

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

**DATE:** March 16, 2021

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging President Joseph  
R. Biden Jr. and the United States  
Congress to oppose any domestic  
travel bans to Florida

Resolution No. R-217-21

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney


GBK/jp



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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)(4)  
3-16-21

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ R-217-21

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.  
AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO OPPOSE ANY  
DOMESTIC TRAVEL BANS TO FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 novel coronavirus, called SARS-CoV-2, has caused an outbreak of illness (COVID-19) that began in December 2019 and spread globally, leading to the World Health Organization ultimately declaring COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and many experts have shared that to contain the virus and stop the spread the public should wear facial masks and avoid close person-to-person contact; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, many jurisdictions and airports throughout the state and country have instituted safety measures; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, Miami-Dade County remains under a state of emergency which the County Mayor declared on March 11, 2020 as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, to that end, the County Mayor has issued a number of emergency orders, some of which remain in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, Emergency Order 20-20 details the general guidelines and requirements for residents and businesses, including the requirement that masks and facial coverings be worn, except under limited circumstances, and that individuals maintain a physical distance; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami International Airport and the County's other general aviation airports also require that passengers and those traversing through the airports adhere to the same mandate; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Mayor and the members of this Board are also actively engaged in ensuring their residents are able to be vaccinated; and

**WHEREAS**, despite this, there have been recent reports that the federal government is considering domestic travel bans to Florida and California to stop the spread of COVID-19, particularly as a result of the cases of variant strains reported in the states; and

**WHEREAS**, it has since been reported that the Biden administration is no longer considering these domestic travel bans; and

**WHEREAS**, nevertheless, it is important to note that a travel ban would devastate Florida's economy, as Florida relies heavily on tourism since it has a sales tax but no state income tax; and

**WHEREAS**, visitors to Florida along with Florida residents, are taxed on goods and services, and help Florida raise billions in state and local taxes which in turn helps fund schools, improve healthcare, and support other government services; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the safety measures in place and detrimental impact a travel ban would create, this Board would like to urge President Biden and the United States Congress to oppose any domestic travel bans to Florida,

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

**Section 1.** Urges President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and the United States Congress to oppose any domestic travel bans to Florida.

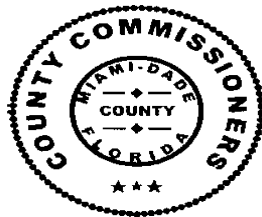
**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** , 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:

	Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
Sen. René García	<b>aye</b>	Keon Hardemon	<b>aye</b>
Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>	Danielle Cohen Higgins	<b>aye</b>
Eileen Higgins	<b>aye</b>	Joe A. Martinez	<b>aye</b>
Kionne L. McGhee	<b>aye</b>	Jean Monestime	<b>aye</b>
Raquel A. Regalado	<b>aye</b>	Rebeca Sosa	<b>aye</b>
Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>aye</b>		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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

**Melissa Adames**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

*APP*

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