

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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

DATE: January 19, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to enact Senate
Resolution 1064 or similar
legislation opposing the removal
of the Revolutionary Armed
Forces of Colombia ("FARC")
from the United States
Department of State's list of
Foreign Terrorist Organizations

Resolution No. R-73-22

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 19, 2022

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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)(19)
1-19-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-73-22

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
ENACT SENATE RESOLUTION 1064 OR SIMILAR
LEGISLATION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA
("FARC") FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
STATE'S LIST OF FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, Colombia is among the oldest standing democracies in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, the United States established diplomatic relations with Colombia in 1822;

and

WHEREAS, Colombia is a constitutional republic where the people of Colombia hold the power and elect representatives to exercise that power; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State placed the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia ("FARC") on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations in 1997; and

WHEREAS, after many years of violence and armed conflict, in 2022, Colombia is perhaps the United States' strongest ally in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the United States, the State of Florida, and Miami-Dade County, Colombia has transformed itself from a volatile and near-failed state in 2001 into a rich democratic republic with a growing free market; and

WHEREAS, May 15, 2022, will mark the 10-year anniversary of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, which has supported economic growth and employment opportunities in Colombia, the United States, the State of Florida, and Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is responsible for roughly a quarter of all trade between the United States and Colombia, with Miami-Dade County contributing substantially to that number; and

WHEREAS, the United States, the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County, and Colombia, share a commitment to promoting security, prosperity, human rights, and democracy in Colombia and across the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Colombian government has taken courageous steps to enforce the law, stop drug traffickers, and rein in foreign terrorist organizations like the National Liberation Army (“ELN”) and FARC; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County continues to support the efforts of the Colombian government for peace, its support for human rights defenders, its provision of greater educational opportunities, its increases in public and private investments, and its respect for human rights and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the United States maintains a strong commitment to cooperating with the Colombian government to investigate, arrest, and prosecute members of transnational criminal organizations and to dismantle terrorist groups like the ELN, FARC, and Hezbollah, whose illicit activities, specifically narcotrafficking, devastate Colombian and other Latin American societies; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is an essential partner with the United States in continuing efforts to support the courageous people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity against the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro; and

WHEREAS, enemies of freedom, such as the communist regime in Cuba and the Maduro regime in Venezuela, exploit and abuse vulnerable individuals and promote violent unrest, vandalism, and destruction of property against individuals simply asking to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has removed FARC from the United States Department of State's designated list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations; and

WHEREAS, FARC has murdered, tortured, and kidnapped innocent Colombians and committed gross violations of human rights; and

WHEREAS, FARC opposes democratic institutions and those who have fought for them; and

WHEREAS, FARC has committed and supported terrorism and continues to do so; and

WHEREAS, Senate Resolution ("SR") 1064 has been filed for consideration during the 2022 session of the Florida Legislature by Senator Ileana Garcia (R – Miami-Dade); and

WHEREAS, SR 1064 opposes the Biden Administration's removal of FARC from the United States Department of State's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to enact SR 1064 or similar legislation that opposes the Biden Administration's removal of FARC from the Department of State's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact SR 1064 or similar legislation opposing the removal of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia ("FARC") from the United States Department of State's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

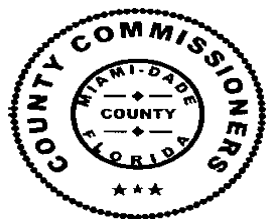
Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Senator Ileana Garcia, and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2022 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** 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 19th day of January, 2022. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CJF", written over a horizontal line.

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes