

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 18, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing support
for United States diplomat
Michael A. Hammer, his work in
Cuba highlighting the plight of
the Cuban people, and his efforts
to bring freedom to the island
despite the harassment and
intimidation tactics that he has
faced

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor
Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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Please note any items checked.

- “3-Day Rule” for committees applicable if raised**
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- Budget required**
- Statement of fiscal impact required**
- Statement of social equity required**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor’s report for public hearing**
- No committee review**
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3’s present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5’s ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve**
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)
2-18-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES
DIPLOMAT MICHAEL A. HAMMER, HIS WORK IN CUBA
HIGHLIGHTING THE PLIGHT OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE, AND
HIS EFFORTS TO BRING FREEDOM TO THE ISLAND
DESPITE THE HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION
TACTICS THAT HE HAS FACED

WHEREAS, for over 60 years, the Cuban people have suffered under a dictatorial regime that has systematically denied the people basic rights and freedoms; and

WHEREAS, a great deal of the County's residents are either refugees or descendants of refugees that fled the Cuban communist regime; and

WHEREAS, indeed, Miami-Dade County is home to the largest Cuban exile community in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban government has continuously repressed communications and pleas for help from their citizenry, with the Associated Press reporting that Cuban authorities have, at times, resorted to blocking social media sites in an apparent effort to stop the flow of information into, out of, and within Cuba; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Cuba has experienced shortages of food and fuel, which have become increasingly more serious; and

WHEREAS, United States diplomat Michael A. Hammer has served as a chargé d'affaires to Cuba since 2024; and

WHEREAS, in his diplomatic position, Hammer has worked to highlight the plight of the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, as part of his work, Hammer has met with Cuban bishops, opposition leaders, and local residents; and

WHEREAS, recently, Hammer has raised concerns over the increasingly dire conditions in Cuba and the people's lack of food and electricity; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his work, Hammer has reportedly faced harassment and intimidation, in some instances by individuals that may have been acting on behalf of the Cuban government; and

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Western Hemisphere Affairs has called for an end to the intentional disruption of Hammer's work as well as intimidation of embassy personnel; and

WHEREAS, this Board wholeheartedly supports all efforts to bring about democratic reform in Cuba, and stands in solidarity with the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports Hammer's critical work and his resolve to highlight the plight of the Cuban people as well as bring freedom to the island,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board expresses its support for United States diplomat Michael A. Hammer, his work in Cuba highlighting the plight of the Cuban people, and his efforts to bring freedom to the island despite the harassment and intimidation tactics that he has faced.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman
Marleine Bastien
Sen. René García
Roberto J. Gonzalez
Danielle Cohen Higgins
Natalie Milian Orbis
Micky Steinberg
Juan Carlos Bermudez
Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Keon Hardemon
Vicki L. Lopez
Raquel A. Regalado

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of February, 2026. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MSM

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes
Michael J. Mastrucci