

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(24)

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


DATE: May 5, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution condemning the
comments of United States
Senator Bernie Sanders regarding
communist dictator Fidel Castro

Resolution No. R-436-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.


Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

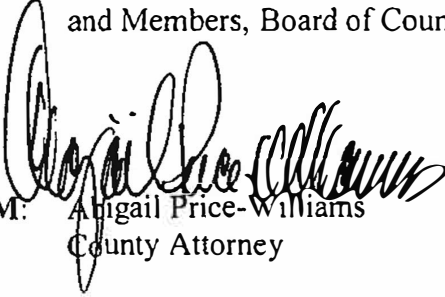
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MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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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 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)(24)

5-5-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-436-20

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE COMMENTS OF UNITED STATES SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS REGARDING COMMUNIST DICTATOR FIDEL CASTRO

WHEREAS, on a February 23, 2020 “60 Minutes” interview, United States Senator and presidential candidate Bernie Sanders refused to condemn the communist dictatorship of Fidel Castro in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, as part of his comments, Senator Sanders expressed support for a “massive literacy program” that Senator Sanders ascribed to the Castro regime; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2020, Senator Sanders defended his remarks during a televised town hall in Charleston, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2020, Senator Sanders again insisted that “Cuba made progress on education” under Fidel Castro and stated that “when dictatorships, whether it is the Chinese or the Cubans do something good, you acknowledge that”; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is home to the largest number of Cubans and Cuban-Americans in the United States, many of whom fled the repressive, communist dictatorship imposed by Fidel Castro; and

WHEREAS, as described in a recent article by Fabiola Santiago in the Miami Herald, the literacy program that Senator Sanders ascribed to Fidel Castro not only predated Castro but also became an indoctrination program under Castro; and

WHEREAS, Fidel Castro and the Communist Party of Cuba blocked access to independent sources of information and imposed outright censorship of books, libraries, and educational sources; and

WHEREAS, Cubans who resisted communist indoctrination by Fidel Castro and his regime risked human rights abuses including violence, imprisonment, and execution; and

WHEREAS, by the early 1960s Fidel Castro held as many as 60,000 political prisoners; and

WHEREAS, killings ordered by Fidel Castro are estimated to be as high as 17,000; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban dictatorship first imposed by Fidel Castro continues today under Raul Castro and his puppet, Miguel Diaz-Canel, and continues to be responsible for systemic human rights abuses, and a lack of basic freedoms of press, religion, assembly, and association; and

WHEREAS, this Board condemns the comments by Senator Sanders, and wishes to promote all measures designed to educate the public regarding the horrors of the Castro regime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board condemns the comments of United States Senator Bernie Sanders regarding communist dictator Fidel Castro, which misrepresent the nature of the supposed literacy program under the Castro regime, and which further disregard the history of systemic human rights abuses and forced indoctrination of that regime.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	aye	
	Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	aye	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	absent		Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye		Sally A. Heyman
Eileen Higgins	aye		Barbara J. Jordan
Joe A. Martinez	aye		Jean Monestime
Dennis C. Moss	aye		Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	aye		

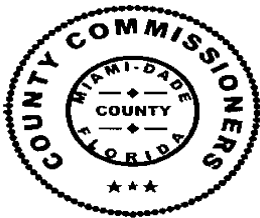
The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of May, 2020. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by 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

Melissa Adames

By: _____
Deputy Clerk



Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AVZ", is written over a horizontal line.

Anita Viciano Zapata