

RESOLUTION No. **2007-104-611**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, DECLARING A SYMBOLIC MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE "N-WORD" IN THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AND JOINING WITH THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION IN URGING ALL SISTER-MUNICIPALITIES TO APPROVE SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the first documented written use of the "N-word" was in 1786 when the "N-word" was used by slave masters to label African slaves and it has its origins in the contempt and hatred that slave masters had for African slaves, and

WHEREAS, the late 1960's produced a surge of racial pride when the terms "Black" and "Black is Beautiful" were taken on by the African American community as positive and affirming, and participants of the Black Power Movement denounced use of the "N-word", and

WHEREAS, although the term remained extremely degrading in the Black Community, some African Americans started using the "N-word" to refer to themselves during the 1970's cultural era known as Black Exploitation and also during the beginning of the 1990's cultural era known as Hip Hop, and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) successfully influenced Merriam-Webster lexicographers to change the dictionary definition of the "N-word" to no longer mean African Americans; at the same time, the term "N-word" began being used in popular culture and in media reports in an effort to avoid publicly using the controversial and disparaging word's full spelling or pronunciation, and

WHEREAS, the "N-word" remains a symbol of racism and prejudice against African Americans, and numerous high profile incidents involving the use of the "N-word" have elicited outrage and condemnation from the African American community, as well as from the community at-large, and

WHEREAS, the continued use of the "N-word" is divisive, insulting and scars the National psyche, and

WHEREAS, this Council encourages the residents of the City of Miami Gardens to cease the use of the "N-word," and to encourage others they may encounter to do the same, and

WHEREAS, this Council further urges sister-municipalities to approve similar resolutions encouraging their residents to cease the use of the "N-word",

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. DECLARATION: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens declares a symbolic moratorium on the use of the "N-word" in the City and urges all City residents to refrain from using this offensive word and to encourage others to cease using the word.

Section 3. AUTHORIZATION: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby authorizes the City Clerk to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the League of Cities and to each municipality within Miami-Dade County.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 11, 2007.


SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


RONETTA TAYLOR, CMC, CITY CLERK

Prepared by JAMES C. BRADY, ESQ.
Assistant City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

MOVED BY: Vice Mayor Braynon
SECONDED BY: Councilman Campbell

VOTE: 6-0

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Vice Mayor Oscar Braynon, II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman André Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No) Not present
Councilwoman Barbara Watson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)

City of Miami Gardens

1515-200 NW 167th Street
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169



Mayor Shirley Gibson
Vice Mayor Oscar Braynon II
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton
Councilman Aaron Campbell Jr.
Councilman André Williams
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett
Councilwoman Barbara Watson

Agenda Cover Page

Date: June 27th, 2007

Fiscal Impact: No Yes

(If yes, explain in Staff Summary)

Funding Source:

Contract/P.O. Requirement: Yes No

Sponsor Name/Department:

Mayor Shirley Gibson

Public hearing

Ordinance

1st Reading

Advertising requirement: Yes No

RFP/RFQ # _____

Quasi-Judicial

Resolution

2nd Reading

Yes No

Title

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Miami Gardens, Florida, declaring a symbolic moratorium on the use of the "N-word" in the City of Miami Gardens and joining with the Miami-Dade County Commission in urging all sister-municipalities to approve similar resolutions; providing for the adoption of representations; providing an effective date.

Summary

The Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution R-636-07 (**Attachment 1**), which encourages the residents of unincorporated Miami-Dade County to cease from using the "N-Word" and to encourage others with whom they may encounter to do the same. The Board further urges municipalities to approve similar resolutions encouraging its residents not to use the "N-Word."

The "N-Word" remains a symbol of racism and prejudice against African Americans and numerous high profile incidents involving use of the "N-Word" have elicited outrage and condemnation from the African American community, as well as from the community at large.

The resolution calls for a symbolic moratorium on the use of the "N-Word" within the City of Miami Gardens and urges residents to refrain from using this offensive phrase.

Recommendation

Recommend Council approval.

