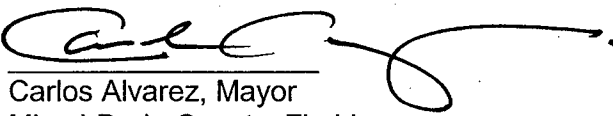


CLERK OF THE BOARD
DATE AND TIME RECORDER STAMP

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

VETO AND VETO MESSAGE

To: Honorable Chairperson and Members
Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County, Florida

From: 
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County, Florida

CLERK OF THE BOARD
2007 DEC -5 AM 8:22
CLERK, CIRCUIT & COUNTY COURTS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.
#1

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 1.10.A of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby veto Resolution number R-1266-07 adopted at the November 27, 2007, Board of County Commissioners Meeting:

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO APRIL 2007 CYCLE APPLICATIONS REQUESTING AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN; INSTRUCTING THE COUNTY MANAGER WHETHER OR NOT TO TRANSMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS; REQUESTING FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS; RESERVING THE RIGHT TO TAKE FINAL ACTION AT A LATER DATE; AND DECLARING INTENT TO CONDUCT ONE OR MORE SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC HEARINGS (Department of Planning & Zoning)

Veto Message

On Tuesday, November 27, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Resolution number R-1266-07 and in doing so transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review 12 applications that would amend Miami-Dade County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP), three of which would expand the Urban Development Boundary (UDB). The UDB distinguishes the area where urban development is permissible through the year 2015 from areas where it is prohibited. This is different from the Urban Expansion Area (UAE), the line that indicates where current projections foresee a possibility of warranted expansion of the UDB some time between the years 2015 and 2025.

As this resolution is currently structured, there is no distinction in the transmittal to the State between those that expand the UDB and the standard CDMP amendments. It is unfortunate that the Board did not bifurcate the applications as the County Attorney gave them the option to do; therefore, I am vetoing the entire package not to disparage the merits of each one individually, but express my concern with those that could jeopardize the livelihood and sustainability of our county for future generations.

The decision to move the UDB is one with far reaching implications whose effects are not confined to the residents of the districts in which the boundary changes are proposed. Though these applications called for expansion of the UDB within only two County Commission districts, it would be erroneous to treat them as though they would not affect County residents from Miami Gardens to Florida City. If Miami-Dade moves outside the UDB, it will affect our delivery of services and strain already taxed resources. We are all aware of our traffic woes, and expansion would only add to the problem by increasing commuters along overused roadways. Police and Fire Rescue services would be spread over a greater area, resulting in longer response times due to greater distances and road congestion.

The transmittal of 12 applications as a whole to the State DCA, despite objections from professional staff and other entities on certain applications, initiates a move in a dangerous direction without compelling arguments to warrant the move. I am particularly concerned with the Board's decision to transmit two UDB applications to DCA with a favorable recommendation and one without a recommendation. Without exception, staff provided the Board with a recommendation to accept or deny each of the seventeen applications in this cycle. Nonetheless, one of the four items affecting the UDB was transmitted to DCA without any position from the Board. On application four, the Board demonstrated its ability to act without State guidance when it declined to seek its input and flat out denied the application. Since this course of action fit in this instance, the Board's hesitancy to take decisive action on the other applications is inconsistent.

Closing

Given the overwhelming impact and implications of moving the UDB line, it would be irresponsible for us, as public servants, to take action without first establishing a comprehensive strategy for the inevitable future expansion of the county. This strategy should carefully consider sprawl and maximize options to promote development within the UDB consistent with the CDMP, taking into account the burden that is inherent to progress.

I strongly urge the Board to sustain this veto and work, utilizing all available resources, to create and adopt a comprehensive and coherent vision for the future development of Miami-Dade County. The task before us is more than the evaluation of individual applications; to continue to act with a provincial approach misses the bigger picture and forgoes the opportunity to plan for a greater and sustainable future. We must accept our responsibility as leaders of this community and make the tough decisions that we have been entrusted with by the residents of Miami-Dade County.