



## INVESTMENT POLICY

Effective: \_\_\_\_\_, ~~2016~~ 2020<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Words and numbers stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted and words and numbers underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

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**SCOPE**

The purpose of this investment policy is to outline responsibilities, set investment goals, establish strategies to achieve stated objectives, establish internal controls and operational procedures and prepare method of performance measurement.

The investment policy applies to all funds held by or for the benefit of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (Board) in excess of those required to meet short-term expenses. These funds include the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Capital Project Funds, Trust & Agency Funds, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Funds, Aviation Funds, Miami-Dade County Housing Funds, the Clerk's Funds and any other fund created by the County unless specifically exempted by Board Ordinance or Resolution.

**INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES**

The County's overall investment objectives are, in order of priority, the safety of principal, liquidity of funds and maximizing investment income. The following investment objectives shall be applied in the management of the County's funds.

**(A) THE SAFETY OF PRINCIPAL:**

The County's investment strategy will ensure the preservation of principal in the overall portfolio. Each investment transaction shall seek to avoid losses in the form of investment risk.

Investment risk may be in the form of default risk, market risk or operating risk. Default risk is controlled by purchasing securities issued by entities of high credit quality. Market risk is controlled by maintaining a sufficient level of liquidity thereby limiting the necessity of selling instruments at a loss. Operating risk is controlled by strict adherence to sound operating procedures.

**(B) THE LIQUIDITY OF FUNDS:**

The County investment strategy shall provide sufficient liquidity to meet the County's operating payroll and other requirements. This liquidity is in the form of investments, which are readily convertible to cash with no loss of principal. The policy of Miami-Dade County is to meet liquidity requirements and to place remaining funds in yield investments.

**(C) THE MAXIMIZATION OF INVESTMENT INCOME:**

When investing public funds, the County shall strive to maximize portfolio income, but this shall be secondary to the stated requirements for safety and liquidity. The County will act responsibly as custodians of the public trust.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

As a rule, the County will seek to adhere to a buy-and-hold strategy. This means that the County intends to hold all purchased securities until their final maturity date. There may be occasional exceptions, including but not limited to the need to sell securities to meet unexpected liquidity needs as well as sales relating to swap transactions, which are described below. In no instance shall the County enter into a security “short sale”, whereby a security which is not owned by the County is sold with the intent to purchase that security at a lower price prior to settlement. In addition, the County shall not seek to purchase any security with the intent to sell the security later in order to generate a capital gain.

The following strategies may be used to maximize return on investments:

(1) Matching Maturities to Known Cash Needs

The maturities of investments will be matched to known cash needs and anticipated net cash outflow requirements.

(2) Maturity Extension

A positive sloping or “normal” yield curve rewards longer-term investments. All purchase decisions that do not involve matching of known cash needs will be based on an analysis of the relative yield benefit to lengthening the maturity.

(3) Determination of an Investment’s Relative Value

By following historical spread relationships between different security types and issuers, it is possible to determine the securities that offer the best yield value on any given day. The County will seek to invest funds in the highest yielding investment security within known cash flow constraints and established policy guidelines.

(4) Market Opportunities

Although money markets are generally efficient, there are opportunities for yield enhancement by selling securities that become unusually “expensive” or high in price, and purchasing similar securities that are considered “cheap” or low in price. These “swap” opportunities often occur as the spreads between different types of securities narrow or widen.

(5) Anticipating Market Changes

Although it is not possible to consistently predict market trends, an understanding of the factors that affect the market is important when determining an optimal maturity for the portfolio. Trading is not to be made solely on the basis of interest

rate forecasts, but specific decisions involving maturity dates should consider short-term market expectations.

### **PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

The investment performance of Miami-Dade County shall be evaluated quarterly by comparison to established benchmarks. The selection of the benchmarks will be based upon the investment strategy and length of the investment portfolio and shall be approved by the Finance Director and the Investment Advisory Committee. One of the selected benchmarks will be the six-month average of the 180-day T-bill. This index is considered a benchmark for riskless investment transactions and therefore comprises a standard for short-term investment of public funds.

### **PRUDENCE AND ETHICAL STANDARDS**

The “prudent person” standard shall be used by investment officials in the management of the overall investment portfolio.