**J-4) CONSENT AGENDA
RESOLUTION
SYMBOLIC MORATORIUM**



Harvey Ruvlin
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS
Miami-Dade County, Florida

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
STEPHEN P. CLARK MIAMI-DADE GOVERNMENT CENTER
SUITE 17-202
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128-1983
Telephone: (305) 375-5126
Fax: (305) 375-2484

June 1, 2007

Honorable Shirley Gibson
Mayor
City of Miami Gardens
1515 N.W. 167th Street, Bldg. 5
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169

RECEIVED JUN 07 2007

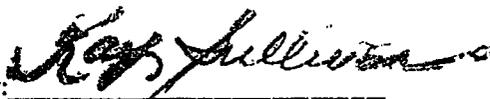
Dear Mayor Gibson:

A copy of Resolution No. R-636-07 adopted on May 22, 2007, is provided to you at the request of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact our office.

Respectfully yours,

HARVEY RUVIN, Clerk
Circuit and County Courts

By: 

Kay Sullivan, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

KS: fcd
Attachments

Central Depository - Civil Division - Clerk of the Board - Code Enforcement - Comptroller / Auditor - County Recorder
- Criminal Division - District Courts Division - Family Courts Division - Human Resources / Administrative Services -
Juvenile Division - Marriage License - Parking Violations - Records / Archives Management - Technical Services
Division - Traffic Division - V A B

Clerk's web address: www.miami-dadeclerk.com

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 14(A)2
5-22-07

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NO. R-636-07

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A SYMBOLIC MORATORIUM
ON THE USE OF THE "N-WORD" IN UNINCORPORATED
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND URGING MUNICIPALITIES
TO APPROVE SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the first documented written use of the "N-word" was in 1786 when the "N-word" was used by slave masters to label African slaves and has its origins in the contempt and hatred that slave masters had for African slaves; and

WHEREAS, the late 1960's produced a surge of racial pride when the terms "Black" and "Black is Beautiful" were taken on by the African American community as positive and affirming and participants of the Black Power Movement denounced use of the "N-word"; and

WHEREAS, although the term remained extremely degrading in the Black Community, some African Americans started using the "N-word" to refer to themselves during the 1970's cultural era known as Black Exploitation and also during the beginning of the 1990's cultural era known as Hip Hop; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) successfully influenced Merriam-Webster lexicographers to change the dictionary definition of the "N-word" to no longer mean African Americans; at the same time, the term "N-word" began being used in popular culture and in media reports in an effort to avoid publicly using the controversial and disparaging word's full spelling or pronunciation; and

WHEREAS, the "N-word" remains a symbol of racism and prejudice against African Americans and numerous high profile incidents involving use of the "N-word" have elicited

outrage and condemnation from the African American community, as well as from the community at large; and

WHEREAS, this Board encourages the residents of unincorporated Miami-Dade County to cease from using the "N-word" and to encourage others with whom they may encounter to do the same; and

WHEREAS, this Board further urges municipalities to approve similar resolutions encouraging its residents not to use the "N-word",

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

Section 1. Declares a symbolic moratorium on the use of the "N-word" in unincorporated Miami-Dade County and urges the residents of the County to refrain from using this offensive word and to encourage others to cease using the word.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the League of Cities and to each municipality within Miami-Dade County.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Vice-Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and offered by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	aye	
	Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	aye	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Audrey M. Edmonson	aye
Carlos A. Gimenez	aye	Sally A. Heyman	aye
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Dennis C. Moss	aye
Dorrin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	aye
Katy Sorenson	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	absent		

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of May, 2007. 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: **KAY SULLIVAN**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Abigail Price-Williams

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14 (A) (2)

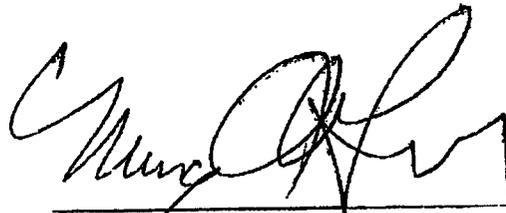
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 22, 2007

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution declaring a
symbolic moratorium on the
use of the "N-Word"

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Vice-Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.


Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

MAG/bw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 22, 2007

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

Please note any items checked.

"4-Day Rule" ("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

Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation

Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing

Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)

No committee review

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STATE OF FLORIDA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE)

I, HARVEY RUVIN, Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of said County, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution R-636-07 which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners at its meeting held on May 22, 2007, as appears of record.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal on this 1st day of June, A.D., 2007.

HARVEY RUVIN, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County, Florida



By: *For C. Beaz*
Deputy Clerk

Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County, Florida