

Memorandum

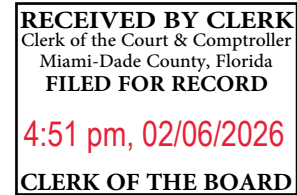


Date: February 6, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
And Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".



Subject: Mayoral Appointment – Director of the Department of Environmental Resources Management

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under Section 2.02(C) of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I am pleased to appoint Loren Parra to the position of Director of the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), as announced on June 30, 2025, and effective as of October 1, 2025. This memorandum is being provided in accordance with the Board's Rules of Procedure.

In a June 30, 2025, memorandum, I advised the Board of my intentions to have the Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), then under the Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) Department, become an independent department led by the Chief Resilience Officer Loren Parra. The execution of this plan was contingent on the Board's approval through the budget process, to be effective October 1 with the start of the new fiscal year. The Board approved the reorganization of DERM as a standalone department, a recommendation I made because preserving our paradise is essential to our quality of life and our future. This change will enable increased environmental protection, streamline the permitting experience, reduce processing times, and provide a more cohesive customer service experience for residents.

As previously noted, Loren Parra has an extensive background in public policy, advocacy, and government affairs, with a strong focus on environmental resilience and community development. Loren previously served as Chief Resilience Officer, as well as Miami-Dade County's Chief Bay & Water Resources Officer, spearheading critical projects and policy related to the restoration of Florida's Biscayne Bay. Through her leadership, the County has increased state and federal participation in our efforts to accelerate solutions to protect Biscayne Bay, including securing \$5 million from the US Army Corps of Engineers to restart the Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) project. Loren has helped integrate the County's siloed work around flood reduction and improved water quality, championing more efficient investments that protect our neighborhoods and public dollars. A copy of her resume is attached.

Please join me in ratifying this well-deserved appointment.

Attachment

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Jess McCarty, First Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Department Directors
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Basia Pruna, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

LOREN PARRA

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY | LEADERSHIP | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROFILE

Proven leader with demonstrated success in the public sector; specializing in environmental policy and science communications. Experienced in fast-paced environments, complex project management, organizational leadership, consensus building, and stakeholder engagement.

CONTACT

Loren.Parra@miamidade.gov

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (2017)
Master of Business
Administration

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (2012)
Bachelor of Arts in Political
Science & Sustainability Studies

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Leadership
Project management
Stakeholder administration
Public policy
Written/interpersonal communication
Public Speaking
Team building
Fluent in Spanish

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
Project Management
Professional Certificate

EXPERIENCE

CHIEF RESILIENCE/BAY & WATER RESOURCES OFFICER, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

February 2024 to Present

- Develops strategies to ensure Miami-Dade bounces back from endemic shocks and stressors, like historic heat, sunny-day flooding, and more intense natural disasters
- Coordinates with diverse groups, including government agencies, private sector partners, and non-profits to advance local resilience efforts
- Serves as the chief advisor to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners on the health of Biscayne Bay
- Leads the county's comprehensive approach to sustainable water management by working across departments to achieve synergy and cost-efficiency
- Staffs the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board and the Florida Biscayne Bay Commission

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA

February 2022 to February 2024

- Developed a comprehensive communications strategy centered in Mayor's multi-year mission
- Led multi-channel team to strategize and execute messaging across 29 county departments
- Collaborated with County communications department to create brand guidelines and tone of voice resulting in consistent messaging across all channels
- Managed Mayor's public relations, including media relations, press releases, and other external communications

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

March 2020 to February 2022

- Led the ongoing development and implementation of Foundation's civic & policy priorities
- Advanced advocacy strategy at the local, state and, federal level through government affairs and grantmaking
- Created internal processes and metrics to track success for grant recipients

LOREN PARRA

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS | LEADERSHIP | PROJECT MANAGEMENT

MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

WLRN | SUNDIAL

Haiti's Political Crisis, Surfside Housing Concerns, Support Surfside Fund

NPR | MARKETPLACE NEW REPORT

Sometimes it takes a big prize to solve big tech problems

NPR | ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Figure Out How To Cheaply Fix Algae Blooms And Win \$10 Million

THE SOLUTIONS JOURNAL

A Prize to Solve a Wicked Environmental Problem - Issue 1, 2020

THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

Breaking down the ballot: Florida's Constitutional Amendments 2020

BOARDS & AFFILIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, HISPANIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2020-2023

Board of Directors, Member

PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE

2021-Present

Board of Directors, Member

EXPERIENCE CONT.

GEORGE BARLEY WATER PRIZE DIRECTOR, EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

June 2017 to March 2020

- Led all aspects of executing \$10 million science prize
- Managed complex, international stakeholders to implement multi-year program
- Directed a cross-functional team to develop and actualize communication strategies
- Executed 3-month, international field test, including cost estimation, schedule development, budgeting, resource planning, logistics, monitoring, and reporting

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, UNITED STATES SENATOR BILL NELSON

April 2015 to June 2017

- Represented United States Senator throughout presiding district (Miami-Dade and Monroe County) at all times
- Served as a liaison to federal agencies for all local, county, and state/regional officials
- Identified and secured federal resources for local partners
- Directed Senator's local outreach effort through creation and participation of key events
- Managed Miami-Dade office and staff, providing direct support to visiting constituents

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CEO, THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

June 2013 to April 2015

- Project managed mid-level projects including board meetings and annual ForEverglades gala
- Led hiring process, interviews, references, hiring, and new-employee onboarding
- Administered CEO's time by coordinating a complex schedule, travel, and logistics

LEGISLATIVE FELLOW, FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 2012 to May 2013

- Conducted legal and legislative research
- Edited correspondence, bill position statements, and testimony
- Tracked constituent opinions, via telephone, email, and written mail

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