

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(8)

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

DATE: September 17, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution recognizing the contributions of the Haitian community to the fabric of Miami-Dade County and condemning false generalizations or insinuations that cast the Haitian population in a negative light

Resolution No. R-828-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Glen 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 ____, majority plus one ____, 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) ____, 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. 14(A)(8)
9-17-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-828-24

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
THE HAITIAN COMMUNITY TO THE FABRIC OF MIAMI-
DADE COUNTY AND CONDEMNING FALSE
GENERALIZATIONS OR INSINUATIONS THAT CAST THE
HAITIAN POPULATION IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT

WHEREAS, as the Gateway to the Americas, Miami-Dade County is a majority-minority community in which more than half of its 2,700,000 residents are foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, one of the countries that has contributed to the diverse fabric of Miami-Dade County is the Republic of Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of Haitians to the United States trace back to this nation's founding when more than 500 Haitians joined American and French troops during the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, since as early as the 1790's during the early stages of the Haitian Revolutionary War, Haitians have migrated to the United States of America with the same goal as other migrant communities, to escape oppression and provide a better life for their families; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian community across the United States, and specifically in Miami-Dade County, has through arts, science, business, culture, and friendship undoubtedly made this community a better place; and

WHEREAS, the most recent data from the United States Census Bureau's ("Census") American Community Survey estimated that in 2022, 731,000 Haitian immigrants were residing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, further, of the immigrants in the United States, Haitian immigrants made up two percent of the estimated 46,200,000 immigrants and 16 percent of the 4,600,000 Caribbean immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Census data from 2017-2021 shows that immigrants from Haiti are highly concentrated in Florida and New York, with 49 percent and 19 percent, respectively, residing in said states; and

WHEREAS, in acknowledgement of the contributions of the Haitian community, Miami-Dade County has hosted annual celebrations for Haitian Heritage Month and has, on countless occasions, awarded Haitian pioneers, community and business leaders with Countywide recognitions; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of such recognitions, Miami-Dade County has an obligation to defend the Haitian community when false generalizations or insinuations are made about the people of Haiti; and

WHEREAS, this Board has previously condemned the actions of both national leaders and foreign nations for their inhumane treatment of Haitians or derogatory comments about the Haitian community; and

WHEREAS, specifically in 2018, this Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. R-73-18 which denounced derogatory and divisive comments about people from Haiti, El Salvador, and African nations; and

WHEREAS, most recently, an unsubstantiated Facebook post led to false claims that Haitian immigrants were eating dogs, cats, and other pets; and

WHEREAS, in line with Haiti’s national motto, “*L’union fait la force*,” which translates to “unity creates strength,” this Board stands in unity with the people of Haiti and wishes to condemn the false, derogatory, and divisive comments and generalizations about the Haitian community,

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

Section 1. Reaffirms its commitment and appreciation for the social and economic contributions that the people of Haiti have made to the fabric of Miami-Dade County.

Section 2. Condemns the false, derogatory, or divisive comments, generalizations or insinuations that cast the Haitian population in a negative light.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III. It was offered by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins**, 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	absent	
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	absent	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 17th day of September, 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 black ink, appearing to be "SG", followed by a horizontal line.

Shanika A. Graves