

May 6, 2008

# Memorandum



**Date:**

Supplement to  
Agenda Item No. 16(B)1

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

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

A large, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burgess", is written over the printed name of George M. Burgess.

**Subject:** Adoption of the Board's Budget Policies

On your April 8, 2008 agenda, an item has been submitted for discussion for the Board to adopt its budget policies for FY 2008-09. This requirement was established when the Results-Oriented Governing Ordinance 02-128 was adopted in 2002, sponsored by Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, not Ordinance 07-45 which was referenced on the Agenda. Ordinance 07-45 simply moved the requirement from one section of the Miami-Dade County Code to another.

The Code specifically calls for each Commission Committee to formulate its top priorities and policy objectives and forward those recommendations to the County Commission. The County Commission, in turn, must adopt up to twenty priorities and policy objectives for the coming year's budget at the first Board meeting in April.

This year, particularly for property tax supported departments, but also for departments whose revenues are affected by the economic downturns we have been experiencing recently, we will likely be recommending service reductions. The funding shortfalls we are projecting are simply too great to be assuming otherwise. In reviewing the priorities formulated by each of the Commission Committees, I noted that the majority called for increased funding and increased services. While any action of the Board may be superseded by a subsequent action, I recommend that at this point the Board take a conservative stance and consider adopting priorities and policies that call for the maintenance of our most critical services. It would be helpful for each Commission Committee to identify service priorities by Committee to assist us as we consider any potential service reductions. While we will do everything possible to minimize service reductions in all likelihood they will be unavoidable.

I look forward to discussing this issue with you on April 8.

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