

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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

DATE: March 19, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging President
Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the
Biden Administration to take
affirmative measures to ensure
that internet access is restored in
Cuba

Resolution No. R-226-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: March 19, 2024

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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)(5)
3-19-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-226-24

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE
AFFIRMATIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT INTERNET
ACCESS IS RESTORED IN CUBA

WHEREAS, for over 60 years, the Cuban people have suffered under a Communist dictatorship that has systematically denied the Cuban people their most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS, many residents of this County have sought refuge here from the Communist regime in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban Communist regime continues to repress communications and pleas for help from the Cuban people, with The Associated Press reporting that, in the past, authorities have blocked social media sites in an apparent effort to stop the flow of information into, out of, and within Cuba; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2021, fueled by the despair caused by decades of oppression and government mismanagement, 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 government; and

WHEREAS, during the nationwide protests in Cuba in 2021, several demonstrators were arrested, and mass internet outages followed the protests; and

WHEREAS, Cuba is still experiencing shortages of food and fuel, which have only been exacerbated since 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2024, protestors in Santiago, Cuba, took to the streets to demonstrate against—among other things—the Communist regime’s mismanagement and the resulting scarcity of basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban government has deployed a significant police presence in response to the demonstrations in Santiago; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that internet blackouts in and about Santiago occurred following the protests; and

WHEREAS, this Board is concerned that the communist regime in Cuba is once again weaponizing internet blackouts to stifle dissent; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to support the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom as well as all victims of oppressive communist regimes,

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

Section 1. Urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the Biden Administration to take affirmative measures to ensure that internet access is restored in Cuba.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, and the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to: (a) amend the 2023 Federal Legislative Package to include this item; and (b) include this item in the 2024 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez**, 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:

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 19th day of March, 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", written over a horizontal line.

Christian Fernandez-Andes