisance by property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, some green iguanas cause damage to infrastructure by digging burrows that erode and collapse sidewalks, foundations, seawalls, berms, and canal banks; and

**WHEREAS**, to address the threat to Florida's ecology posed by these nonnative species, a pair of identical bills—Senate Bill (SB) 906 and House Bill (HB) 1415—has been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2020 session by Senator Gary Farmer, Jr. (D – Fort Lauderdale) and Representative Dan Daley (D – Sunrise), respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 906 and HB 1415 would add the green iguana and the black and white tegu to the list of species that may not be kept, possessed, imported into the state, sold, bartered, traded, or bred in this state; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board has previously urged the Florida Legislature to ban the sale of black and white tegus, as evidenced by Resolution Nos. R-147-16 and R-850-16; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly, this Board would like to express its support for SB 906, HB 1415, or similar legislation,

**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 enact SB 906, HB 1415, or similar legislation that would add the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) and the black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*) to the list of species that may not be kept, possessed, imported into the state, sold, bartered, traded, or bred in this state.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, Senator Gary Farmer, Jr., Representative Dan Daley, and House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, and the Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa. 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:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman  
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.  
Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Eileen Higgins  
Joe A. Martinez  
Dennis C. Moss  
Xavier L. Suarez

Daniella Levine Cava  
Sally A. Heyman  
Barbara J. Jordan  
Jean Monestime  
Sen. Javier D. Souto

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020. 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