

# 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

---

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

MDC001



**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. \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman  
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman

Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Kevin Marino Cabrera	Sen. René García
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Eileen Higgins
Kionne L. McGhee	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

Christian Fernandez-Andes