The “prudent person” standard is understood to mean the following: investments shall be made with judgement and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.

Employees involved in the investment program shall refrain from personal business activities that could conflict with proper execution of the investment decisions. Employees and investment officers shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the County, particularly with regard to the timing of purchases and sales.

### **AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS**

The County’s investment authority is derived from Florida Statutes §218.415 and by County Ordinance. Time Deposits made in banks and savings and loan associations must be made with qualified public depositories in accordance with Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. The County shall purchase or sell investment securities at prevailing market rates.

Investments not listed in this section are strictly prohibited. Authorized instruments are as follows.

#### **Investments Authorized by Florida Statutes §218.415:**

- A. The Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act;
- B. Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency;

- C. Interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts in qualified public depositories, pursuant to Florida Statutes §280.02, which are defined as banks, savings bank, or savings association organized under the laws of the United States with an office in this state that is authorized to receive deposits, and has deposit insurance under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- D. Direct obligations of the United States Treasury;
- E. Federal agencies and instrumentalities;
- F. Rated or unrated bonds, notes or instruments backed by the full faith and credit of the government of Israel;
- G. Securities of, or other interests in, any open-end or closed-end management-type investment company or investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the portfolio is limited to the obligations of the United States government or any agency or instrumentality thereof and to repurchase agreements fully collateralized by such United States government obligations, and provided that such investment company or investment trust takes delivery of such collateral either directly or through an authorized custodian;

**Investments Authorized by County Ordinance:**

- H. Commercial paper of prime quality with a stated maturity of 270 days or less from the date of its issuance, which has the highest letter and numerical rating from at least two rating agencies which are Standard & Poor's (A1), Moody's (P1), or Fitch (F1);
- I. Bankers Acceptances which have a stated maturity of 180 days or less from the date of its issuance, and have the highest letter and numerical rating from at least two rating agencies which are Standard & Poor's (A1), Moody's (P1), or Fitch (F1), and are drawn on and accepted by commercial banks and which are eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve Bank;
- J. Investments in Repurchase Agreements ("Repos") collateralized by securities authorized within this policy. All Repos shall be governed by a standard SIFMA Master Repurchase Agreement;
- K. Securities Lending - Securities or investments purchased or held under the provisions of this section may be loaned to securities dealers or financial institutions, provided the loan is collateralized by cash or securities having a market value of at least 102 percent of the market value of the securities loaned upon initiation of the transaction; and
- L. Municipal Securities, issued by U.S. state or local governments, having at time of purchase, a stand-alone credit rating of AA or better assigned by two or more recognized credit rating agencies or a short-term credit rating of A1 / P1 or equivalent from one or more recognized credit rating agencies.

## **PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION**

The following are the guidelines for investments and limits on security issues, issuers and maturities as established by the County. The County shall have the option to further restrict or increase investment percentages from time to time based on market conditions. Purchases of investments based on bond covenant requirements shall not be included in the portfolio's composition calculations.

### **A. The Local Government Surplus Fund Trust Fund.**

#### **Portfolio Composition**

A maximum of 50% of the portfolio may be invested in the Local Government Surplus Fund Trust Fund, however, bond proceeds may be temporarily deposited in the Local Government Surplus Fund Trust Fund until alternative investments have been purchased. Prior to any investment in the Local government Surplus Fund Trust Fund, staff will receive approval of the Board.

### **B. Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds.**

Portfolio Composition - A maximum of 30% of the portfolio may be invested in SEC-registered money market funds; however, at no time shall more than 10% of the portfolio be invested in any single money market fund.

### **C. Interest-bearing time deposits or demand accounts.**

Portfolio Composition - A maximum of 20% of the portfolio may be invested in non-negotiable interest bearing certificates of deposit (CDs) or collateralized demand accounts.

Limits on Individual Issuers - A maximum of 5% of the portfolio may be deposited with any one issuer. Interest must be paid at least quarterly.

Maturity Limitations – 12 months

### **D. Direct obligations of the United States Treasury**

Portfolio Composition - No limit.

Maturity Limitations - The maximum maturity of any direct investment in government securities is five (5) years, except for the underlying securities of repurchase agreements.

