

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 20, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and the entire Biden administration to (1) halt all deportations to Haiti, (2) enhance security protection for U.S. Embassy staff in Haiti and all American nationals in Haiti, (3) help Haitian National Police secure peace and advance law and order within Haiti's borders, (4) assist in the investigation of the assassination of Haiti's late President Jovenel Moise, (5) help stabilize Haiti to ensure peaceful democratic elections free of corruption and assist in the transition process, including diplomatic intervention, and (6) coordinate an international effort for humanitarian aid and support in Haiti

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 20, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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)(13)
7-20-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS, AND THE ENTIRE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO (1) HALT ALL DEPORTATIONS TO HAITI, (2) ENHANCE SECURITY PROTECTION FOR U.S. EMBASSY STAFF IN HAITI AND ALL AMERICAN NATIONALS IN HAITI, (3) HELP HAITIAN NATIONAL POLICE SECURE PEACE AND ADVANCE LAW AND ORDER WITHIN HAITI'S BORDERS, (4) ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF HAITI'S LATE PRESIDENT JOVENEL MOISE, (5) HELP STABILIZE HAITI TO ENSURE PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS FREE OF CORRUPTION AND ASSIST IN THE TRANSITION PROCESS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION, AND (6) COORDINATE AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT FOR HUMANITARIAN AID AND SUPPORT IN HAITI

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2021, Haiti's President Jovenel Moise was assassinated after a group of individuals stormed his Port-au-Prince home and shot him and his wife, killing him and severely injuring his wife in a deadly and highly coordinated attack; and

WHEREAS, the shocking assassination has exacerbated conditions in Haiti, which, as Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas noted, had already been "experiencing serious security concerns, social unrest, an increase in human rights abuses, crippling poverty, [] lack of basic resources" and the disastrous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, turmoil and anarchy has emerged in some parts of Haiti since the assassination, with rivaling political groups clamoring for power, two competing prime ministers seeking control of the government, Parliament failing to function properly, and crowds of people gathering at the U.S. Embassy in the hopes of receiving assistance with leaving the country; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. announced that the United States will bolster security at the U.S. embassy in Haiti following the assassination in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, in light of the disorder and fear among some Americans in Haiti who have gathered at the U.S. Embassy, it is critical that the U.S. government enhance security protection for not only U.S. Embassy staff but also all Americans living in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph has requested that the U.S. send troops to help stabilize the country by securing peace and advancing law and order within Haiti's borders; and

WHEREAS, White House spokeswoman, Jen Psaki, reported that the White House is still reviewing the request; and

WHEREAS, such request should be granted as it will also achieve enhanced protection for Americans in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the United States must also engage in diplomatic intervention and assist in Haiti's transition process to ensure peaceful democratic elections free of corruption because, according to Spokeswoman Psaki, it is evident that "there is a lack of clarity about the future of political leadership [in Haiti]"; and

WHEREAS, Spokeswoman Psaki determined this after a team of U.S. officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, State Department, and the National Security Council returned from a trip to Haiti to assess the situation on the ground in the country; and

WHEREAS, in addition, further investigation is needed about the specifics of the assassination plot; and

WHEREAS, although there have been arrests and U.S. officials have reviewed the security of critical infrastructure with Haitian government officials, it is critical that more is done by the United States to actively assist in the investigation of President Moise's assassination; and

WHEREAS, in addition to human rights abuses, debilitating poverty, and the devastating effects of the pandemic, the dire situation in Haiti leaves the country, its citizens, residents, and visitors uncertain about their future and the future of the country, and fearful about continued violence and upheaval; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current conditions in Haiti, the United States must halt deportations to Haiti and coordinate an international effort for humanitarian aid and support in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, this Board stands with all of those suffering in Haiti during these troubling times and urges President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and the entire Biden administration to (1) halt deportations to Haiti, (2) enhance security protection for U.S. Embassy staff and all American nationals in Haiti, (3) help Haitian National Police secure peace and advance law and order within Haiti's borders, (4) assist in the investigation of the assassination of Haiti's late President Jovenel Moise, (5) help stabilize Haiti to ensure peaceful democratic elections free of corruption and assist in the transition process, including diplomatic intervention, and (6) coordinate an international effort for humanitarian aid and support in Haiti,

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

Section 1. Urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and the entire Biden administration to:

(1) halt deportations to Haiti;

- (2) enhance security protection for U.S. Embassy staff and all American nationals in Haiti;
- (3) help Haitian National Police secure peace and advance law and order within Haiti's borders;
- (4) assist in the investigation of the assassination of Haiti's late President Jovenel Moise;
- (5) help stabilize Haiti to ensure peaceful democratic elections free of corruption and assist in the transition process, including diplomatic intervention; and
- (6) coordinate an international effort for humanitarian aid and support in Haiti.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation and to the Secretary of 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 2021 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee. 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:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	
Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Joe A. Martinez
Kionne L. McGhee	Jean Monestime
Raquel A. Regalado	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of July, 2021. 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'APP' or 'APF', is written over a faint horizontal line.

Altanese Phenelus