

MEMORANDUM

Amended  
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

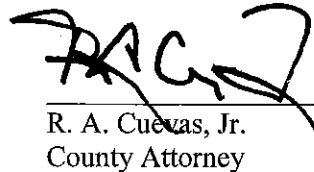
**DATE:** June 30, 2015

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing the Mayor to apply for Miami-Dade County to be designated as a participating community of "Cities for Citizenship"; develop and implement a plan to launch an initiative in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 that will promote increasing the number of legal permanent residents in Miami-Dade County who apply for citizenship; identify and utilize legally available funding sources in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 County Budget to launch a publicity campaign during "National Citizenship Month" to raise awareness about the initiative; submit a status report

Resolution No. R-595-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Co-Prime Sponsors Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Chairman Jean Monestime.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/lmp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** June 30, 2015

**FROM:**   
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

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**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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
- 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 Amended  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)  
Override \_\_\_\_\_ 6-30-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-595-15

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO BE DESIGNATED AS A PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY OF "CITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP"; DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO LAUNCH AN INITIATIVE IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 THAT WILL PROMOTE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WHO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP; IDENTIFY AND UTILIZE LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 COUNTY BUDGET TO LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN DURING "NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP MONTH" TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INITIATIVE; SUBMIT A STATUS REPORT

**WHEREAS**, there are over 8.8 million immigrants in the United States that are currently eligible to become citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, 1.17 million of the nation's legal permanent residents reside in Florida, and approximately 494,000 reside in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center found that roughly one-third of immigrants eligible to naturalize fail to do so for various reasons including, but not limited to, the cost and complexity of the citizenship process; and

**WHEREAS**, naturalization provides benefits to legal permanent residents by providing them with full civil and political rights, protection against deportation, easier travel abroad, and full access to government jobs and assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, recent research from the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration has also found that immigrants who become citizens typically see an increase in earnings of 8% to 11%; and

**WHEREAS**, this research suggests that a targeted initiative to reach out to and assist the 494,000 Miami-Dade County residents that are eligible for citizenship could provide a significant boost to our local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, by way of example, if only half of the currently eligible residents in Miami-Dade County became citizens, an estimated \$2.5 billion to \$3.2 billion could be added to our local economy over the next five years; and

**WHEREAS**, Cities for Citizenship is a collaboration co-chaired by the Mayors of Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York that was established to promote large-scale naturalization campaigns in metropolitan areas with large immigrant populations; and

**WHEREAS**, participating cities in Cities for Citizenship include Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chattanooga, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Redding, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, participating communities are required to commit to (1) track naturalization numbers and report those figures regularly to the Cities for Citizenship Leadership Council, (2) establish a target for annual naturalization numbers, (3) participate in at least one Cities for Citizenship initiative each year, and (4) share citizenship initiative materials and plans with the Cities for Citizenship initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County is a natural fit for this initiative due to its considerable immigrant population and the extensive existing network of profit, non-profit, and governmental organizations that currently and capably work towards reducing the barriers that deter legal permanent residents from becoming citizens,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor or Mayor's designee is directed to:

**Section 1.** Apply and engage in all necessary outreach and coordination for Miami-Dade County to be designated as a participating community of “Cities for Citizenship.”

**Section 2.** Develop a plan within 45 days of the effective date of this resolution to launch an initiative in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 that will promote increasing the number of legal permanent residents in Miami-Dade County who apply for citizenship (“Citizenship Initiative”). The Citizenship Initiative shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) partnering with local organizations to assist with naturalization efforts countywide; (2) providing in-kind services to promote naturalization efforts, including but not limited to, hosting citizenship clinics, recruiting, training, and assisting both legal and non-legal volunteers, and publicizing the dates, times, and locations of citizenship clinics or other organized events; (3) providing incentives to encourage eligible County employees to apply for citizenship; (4) training County staff at the 211 and 311 Call Centers to be able to direct residents inquiring about the citizenship process to the proper organizations or to their nearest and next available citizenship clinic or other organized event; (5) supporting swearing-in ceremonies for Miami-Dade County residents who become citizens; and (6) engaging in any other activities or campaign commitments necessary for designation as a participating community in “Cities for Citizenship.” The naturalization efforts can include (1) information sessions where the process to obtain citizenship will be explained to interested residents, (2) document preparation sessions where staff and volunteers will help applicants compile and complete the necessary documents, and (3) application completion sessions where residents can obtain assistance for completing applications under the legal supervision of volunteer law students and lawyers. The Citizenship Initiative shall have the goal of serving 5,000 eligible Miami-Dade County residents during its term.

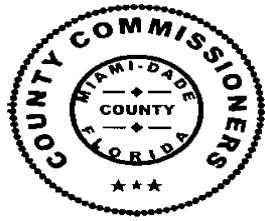
**Section 3.** Identify legally available funding sources from the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 County Budget for a publicity campaign during September 2015 or “National Citizenship Month” to raise awareness for the upcoming Citizenship Initiative, and, if such sources are identified, to implement said campaign.

**Section 4.** Submit a report to this Board within 45 days of the effective date of this resolution and to place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65. The report shall, at a minimum, include details regarding the manner in which the Citizenship Initiative will be implemented, the fiscal impact of implementing the Citizenship Initiative, any funding sources identified to fund the implementation, and the current status of any implementation.

The Co-Prime Sponsors of the foregoing resolution are Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Chairman Jean Monestime. It was offered by Commissioner **Daniella Levine Cava**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jean Monestime, Chairman		<b>aye</b>
	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman		<b>absent</b>
Bruno A. Barreiro	<b>aye</b>	Daniella Levine Cava	<b>aye</b>
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	<b>aye</b>	Audrey M. Edmonson	<b>aye</b>
Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>	Barbara J. Jordan	<b>aye</b>
Dennis C. Moss	<b>aye</b>	Rebeca Sosa	<b>absent</b>
Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>absent</b>	Xavier L. Suarez	<b>absent</b>
Juan C. Zapata	<b>aye</b>		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015. 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: **Christopher Agrippa**  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes