

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

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

DATE: April 2, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas, and the United States Congress to ensure that the illegal flow of firearms and ammunition from the United States into Haiti ceases

Resolution No. R-292-24

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 2, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

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)(15)
4-2-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-292-24

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY ALEJANDRO N.
MAYORKAS, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
ENSURE THAT THE ILLEGAL FLOW OF FIREARMS AND
AMMUNITION FROM THE UNITED STATES INTO HAITI
CEASES

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of residents of the County are either Haitian immigrants or of Haitian ancestry; and

WHEREAS, many of those residents have family members that still reside in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Haiti has been plagued by a violent gang war primarily fought in the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince; and

WHEREAS, the threat to Haiti's national security caused by criminal gangs has devolved into a humanitarian crisis in recent weeks; and

WHEREAS, between March 2nd and March 3rd of 2024, criminal gangs stormed Haiti's two largest prisons; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Press has reported that over 4,000 gang-members escaped from Haiti's two largest prisons in the chaos that ensued; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, the Haitian Government declared a state of emergency in response to the gang violence; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2024, Haiti's largest seaport, Port international de Port-au-Prince, was forced to cease operations after being overrun by armed criminal gang-members; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2024, Haiti's Prime Minister, Ariel Henry, resigned; and

WHEREAS, the Public Broadcasting Service has reported that the unrest in Haiti has been fueled, at least in part, by illegal weapons shipments from the United States; and

WHEREAS, specifically, it has been reported that many of the illegal weapons being shipped to Haiti are flowing from Florida; and

WHEREAS, a 2023 report by the United Nations found that the principal source of firearms and munitions in Haiti is the United States, and Florida in particular; and

WHEREAS, certain federal authorities, such as the United States Department of Homeland Security, are best suited to deal with the issue of illegal weapons and ammunition flowing from the United States to Haiti; and

WHEREAS, to the extent that the situation cannot be ameliorated by the enforcement of existing laws and regulations, this Board urges the United States Congress to enact laws necessary to ensure that the flow of illegal weapons and ammunition into Haiti ceases; and

WHEREAS, in no way should this resolution be construed as urging United States intervention in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to ensure that the crisis in Haiti ceases, and that residents of Haiti can live in peace and a state of security,

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., Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas, and the United States Congress to ensure that the illegal flow of firearms and ammunition into Haiti ceases.

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 Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas, United States Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, United States Senate Majority Leader Charles A. Schumer, United States House Speaker James M. Johnson, 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 amend the 2024 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Marleine Bastien. It was offered by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kevin Marino Cabrera** 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	absent
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 2nd day of April, 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 J. Fernandez-Andes