

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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

DATE: June 4, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken to take affirmative measures to dissuade Kenya from further military involvement in Haiti and prevent any other foreign involvement in Haiti

Resolution No. R-517-24

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/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: June 4, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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)(10)
6-4-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-517-24

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
AND SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY J. BLINKEN TO
TAKE AFFIRMATIVE MEASURES TO DISSUADE KENYA
FROM FURTHER MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN HAITI AND
PREVENT ANY OTHER FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN HAITI

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, as a result, on October 2, 2023, the United Nations Security Council adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 2699, which authorized the "Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti" (hereinafter, the "U.N. Mission"); and

WHEREAS, to the concern of many Haitians, County residents, and this Board, the U.N. Mission will involve the intervention of an armed multinational force in Haiti; and

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

WHEREAS, despite recent escalation of the crisis in Haiti, this Board is concerned about further foreign intervention in Haiti, especially given the poor track record of such efforts; and

WHEREAS, indeed, foreign intervention has likely resulted in great harm to the Haitian people, and has probably worsened the nation's instability in the last few decades; and

WHEREAS, the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on the U.N. Mission would be better spent on training the Haitian police and military; and

WHEREAS, several noteworthy publications have covered this issue and published pieces arguing against foreign intervention in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, for example, the Miami Herald published an opinion piece by Charnette Frederic and Marleine Bastien, available at <https://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article281594743.html>, asserting the United States should cease its unconditional support of the current Haitian government and allow pro-democratic movements in Haiti to flourish; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Herald published an opinion piece by Mario Joseph and Brian Concannon, available at <https://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article266022281.html>, asserting that armed intervention by foreign powers is unhelpful and that such a measure would be an expensive, brutal failure; and

WHEREAS, the New York Times published an opinion piece by Pierre Espérance, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/04/opinion/haiti-police-gangs.html>, making similar assertions as the above-mentioned articles; and

WHEREAS, certain advocacy groups have likewise called for the cessation of foreign intervention in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the National Haitian American Elected Officials Network (“NHAEON”), comprised of about 82 current elected officials from the District of Columbia and 17 States throughout the U.S., has written an open letter to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken to strongly oppose the current administration’s position in support of the international military intervention in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that ending Haiti’s crises will ultimately require ending foreign interference in Haitian affairs, which is often what generated the crises in the first place or exacerbated such crises; and

WHEREAS, Haitians have demonstrated a history of coming together to make their way out of a crisis; and

WHEREAS, in no way should this resolution be construed as urging armed intervention by the United States; 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. and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken to take affirmative measures to dissuade Kenya from further military involvement in Haiti and prevent any other foreign involvement in Haiti.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's federal and 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 **Marleine Bastien**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** 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	absent	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of June, 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.

Christian Fernandez-Andes