

Press release Cristhian Mancera

Board of County Commissioners

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Reference: Resolution Co-designating that portion of SW 117TH AVE between SW 40TH ST and SW 24TH ST CORAL WAY AS ALVARO URIBE WAY.

As a Proud right centered republican, American, and Colombian I write to you respectfully to request this designation be postponed or withdrawn entirely based on the following:


1. Although the facts that Alvaro Uribe Velez was President of Colombia, that he worked closely with several US Presidents, and that he contributed to Colombia especially in his first term are true, the proposed resolution fails to consider a few other facts like that the former President is detained in his home due to an investigation, and legal procedure undertaken by Colombia's Supreme court that accuses the former President of witness intimidation and manipulation.
2. Second, Colombia is currently going through a rise in violence, political divide and political assassinations that require attention and prudence from all international partners. Abroad, the Colombian community, especially in South Dade is not only made up of "Uribistas". All the contrary, and designating this street in the honor of the former President Uribe Will only divide the Colombian community further. For some time now, some of you have decided to believe that Colombians only follow one person, or that all Colombian Americans, who vote here, and who contribute to our County are bound by the same political ideology or leadership, and you are wrong in thinking this. I represent a faction of Colombian Americans who are tired of the divide generated by President Uribe and other extreme left factions. We do not want to bring that divide into the streets of Miami-Dade, and, therefore, oppose the co-designation of this street as long as this former President is under investigation.
3. I am not sure if your Excellencies know that while someone like the former President is under investigation, is not prudent to name streets without knowing the outcome of the investigation. I am sure you do, but you are not aware of the scope and depth of this current investigation. It is only legal, and prudent to await the outcome because it could send the signal that Miami-Dade

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does not respect the judicial institutions in Colombia, which are democratic and bound by the rule of law. Therefore, designating this street under the current state of events is inconvenient and will engulf the Colombian community in further divide here in Miami-Dade. We are bound by the rule of law and we should respect the Colombian institutions. By approving this resolution a terrible message is sent that “if we like you, you can be above the law”, and this cannot be tolerated in our Miami-Dade County.

4. Colombians represent the second largest community in south Dade, and, this is true, but what is also true is that out of respect, the Miami-Dade county and its board of commissioners should not be getting involved in Colombian politics by designating a street that would cause more divide, and harm to our Colombian community. In the past, the board of commissioners has designated streets in the name of well-known leaders, and, a Colombian was recently a designee of this honor: **Eucario Bermudez**; who lived, contributed, invested, and lived a life committed to the Colombian community. He contributed to Dade County, and he deserved the recognition. But what has Alvaro Uribe Velez contributed to Miami-Dade’s growth, people and community? We can come up with justifications just like the one on the resolution, but in reality, there is no real contribution of this former Colombian President to Miami-Dade, and, therefore, I request this designation be delayed until he proves his innocence or that this proposal be given to real community leaders in the Colombian community who live here, and that have given their lives supporting the growth of our Colombian community.
5. Finally, many things have changed in the last decade and it’s high time the Board of commissioners acknowledge that Colombians are made up of republicans, independents, moderates and democrats, all of them vote, and not all of them are “Uribistas” and not all Colombians follow a certain leader or leadership. To believe this would be naïve and irresponsible. I am a Colombian who votes, who recently ran for Miami-Dade commissioner with a base of more than 5 thousand people, and I am a republican who strongly believes that no one is above the law. That is why I respectfully request to be heard in the August 31st hearing and that this resolution is not approved until the former President proves his innocence and his contribution to Miami-Dade County.

Respectfully,



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