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OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(21)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 12, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to appropriate
funding for the Assault Brigade
2506 Museum

Resolution No. R-1168-23

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp

MDC001



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(21)

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)(21)
12-12-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1168-23

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE ASSAULT BRIGADE
2506 MUSEUM

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1961, approximately 1,400 individuals selflessly volunteered to free the Cuban people from tyranny through the Bay of Pigs operation; 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, 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, 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, the Assault Brigade 2506 Museum is located at 1821 Southwest 9th Street in Miami, Florida, and is dedicated to maintaining strength and unity amongst the veterans of Assault Brigade 2506 and pursuing and defending the fundamental values of democracy, justice, individual liberties, and respect for human rights; and

WHEREAS, the Assault Brigade 2506 Museum serves as more than a repository of artifacts relating to their efforts at the liberation of the Cuban people from communist tyranny; indeed, the Assault Brigade 2506 Museum is a gathering place for all those who oppose communist tyranny throughout the Americas, hosting leaders from all levels of government, including presidents, governors, congresspeople, and mayors; and

WHEREAS, a \$2,000,000.00 expansion of the Assault Brigade 2506 is planned and underway, which expansion will preserve the story now told by octogenarians of the Bay of Pigs operation and Assault Brigade 2506 with more audio-visual offerings; and

WHEREAS, funding for the Assault Brigade 2506 Museum is critical to allow the museum to continue its mission of preserving the history surrounding the Bay of Pigs operation and fighting communism in the Americas,

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 appropriate funding for the Assault Brigade 2506 Museum.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the appropriation set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2024 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	absent	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 12th day of December, 2023. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MAG

Miguel A. Gonzalez