

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

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

DATE: January 17, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact Senate Memorial 398, House Memorial 467, or other legislation that would urge the United States Secretary of State to implement policies that reinstate economic sanctions on Nicolás Maduro and his Venezuelan dictatorship and impose sanctions on companies that do business with Venezuela

Resolution No. R-45-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 17, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

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)(2)
1-17-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-45-24

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SENATE MEMORIAL 398, HOUSE MEMORIAL 467, OR OTHER LEGISLATION THAT WOULD URGE THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT REINSTATE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON NICOLÁS MADURO AND HIS VENEZUELAN DICTATORSHIP AND IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON COMPANIES THAT DO BUSINESS WITH VENEZUELA

WHEREAS, numerous residents of Miami-Dade County (the “County”) immigrated to the United States from Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, many of those same residents were forced to flee the oppressive regime that is currently ruling Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, a great deal of County residents have family members that are still living in Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2008, the United States imposed sanctions on the Venezuelan regime as Hugo Chávez, president of Venezuela at the time, began expropriating oil assets of companies including Exxon Mobil and, in 2017, the Trump administration placed economic sanctions on the Venezuelan dictatorship, targeting the state-owned oil and natural gas company Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA); and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2019, the United States Department of the Treasury, pursuant to Emergency Order 13850, designated PDVSA as operating in the oil sector of the Venezuelan economy, and the Secretary of the Treasury determined that the company was subject to United States sanctions that included the freezing of all property and interests subject to the United States’ jurisdiction, whose value was estimated at \$7 billion, and prohibited individuals and companies in the United States from doing business with PDVSA, including exporting naphtha; and

WHEREAS, in February 2019, Nicolás Maduro, then-president of Venezuela, ordered PDVSA to move its European office to Moscow to protect the company's overseas assets from United States sanctions; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2020, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury designated Rosneft Oil Company's Swiss-incorporated company, Rosneft Trading S.A., as operating in the oil sector of Venezuela for brokering the sale and transport of Venezuelan crude oil and supporting Nicolás Maduro's regime; and

WHEREAS, continuing through 2021, the United States has sanctioned Venezuela's Central Bank, National Development Bank, and Minerven, the state-owned gold company, as well as individuals that assisted PDVSA in evading sanctions; and

WHEREAS, the Biden administration has eased sanctions on companies that trade in oil produced in Venezuela or invest in the country's oil industry in response to Venezuela's agreement to allow free elections in 2024; and

WHEREAS, this change in policy lessened the impact of longstanding sanctions aimed at promoting freedom and democracy in Venezuela and could increase the flow of Venezuelan oil into the global crude market, but the measure may not actually help lower the prices that have remained stubbornly high amid turmoil in Europe and the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2023, the sanctions on the export of crude oil and refined petroleum were lifted for a period of six months, and Minerven was authorized to conduct transactions that will provide revenue to the Maduro regime, which the regime can use to stay in power and spread its malevolent influence around the globe; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that decades of corruption and mismanagement at PDVSA have resulted in a rusted drilling infrastructure that is pumping less than a third of the 3 million barrels a day that Venezuela produced during its peak production in the early 2000s; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2023, the Maduro-aligned Venezuelan Supreme Court suspended the opposition's entire primary elections process, including the election results, and ordered organizers to hand over documents identifying millions of voters after the opposition's primary election garnered more support than expected, leading many in the United States Congress to support the reinstatement of sanctions on the Venezuelan dictatorship; and

WHEREAS, Senate Memorial ("SM") 398 and House Memorial ("HM") 467 have been filed for consideration during the 2024 session of the Florida Legislature by Senator Bryan Avila (R – Hialeah Gardens) and Representative Vicki Lopez (R – Coral Gables), respectively; and

WHEREAS, SM 398 and HM 467 both urge the United States Secretary of State to implement policies that reinstate economic sanctions on Nicolás Maduro and his Venezuelan dictatorship and impose sanctions on companies that do business with Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the suffering that the Maduro regime has caused countless Venezuelans and County residents to endure; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to support the struggle of the Venezuelan people seeking free and fair elections,

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 Senate Memorial 398, House Memorial 467, or other legislation that would urge the United States Secretary of State to implement policies that reinstate economic sanctions on Nicolás Maduro and his Venezuelan dictatorship and impose sanctions on companies that do business with Venezuela.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, Senator Bryan Avila (R – Hialeah Gardens), Representative Vicki Lopez (R – Coral Gables), and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs 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 Juan Carlos Bermudez. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Juan Carlos Bermudez** 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	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
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 17th day of January, 2024. 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "CJF", is written over a horizontal line.

Christian Fernandez-Andes