

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

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

DATE: November 2, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution condemning the
repressive actions of the Cuban
government in connection with
the "Civic March for Change"
planned for November 15, 2021

Resolution No. R-1074-21

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: November 2, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(25)

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)(25)
11-2-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1074-21

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE REPRESSIVE ACTIONS
OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH
THE “CIVIC MARCH FOR CHANGE” PLANNED FOR
NOVEMBER 15, 2021

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2021, and in the weeks that followed, the Cuban people took to the streets, calling for an end to communism in Cuba and for access to the basic life-sustaining needs that they have lacked—food, medicine, water, and electricity—because of the failed communist policies of the Cuban regime; and

WHEREAS, in response to these protests, the government used its secret police and military apparatus to unleash a brutal program of oppression, including harassing and threatening protesters and their families, abducting and torturing protestors and those leading the civil demonstrations, and detaining and disappearing protestors; and

WHEREAS, Cuban authorities also cut internet and cellular services, limiting the ability of the Cuban people to spread their message of freedom throughout the island and abroad, while at the same time shielding themselves from accountability for their repressive actions and allowing them to violate the human rights of the Cuban people without facing global scrutiny for their unlawful acts of repression; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban government took these actions, even though Cuba is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers” and that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association”; and

WHEREAS, indeed, these rights are also guaranteed by the Cuban Constitution of 2019, which provides that “[t]he rights of assembly, demonstration, and association for legal and peaceful purposes are recognized by the State whenever they are exercised with respect to public order and in compliance with the precepts established by the law”; and

WHEREAS, in this vein, Cuban activists for freedom have announced their intent to conduct a “Civic March for Change,” initially for November 20, 2021, but when the Cuban government denied the permit and announced three days of military exercises for November 18-20, the activists rescheduled their demonstration for November 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Cuban authorities have responded to this march with hostility as well, threatening organizers with legal charges and conducting security operations to intimidate Cubans; the preemptive acts of repression by the Cuban government include arrests, kidnappings, the issuance of fines, police interrogations, cuts in internet and phone service, acts of repudiation, travel restrictions, harassment of family members, and termination of employment; and

WHEREAS, to discredit the organizers of the peaceful Civic March for Change, Cuban authorities have sought to discredit the organizers as mercenaries who are paid by organizations connected to the United States government when, in actuality, the organizers are part of a grassroots group—Archipelago—of young artists, professionals, activists, and longtime dissidents; and

WHEREAS, indeed in an October 22, 2021 report, Amnesty International advised that it has “received reports that activists have been arbitrarily detained and that people who have responded to the Archipelago group’s calls to demonstrate have been harassed, intimidated and put under surveillance by members of the security forces”; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to condemn the Cuban government’s actions in connection with the Civic March for Change, which have already resulted and will unquestionably continue to result in the intimidation of the Cuban people from the legally guaranteed expression of their six decades of frustration with the failed and repressive policies of Cuban communist regime,

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

Section 1. Condemns the repressive actions of the Cuban government in connection with the Civic March for Change planned for November 15, 2021.

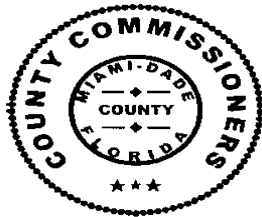
Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

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 and to include this item in the 2022 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen 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	absent
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of November, 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.

MAG

Miguel A. Gonzalez