

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(26)

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

DATE: April 20, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution remembering and paying tribute to the members of Assault Brigade 2506, living and deceased, on the 60th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs operation; urging President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the United States Congress to support policies that promote the respect for democratic principles, civil liberties, freedom, and justice in Cuba, in a manner consistent with the aspirations of the Cuban people; and expressing the Board's appreciation for and recognizing the individual members of Assault Brigade 2506 who have served in the United States Armed Forces and become productive members of society in the United States of America

Resolution No. R-375-21

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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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)(26)
4-20-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-375-21

RESOLUTION REMEMBERING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF ASSAULT BRIGADE 2506, LIVING AND DECEASED, ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY OF PIGS OPERATION; URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR. AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT POLICIES THAT PROMOTE THE RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, CIVIL LIBERTIES, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE IN CUBA, IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE; AND EXPRESSING THE BOARD'S APPRECIATION FOR AND RECOGNIZING THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF ASSAULT BRIGADE 2506 WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, April 17, 2021, marks the 60th anniversary of the first day of the Bay of Pigs operation, an event held dear in the hearts of many who long for the return of freedom, democracy, and justice to Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the Communist dictatorship in Cuba that resulted from the January 1, 1959, revolution in Cuba has systematically denied the Cuban people their most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS, from 1959 until his death in 2016, dictator Fidel Castro, who promised to implement a revolution against tyranny, systematically violated the human rights of the Cuban people, curtailed freedom of the press, arbitrarily imprisoned and killed an untold number of members of the political opposition in Cuba, and confiscated the properties of citizens of Cuba and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the men and women participating in the Bay of Pigs operation assumed the title of “Brigada de Asalto 2506” (Assault Brigade 2506), which was named after the serial number (2506) of Carlos Rodriguez Santana, a founding member of the brigade who died during training exercises in September 1960; and

WHEREAS, Assault Brigade 2506 consisted of individuals, primarily Cuban exiles in the United States of America, from diverse professional backgrounds, including doctors, nurses, engineers, architects, priests, cooks, musicians, actors, business owners, barbers, bankers, construction workers, office clerks, students, pilots, and many other individuals representing different professional sectors in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1961, approximately 1,400 individuals selflessly volunteered to free the Cuban people from tyranny; and

WHEREAS, in the ensuing days and in the course of a battle against the Cuban military, which had greater manpower and firepower, more than 100 men of Assault Brigade 2506 lost their lives either in combat, while attempting to escape, during their captivity under inhumane conditions, or by firing squad; and

WHEREAS, the casualties of the Bay of Pigs operation also included members of the United States Armed Forces, including members of aircrews who were killed in action; and

WHEREAS, the events of April 17 through April 20, 1961, ended with the capture and imprisonment of 1,204 members or more than 75 percent of Assault Brigade 2506; and

WHEREAS, a large number of the more than 1,200 captured members of Assault Brigade 2506 were imprisoned in deplorable conditions for close to 18 months, subjected to harsh and inhumane treatment, and later sentenced, without due process, to 30 years of imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, one of the most heinous acts relating to the operation was ordered by then-Captain Osmany Cienfuegos, who forced nearly 100 male prisoners into a closed trailer in which they were transported for 8 hours with limited oxygen; and

WHEREAS, Cuba is now and at the time of the Bay of Pigs operations was a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which require the humane treatment of all persons in enemy hands and specifically prohibits murder, mutilation, torture, cruel, humiliating and degrading treatment, the taking of hostages, and unfair trial and further require that the sick and wounded be collected and cared for; and

WHEREAS, in March 1962, as the trial of the captured fighters approached, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross appealed to Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, asking that the provisions of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949, be fully applied, and for permission to visit the prisoners, but contrary to Cuba's obligations under the Geneva Conventions, all the requests went unanswered; and

WHEREAS, the 1,113 members of Assault Brigade 2506 who finally returned to the United States after the operation have made significant and valuable contributions to the United States of America, while never forgetting their beloved homeland; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was presented with the banner of Assault Brigade 2506 that had reached Cuban shores during the operation, and President Kennedy pledged that "this flag will be returned to this brigade in a free Havana"; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 1986, the United States Congress adopted a joint resolution, Public Law 99-279, titled "Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion to liberate Cuba from Communist tyranny" in which the United States Congress "proudly

commend[ed]” the “fourteen hundred gallant and intrepid made who made up the brave [Assault Brigade 2506]” and though “ill-equipped,” possessed “immeasurable spirit, courage, and determination, [] in the tradition of the great liberators Jose Marti and Simon Bolivar” in seeking to “liberate from Community tyranny the beautiful isle of Cuba and reestablish freedoms and democracy for the people of Cuba, that great island lying so close to the United States”; and

WHEREAS, on this 60th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs operation, this Board desires to commend the brave warriors of Assault Brigade 2506 for their historic effort to establish freedom and democracy in Cuba,

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

Section 1. Remembers and pays tribute to the brave and courageous members of Assault Brigade 2506, both living and deceased, on the 60th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs operation.

Section 2. Urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the United States Congress to support policies that promote the respect for democratic principles, civil liberties, freedom, and justice in Cuba, in a manner consistent with the aspirations of the Cuban people.

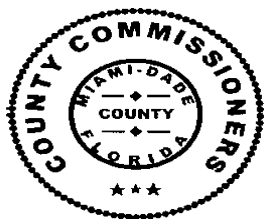
Section 3. Expresses its appreciation for and recognizes the individual members of Assault Brigade 2506 who later joined the United States Armed Forces and fought in the Vietnam War and further expresses its appreciation for and recognizes those many veterans of the Bay of Pigs operation who have settled across the United States of America and become productive members of society, including by serving as public officials and industry leaders.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the Bay of Pigs Museum and Library of the “2506 Brigade,” Inc.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of April, 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

By: **Melissa Adames**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MAG

Miguel A. Gonzalez