**E. Federal Agencies and Instrumentalities.**

1. Portfolio Composition - No limit.
- ~~2.~~ Limits on Individual Issuers - No limit.

Maturity Limitations - five (5) years

Limitations on Callable Agencies - Investment in agencies containing call options shall be limited to a maximum of 25% of the total portfolio.

**F. Bonds, notes or instruments backed by the full faith and credit of the government of Israel with an A rating or above or equivalent rating by at least two accredited ratings agencies.**

- ~~1.~~ Portfolio Composition -  
A maximum of 3% of the portfolio may be invested in bonds backed by the full faith and credit of the state of Israel.
- ~~2.~~ Maturity Limitations -  
The maximum length to maturity invested in bonds backed by the full faith and credit of the state of Israel is five (5) years.

**G. Securities of, or other interests in, any open-end or closed-end management-type investment company or investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940,**

Portfolio Composition - A maximum of 5% of the portfolio may be invested in open-end or closed-end funds.

**H. Commercial paper of Prime quality of the highest letter and numerical rating as provided for by at least one nationally recognized rating service.**

Portfolio Composition - A maximum of 50% of the portfolio may be directly invested in prime commercial paper.

- ~~1.~~ Limits on Individual Issuers - A maximum of 5% of the portfolio may be invested with any single issuer.

Maturity Limitations - 270 days

**I. Bankers Acceptances drawn on and accepted by Commercial banks and which are eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve Bank.**

Portfolio Composition - A maximum of 25% of the portfolio may be directly invested in bankers acceptances. The combined percentage invested in both



commercial paper and bankers acceptances shall not exceed 60% of the total portfolio.

- 4. Limits on Individual Issuers - A maximum of 10% of the portfolio may be invested with any single issuer.

Maturity Limitations - 180 days

**J. Investments in Repurchase Agreements fully collateralized with securities authorized by this Resolution.**

Portfolio Composition - A maximum of 20% of the portfolio may be invested in repurchase agreements. Excluding one day agreements.

Limits on Individual Counterparties - A maximum of 10% of the portfolio may be invested with any single institution or dealer. Excluding one day agreements.

Maturity Limitations - 14 day single term; an open repo may be rolled over daily without limit.

The collateral shall be marked-to-market daily.

*The above portfolio composition guidelines do not apply to the investment of bond proceeds in Flexible Repurchase Agreements.*

**K. Investment in Derivative Products shall be prohibited by Miami-Dade County. For purposes of this investment policy, callable agency securities are excluded from the definition of derivative products.**

**L. Municipal securities rated AA or better**

Portfolio Composition - A maximum of 25% of the portfolio may be directly invested in municipal obligations.

Limits on Individual Issuers - A maximum of 5% of the portfolio may be invested with any one municipal issuer.

- 4. Maturity Limitations - 24 months.

**MATURITY AND LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENT**

To the extent possible, an attempt will be made to match investment maturities with known cash needs and anticipated cash flow requirements. Current operating funds shall maintain a weighted-average maturity of no longer than 12 months. Investments for bond reserves, construction funds, and other non-operating funds shall have a term appropriate to the need for

funds and in accordance with debt covenants. No single investment maturity in the portfolio may exceed five (5) years.

### **DIVERSIFICATION AND RISK**

The County will set procedures to control risks and diversify investments regarding specific security types, maturities, issuers and financial institutions. Investment risk can result from issuer defaults, market fluctuations or other technical complications leading to temporary illiquidity.

Portfolio diversification is employed to control the risk of loss resulting from over concentration of assets in a specific maturity, issuer, instrument, dealer, or bank through which these instruments are bought and sold. Prudence shall be exercised in the selection of securities as a way to minimize default risk. No individual investment transaction shall be undertaken that jeopardizes the total capital position of the overall portfolio. In the event of specific issuer default, the investment officer shall review, and if appropriate, liquidate securities that have comparable credit risk. To control market risk, volatile investment instruments shall be avoided.

### **AUTHORIZED INVESTMENT INSTITUTIONS AND DEALERS**

Securities may be purchased only through financial institutions that are state-certified qualified public depositories that provide the services of a securities dealer or a broker/dealer who is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and who meets the capital adequacy standard established by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Repurchase agreement may be negotiated with:

- A. A Primary Dealer as designated by the New York Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank.
- B. Financial institutions that are qualified public depositories under state law, or
- C. Commercial banks, insurance companies, or investment banking firms, including the holding companies of these institutions, whose rating on long-term debt is in the two highest rating categories by Moody's Investor Service or Standard & Poor's Corporation.

