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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Non-Agenda Item No. 15(F) (1)

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

DATE: July 21, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing sympathy and condolences to the Lewis family and honoring the life and legacy of United States Congressman John Robert Lewis upon his passing

Resolution No. R-766-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Jean Monestime, Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/cp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: July 21, 2010

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Non Agenda Agenda Item No. 15(F)(1)

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 _____

Non-Agenda Item No. 15(F) (1)
7-21-20

R-766-20

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO THE LEWIS FAMILY AND HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN JOHN ROBERT LEWIS UPON HIS PASSING

WHEREAS, civil rights legend, conscience of Congress, courageous, giant, moral authority, moral compass of Congress, titan of the civil rights movement, and the truest kind of patriot are just a few expressions used to describe iconic United States Congressman John Robert Lewis ("Representative Lewis"); and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis was born on February 21, 1940 on a cotton farm in Troy, Alabama to sharecropper parents; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1986 and served Georgia's 5th Congressional District for 17 consecutive terms, until his passing on July 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in an interview, Representative Lewis recounted meeting Rosa Parks and Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr, at 17 and 18, respectively, and how they inspired him to "get in trouble" and that he had "been getting in good trouble ever since;" and

WHEREAS, these encounters profoundly affected Representative Lewis and led to his political activism; and

WHEREAS, specifically, when he was in his 20s, Representative Lewis:

(1) was a student leader and one of the founders and a chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee;

(2) organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters, pushed for voting rights and registration in Black communities, and protested against segregated restrooms, hotels, restaurants, public parks, and swimming pools;

(3) was one of the original Freedom Riders, an interracial group of 13 students who rode interstate buses into the segregated Southern United States, to protest segregated bus terminals and pressure the federal government to enforce anti-segregation laws;

(4) was one of the organizers of and played a key role in the 1963 March on Washington, where he was the youngest speaker; and

(5) was nearly beaten to death by law enforcement officers and suffered a fractured skull in 1965 on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, in what is known as Bloody Sunday, while protesting for voting rights; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis was resolute in his fight against oppression, inequality, and racial injustice, irrespective of whether he was (1) participating in sit-in at a lunch counter; (2) participating in a freedom ride; (3) marching on the Edmund Pettus Bridge; or (4) in congressional chambers; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, while protesting to end institutionalized racial discrimination, disenfranchisement, Jim Crow laws, racial segregation, and socioeconomic inequality, Representative Lewis was arrested 40 times; and

WHEREAS, further, his activism continued after he was elected to Congress and he was arrested at least five times while a member; and

WHEREAS, some of the more notable laws sponsored by Representative Lewis, include legislation that:

(1) created the National Museum of African American History and Culture within the Smithsonian Institution;

(2) established the unsolved civil rights crimes divisions at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Justice; and

(3) established the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal Holiday; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama awarded Representative Lewis the Medal of Freedom in 2011 and upon his death stated that Representative Lewis "loved this country so much that he risked his life and blood so that it might live up to its promise;" and

WHEREAS, President Obama went on to state that "[a]nd through the decades, he not only gave all of himself to the cause of freedom and justice, but inspired generations that followed to try to live up to his example;" and

WHEREAS, likewise, President George W. Bush said Representative Lewis "worked to make our country a more perfect union. [and] America can best honor [his] memory by continuing his journey toward liberty and justice for all;" and

WHEREAS, Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of United States the House of Representatives, remembered Representative Lewis as a "titan of the civil rights movement, whose goodness, faith, and bravery transformed our nation;" and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis' steadfast and unwavering commitment to justice and the battle for racial equality began in his teens and endured for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, although Representative Lewis stepped away from congressional duties as he underwent treatment for pancreatic cancer, in the wake of George Floyd's murder, he joined demonstrators protesting against injustice at the Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, D.C.

and participated in a virtual town hall with young activists who were leading similar demonstrations throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, in recent interviews, Representative Lewis expressed sadness about George Floyd's death, but also mentioned that he was encouraged and moved by the diverse crowds across nation and the world that took "to the streets to speak up, and speak out, to get into what [he] called 'good trouble'" as they protested against unjustified police killings of people of color and racial injustice; and

WHEREAS, further, when speaking about the Black Lives Matter movement, Representative Lewis compared the protests of the 1960s in the Jim Crow South to recent demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, he noted the inclusivity and diversity of the hundreds of thousands of demonstrators across the globe and remarked that the recent protests looked and felt different and were "another step down the very, very long road toward freedom, [and] justice for all humankind;" and

WHEREAS, in reflecting on his life, Representative Lewis said "I have been in some kind of fight — for freedom, equality, basic human rights — for nearly my entire life;" and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis was a statesman who devoted his life to fighting for racial equality and relentlessly pursued justice for the oppressed, underserved, and disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, this Board mourns the passing of Congressman John Lewis, a giant among men and champion of civil rights whose life's work and death leave an indelible imprint on the nation and the world,

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 Lewis family on the passing United States Congressman John Robert Lewis.

Section 2. Honors the life and legacy of United States Congressman John Robert Lewis.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of United States Congressman John Robert Lewis.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Jean Monestime, Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Daniella Levine Cava** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman **aye**
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman **absent**

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of July, 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.

Shanika A. Graves