

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution condemning the
Maduro regime's arrest of
Venezuelan opposition leader
María Corina Machado as well as
other citizens peacefully
protesting the recent election
fraud; and urging President
Donald J. Trump and the United
States Congress to impose
additional significant sanctions
on the Maduro regime for its
anti-democratic actions and
autocratic rule

Resolution No. R-77-25

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/uw



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(13)

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. 11(A)(13)
1-22-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-77-25

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE MADURO REGIME’S
ARREST OF VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION LEADER MARÍA
CORINA MACHADO AS WELL AS OTHER CITIZENS
PEACEFULLY PROTESTING THE RECENT ELECTION
FRAUD; AND URGING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL
SIGNIFICANT SANCTIONS ON THE MADURO REGIME FOR
ITS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS AND AUTOCRATIC
RULE

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of Miami-Dade County (the “County”) either
immigrated to South Florida from Venezuela or have family members living there; and

WHEREAS, many of the Venezuelan-American residents of the County are refugees that
fled the autocratic regime currently governing Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Nicolás Maduro, the current ruler of Venezuela, ascended to power in 2013,
succeeding Hugo Chávez, who had previously ruled the county for 14 years in an increasingly
antidemocratic and repressive manner; and

WHEREAS, Maduro narrowly won the 2013 presidential election with an alleged mere
1.5 percent margin of victory, and was inaugurated on April 19, 2013, despite claims from the
opposition of election irregularities caused by Maduro’s party, the United Socialist Party of
Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Maduro recently sought reelection in the July 28, 2024 presidential election
in Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, multiple news outlets, including the New York Times, have reported that the
2024 Venezuelan election was marred with substantial irregularities that suggest widespread fraud
occurred; and

WHEREAS, the government-controlled National Electoral Council (CNE) announced unsubstantiated results claiming a narrow Maduro victory on July 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of State at the time, Antony Blinken, stated that there is overwhelming evidence to support the conclusion that Edmundo González “won the most votes” in the 2024 election, and that Maduro claimed victory with “no supporting evidence”; and

WHEREAS, several nations and world leaders have concurred in the United States’ determination that the Venezuelan election was marred by fraud; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the Maduro regime’s fraudulent announcement of victory, the Venezuelan people took to the streets in protest; and

WHEREAS, in response to the citizen protests, the Venezuelan government deployed its armed forces to disband public demonstrations, and it imprisoned many Venezuelan citizens who were simply exercising their right to express dissatisfaction with the regime; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the Venezuelan CNE has not released paper tallies to certify the 2024 election results; and

WHEREAS, in a further escalation of its repressive rule, on January 9, 2025, the Venezuelan government arrested opposition leader María Corina Machado; and

WHEREAS, the crackdown on protestors and the opposition has further proven the Maduro regime’s commitment to autocratic rule and retaining power by any means necessary; and

WHEREAS, this Board is steadfast in its unwavering support of the Venezuelan people, who simply seek the right to democratically elect their leaders,

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

Section 1. Condemns the Maduro regime’s arrest of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado as well as other citizens peacefully protesting the recent election fraud.

Section 2. Urges President Donald J. Trump and the United States Congress to impose additional significant sanctions on the Maduro regime for its anti-democratic actions and autocratic rule.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, the United States Secretary of State, United States Senate Majority Leader John R. Thune, United States House Speaker James M. Johnson, and the Chair and Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to: (a) amend the 2024 Federal Legislative Package to include this item, and (b) include this item in the 2025 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

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 **Kionne L. McGhee** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	absent	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of January, 2025. 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 "CJF", written over a horizontal line.

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes