

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

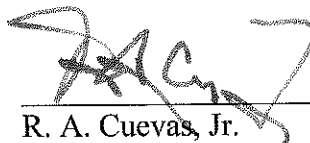
TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 8, 2014

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to create an awareness campaign at County Parks to educate children about bullying; directing the County Mayor to create a system for reporting incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation of children on county property; urging municipalities to join in the County's Awareness Campaign

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Jean Monestime and Senator Javier D. Souto.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/lmp




MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 8, 2014

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
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
- ☐ 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 ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) 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)

4-8-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CREATE AN AWARENESS
CAMPAIGN AT COUNTY PARKS TO EDUCATE CHILDREN
ABOUT BULLYING; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR
MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO CREATE A SYSTEM FOR
REPORTING INCIDENTS OF BULLYING, HARASSMENT,
AND INTIMIDATION OF CHILDREN ON COUNTY
PROPERTY; URGING MUNICIPALITIES TO JOIN IN THE
COUNTY'S AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is concerned about the health, safety, and welfare of
its citizens and, in particular, the children in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness that bullying is a serious problem affecting
today's youth; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 out of every 3 students in the United States between 6th
and 12th grade say that they have been bullied at school; and

WHEREAS, an equal number of students admit that they have bullied others; and

WHEREAS, studies compiled by the US Department of Health and Human Services
show that children who are bullied are more likely to experience depression and anxiety,
increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, a loss of interest in activities that they previously
enjoyed, and a decrease in academic achievement and school participation; and

WHEREAS, some of those children—such as Rebecca Sedgwick, Jeffrey Johnson, and
Celina Okwuone—choose to tragically take their own lives as a result of being bullied; and

WHEREAS, those same studies have also shown that there are long-term effects on the children who bully other children, such as being more likely as adults to abuse alcohol and drugs, have criminal convictions, and physically abuse their spouse or children; and

WHEREAS, the Florida legislature has recently undertaken efforts to address bullying by passing the Jeffrey Johnson Stand Up For All Students Act (Fla. Stat. § 1006.147), which prohibits bullying and harassment of any student or employee of a public K-12 school; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has previously expressed its desire to address bullying by declaring the third week of April as “Anti-Bullying Week” in Miami-Dade County (R-165-11) and urging the Florida legislature to extend the Jeffrey Johnson Stand Up For All Students Act to all private schools (R-1091-11); and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County should supplement those existing efforts by doing more to educate children about bullying and making sure that public facilities (such as parks and libraries) are bullying-free zones that are safe and supportive; and

WHEREAS, these measures are needed because children in Miami-Dade County should not feel in danger of being bullied simply because they may perceive themselves to be different from their peers,

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

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby reaffirms its desire to foster a healthier, more positive and safer atmosphere for children by addressing bullying.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners directs the County Mayor or Mayor’s designee to establish an awareness campaign at County parks that will educate children about

bullying by (1) promoting the use of respectful language, (2) attempting to foster an understanding of and respect for diversity, and (3) posting signage at all County parks that these facilities are "Bully Free" Zones.

Section 3. The Board of County Commissioners also directs the County Mayor or Mayor's designee to create a system for reporting incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation of children on county property.

Section 4. The Board of County Commissioners urges municipalities to join in the County's anti-bullying awareness campaign.

Section 5. The Board of County Commissioners directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Mayor and/or City Manager of each municipality in Miami-Dade County and to the President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Jean Monestime and Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman
Jean Monestime
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
Audrey M. Edmonson
Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss
Xavier L. Suarez

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 8th day April, 2014. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes

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