

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(3)

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

DATE: December 1, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing sympathy
and condolences to the Meek
family and honoring the life
and legacy of United States
Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek
upon her passing

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: December 1, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(3)

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. 14(A)(3)
12-1-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND
CONDOLENCES TO THE MEEK FAMILY AND HONORING
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF UNITED STATES
CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE P. MEEK UPON HER PASSING

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2021, the family of Carrie Pittman Meek (“Congresswoman Meek”) lost their matriarch and Miami-Dade County lost one of its foremost advocates, a woman who left an indelible mark on legions throughout the County, state, and country; and

WHEREAS, since her passing, a number of statements have been released about Congresswoman Meek, all of which describe her and her long-standing career as an accomplished stateswoman, in one form or another, and as a powerhouse with an indomitable spirit; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Meek was a devoted public servant who loved her community and constituents, and was a formidable advocate who fought tirelessly for the people she served; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Meek was also a woman of humble beginnings; and

WHEREAS, she was the granddaughter of a slave and daughter of a sharecropper, and raised in the Jim Crow South; and

WHEREAS, none of which limited her belief in herself or how far she would ascend in life; and

WHEREAS, instead, her background appears to have been fuel for her trailblazing life and legacy; and

WHEREAS, before serving over two decades as a legislator, Congresswoman Meek was an educator; and

WHEREAS, specifically, Congresswoman Meek was:

- 1) an instructor at Bethune Cookman College and its first female basketball coach;
- 2) a Health and Physical Education Instructor at, what is now, Florida A&M University;
- and
- 3) the first Black Professor, Associate Dean, and Assistant to the Vice President at, what is now, Miami Dade College; and

WHEREAS, these firsts at institutions of higher learning were just the beginning of Congresswoman Meek shattering glass ceilings; and

WHEREAS, after a 30-year career as an educator, Congresswoman Meek pivoted and turned her focus towards politics; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, Congresswoman Meek served over 20 years as a Florida legislator and member of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, she was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives where she served from 1979 to 1983 before serving five terms in the Florida Senate from 1983 through January 1993; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Meek was the first African American woman elected to the Florida Senate and first Black legislator to serve there in over a century; and

WHEREAS, similarly in 1992, when Congresswoman Meek was elected to represent Florida's 17th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives, she was one of three Black Floridians elected to serve in Congress since the 1870s; and

WHEREAS, during her five terms in Congress, Congresswoman Meek advocated for legislation to improve the lives of people in Miami-Dade County, including but not limited to matters related to:

- 1) housing, economic development, education, and health care reform;
- 2) gender and racial equality;
- 3) immigration policies, especially as it relates to Haitian immigrants; and
- 4) improving the transit system, airport, and seaport; and

WHEREAS, even after her career in Congress ended, Congresswoman Meek's strong will and desire for change did not, and she continued her life in public service; and

WHEREAS, thus, in November 2001, the Carrie Meek Foundation (the "Foundation") was established; and

WHEREAS, through the Foundation, Congresswoman Meek worked to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life and create opportunities for residents in Miami-Dade County and the larger South Florida community through education, housing, health, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman Meek received honors for her laudable career in public service as both an educator and legislator; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Meek was an inimitable living legend; and

WHEREAS, she will be missed but not forgotten by many, including those she loved and who loved her, those who worked with and for her, those she mentored, and those who admired her from afar; and

WHEREAS, this Board mourns the loss and celebrates the life of the iconic trailblazer and glass shattering Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek,

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

Section 1. Expresses sympathy and condolences to the Meek family on the passing of United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

Section 2. Honors the life and legacy of United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

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 1st day of December, 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.



Shanika A. Graves