### **THIRD-PARTY CUSTODIAL AGREEMENTS**

The County will execute a Custodial Safekeeping Agreement with a commercial bank. All securities purchased and/or collateral obtained by the County shall be property designated as an asset of the County and held in safekeeping. No withdrawal of such securities, in whole or in part, shall be made from safekeeping except as authorized by County staff.

Security transactions between a broker-dealer and the custodian involving purchase or sale of securities by transfer of money or securities must be made on a "Delivery-vs-Payment" (DVP)

basis, if applicable, to ensure that the custodian will have the security or money, as appropriate, in hand at the conclusion of the transaction.

All securities purchased by the County must be held for the credit of the County ~~by a qualified public depository~~, and must be kept ~~by a depository~~ in an account separate and apart from the assets of the financial institution. Securities purchased by the County must be held for the credit of the County in accordance with Florida Statutes §218.415.

### **MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT**

The County will require all approved institutions and dealers transacting repurchase agreements to execute and perform as stated in the Master Repurchase Agreement. All repurchase agreement transactions will adhere to requirements of the Master Repurchase Agreement.

### **COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

County staff will determine the approximate maturity date of an investment based upon cash flow needs and market conditions, analyze and select one or more optimal types of investments, and competitively bid the selected security to assure the best execution to the County. When bidding an investment, a minimum of three (3) banks and/or dealers must be contacted and asked to provide bids on the securities in question. In instances in which competing dealers are not able to present a bid on the exact security in question, a security that is similar in terms of product type, structure and maturity is acceptable. Bids will be held in confidence until awarded and the bid deemed to best meet the investment objectives of this policy must be selected.

### **INTERNAL CONTROLS AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

The Director of Cash Management Division shall establish and monitor a set of written internal controls designed to protect the County's funds and ensure proper accounting and reporting of securities transactions. The internal controls should be designed to prevent losses of funds which might arise from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent actions by County employees. Such internal controls shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. All security transactions shall be on a delivery-vs-payment (DVP) basis to ensure that funds or securities are not released until all criteria relating to the specific transaction are met unless the parties otherwise agree prior to the transfer of funds.
- B. The County is authorized to accept, on behalf of, and in the name of Miami-Dade County, bank trust receipts or safekeeping confirmations as evidence of actual delivery of the obligations or securities in return for investment of funds.
- C. Trust receipts or safekeeping confirmations shall fully describe the various obligations or securities held. The receipt or confirmation shall state that the investment is held in the name of Miami-Dade County.

- D. The actual obligations or securities, whether in book-entry or physical form, on which trust receipts or confirmations are issued, may be held by the custodial bank and/or institution or a designated correspondent bank which has a correspondent relation to the County custodian.
- E. Other internal controls are:
  - 1. Written documentation of telephone transactions.
  - 2. Adequate separation of duties.
  - 3. Custodial safekeeping.
  - 4. Supervisory control of employee action and operation review.
  - 5. Portfolio statistics and reporting on a monthly basis.
- F. All daily investment activity reviewed by the Director of Cash Management Division. The Cash Management Division is under the direct authority of the Finance Director.

The Finance Director shall designate qualified staff to initiate financial transactions on behalf of the County.

The County's independent auditors shall review the system of internal controls as part of the County's annual financial audit. The audit shall also include a report on the County's compliance by the County with Florida Statutes §218.415.

### **INVESTMENT REPORTING**

Monthly, a portfolio report shall be provided to the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, and to the Finance Director. Quarterly, the Finance Department's Director of the Cash Management Division shall report the portfolio performance to the Investment Advisory Committee. The report shall include a breakdown of the portfolio by class or type, book value, income earned, and market value as well as its overall statistical performance during that period. Annually, a portfolio performance report shall be presented to the Board within 180 days of fiscal year end.

### **INVESTMENT TRAINING**

The County officials responsible for making investment decisions must annually complete eight (8) hours of continuing education in subjects or courses of study related to investment practices and products.