

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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

DATE: June 16, 2020

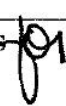
FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution condemning and denouncing anti-Asian bigotry, anti-Semitism, and all hate speech, violent action, and the spread of misinformation related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); urging residents to denounce and call attention to hate speech, hate crimes, and other discriminatory acts related to COVID-19; and urges communities within Miami-Dade County and beyond to unite to combat hate speech, hate crimes, and other discriminatory acts related to COVID-19

Resolution No. R-587-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jean Monestime.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney 

APW/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: June 16, 2020

FROM: 
Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

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)(6)

6-16-20

RESOLUTION NO. R-587-20

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING ANTI-ASIAN BIGOTRY, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND ALL HATE SPEECH, VIOLENT ACTION, AND THE SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19); URGING RESIDENTS TO DENOUNCE AND CALL ATTENTION TO HATE SPEECH, HATE CRIMES, AND OTHER DISCRIMINATORY ACTS RELATED TO COVID-19; AND URGES COMMUNITIES WITHIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND BEYOND TO UNITE TO COMBAT HATE SPEECH, HATE CRIMES, AND OTHER DISCRIMINATORY ACTS RELATED TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a new coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, that causes an infectious disease named coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, on March 11, 2020, due to the rapid spread and severity of the virus, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, since its initial identification, nearly 6 million positive cases and more than 362,000 COVID-19 related deaths have been confirmed worldwide as of May 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, similarly, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports almost 2 million positive cases and over 104,000 COVID-19 related deaths in the United States during the same time frame; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has infected people from all racial, national, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health emergency that was not created or caused by any race, nationality, religion, or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, extremists are using COVID-19 to spread their hateful ideologies, including anti-Asian bigotry, anti-Semitism, racism, and Islamophobia; and

WHEREAS, amid the growing spread of COVID-19, there are increasing reports of bias-motivated incidents targeting members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community in the United States; and

WHEREAS, additionally, increased numbers of hate crimes, discrimination, and aggression against Asian and Pacific Islander and Jewish communities have been observed across the country because these groups are being blamed, by some, for the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, history shows that times of great fear, uncertainty, and unrest can lead to the demonization, blaming, and scapegoating of groups as the “other;” and

WHEREAS, in an effort to combat such biases and to avoid fueling ethnic and racial discrimination, the WHO has cautioned against using geographic descriptors for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the deliberate use of terms such as “Chinese virus” or “Kung Fu virus” to describe COVID-19 not only encourages hate crimes and incidents against individuals who are Asian and Pacific Islander, but also spreads misinformation about the virus; and

WHEREAS, likewise, the Jewish community has been targeted with blame, hate, anti-Semitic tropes, and conspiracy theories about the Jewish community creating, spreading and profiting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to target and stigmatize specific communities for the COVID-19 pandemic and worldwide spread creates an inexcusable risk to all community members; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the entire Miami-Dade County community stand in solidarity with its Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, and other communities that are targeted for acts of hate related to COVID-19 and send a message that discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior or violence will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, every individual has the ability to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic will not come to an end because of divisive and hateful actions, but instead requires communities across the nation to work together; and

WHEREAS, during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond, this Board is fully committed to the safety, security, and equal treatment of its residents as it confronts and addresses the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,

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

Section 1. Condemns and denounces anti-Asian bigotry, anti-Semitism, and all hate speech, violent action, and the spread of misinformation related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) that casts blame, promotes racism or discrimination, or harms any community, including the Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, and immigrant communities.

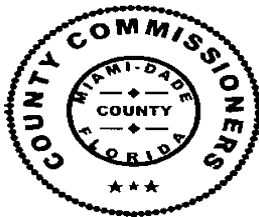
Section 2. Urges residents to denounce and call attention to hate speech, hate crimes, and other discriminatory acts related to COVID-19.

Section 3. Urges communities within Miami-Dade County and beyond to unite to combat hate speech, hate crimes, and other discriminatory acts related to COVID-19.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jean Monestime. It was offered by Commissioner **Jean Monestime**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of June, 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: **Melissa Adames**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Shanika A. Graves