

**Date:** January 29, 2026  
**To:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners  
**From:** Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*  
Mayor  
**Subject:** Report on Leave Donations to the Hurricane Melissa Relief Efforts - Directive No.  
252194

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(2)  
February 18, 2026

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This Report is in response to Resolution R-1099-25, sponsored by Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on November 4, 2025. The Resolution directed me to allow County employees to contribute the monetary value of accrued holiday and annual leave time to the County's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund for the purpose of donating to Hurricane Melissa relief efforts. The Resolution further directed me to effectuate the donations collected to **Global Empowerment Mission** and **Food For The Poor, Inc.**, on behalf of the employees of Miami-Dade County, to be used exclusively to support Hurricane Melissa relief efforts, and to prepare a report identifying the total amount of funds donated to each organization by the employees.

#### **Background on Hurricane Melissa**

On October 28, 2025, Hurricane Melissa, an extremely powerful Category 5 Hurricane struck Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean, resulting in widespread devastation across the region. Additionally, the disaster also resulted in massive rainfall and flooding, especially in vulnerable coastal regions in Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. The sustained heavy rains, flash floods and landslides have damaged or destroyed infrastructure across the region as well as crops and livestock of farming communities. The impact of these activities has placed significant strain on local emergency response systems and has displaced thousands of residents across the Caribbean. It has been reported that as of early December, over 90,000 people remain displaced across the region and close to 100 reported dead, with several still missing.

#### **Recommendation**

Because the effect of the devastation caused from this hurricane still lingers and the needs of those affected are significant, I believe it is important to provide contributions where they will have the most impact to those affected by this disaster. Of the various organizations that are positioned to best respond to the relief efforts, **Global Empowerment Mission** and **Food For The Poor, Inc.** have been identified as the recipients of the donations. These organizations are experienced in responding to disasters of this kind and are capable of navigating the complexities of Melissa's impact on the respective and varied regions.

Therefore, in accordance with Resolution No. R-1099-25, I authorized the following employee contributions of earned annual and holiday leave time for the purpose listed above based on the total net amount Miami-Dade County employees donated, to be given equally to the aforementioned recipients.

- **Amount - \$19,600.62**

I would like to recognize and thank our County employees who generously donated their personal leave to the Relief Funds and made these donations possible. Additionally, in response to this Resolution, donations were also collected by some of the constitutional offices from their employees, which will be reported separately.

Pursuant to Rule 5.06(J) of the Board Rules of Procedure, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. Should you require any information regarding these donations, please contact Mariaelena Salazar, Interim Director, People and Internal Operations Department, at 305-375-1113.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney  
Jess M. McCarty, First Assistant County Attorney  
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff  
Department Directors  
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Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board  
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