

MEMORANDUM

RTRC
Agenda Item No. 3(A)


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

DATE: June 9, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the
reappointment of Olga Ramudo
and Vice-Mayor Robert
Stephens, III, and the
appointment of Milan Patel, a
total of three members, to the
Tourist Development Council

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Cultural Affairs Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/wm

MDC001

Memorandum



Date: July 21, 2026

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Recommendation of Tourist Development Council Board Appointments

Executive Summary

This item is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the attached resolution approving the reappointments of the following nominees to the Tourist Development Council: Olga Ramudo and Vice-Mayor Rober Stephens, III and appointing Milan Patel. There is no fiscal impact associated with these appointments

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached resolution approving the reappointment of the following nominees to the Tourist Development Council: Olga Ramudo and Vice-Mayor Robert Stephens, III and appointing Milan Patel.

Scope

The impact of this agenda item is countywide.

Delegation Of Authority

There is no delegated authority for this Tourist Development Council item.

Fiscal Impact/ Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact associated with these appointments.

Track Record/ Monitor

Ashlee Thomas, Interim Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs, serves as the Director of the Tourist Development Council.

Background


On April 4, 1978, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 78-28 pursuant to State Statute No. 125.0104, establishing the Tourist Development Council (TDC). The Ordinance and Statute specify that the TDC is a nine (9) member volunteer board that includes: one (1) County Commissioner, who is appointed by the chair of the governing Board of the County; two (2) elected municipal officials, at least one of whom must be from the most populous municipality in the County; three (3) owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tourist development tax; and three (3) persons involved in the tourist industry and have verifiably demonstrated interest in the tourist development of Miami-Dade County but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and are subject to the tourist development tax.

Further, all members of the TDC must be electors of the County and shall serve staggered terms of four years as determined in the appointing resolution. A public nominations process was implemented to fill these positions as a result of three (3) vacancies on the TDC Board due to the expiration of current terms. These positions require: one (1) person involved in the tourist industry and have verifiably demonstrated interest in the tourist development of Miami-Dade County but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and are subject to the tourist development tax; one (1) persons who is an owner or operator of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tax; and one (1) elected municipal official.

On November 1, 2005, the Board accepted the Tourist Development Council Nomination Process for current and future appointments of board members to the TDC. This competitive process includes the placement of an advertisement to publicly notice a solicitation for qualified candidates and the convening of a TDC Nominating Committee to review and recommend nominees to the TDC. Notice of the nomination process was communicated to all Commission District offices to encourage applications from qualified candidates. In response to the advertisement for nominations, and in accordance with the TDC Nomination Process, credentials of eligible candidates for the TDC were submitted and reviewed by the TDC Nominating Committee. Present at the meeting were: William Perry, III, President, Airport Parking Association; Connie Kinnard, President, Multicultural Tourism with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Hemant Patel, General Manager, Kings Motel.

Based on a thorough review of qualifications, the TDC Nominating Committee unanimously voted to recommend the following Tourist Development Council candidates to the Board of County Commissioners: Olga Ramudo; Vice-Mayor Robert Stephens, III; and Milan Patel. The TDC voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the TDC Nominating Committee at the April 17, 2026 TDC meeting and move these recommendations forward to the Board for approval.

Attached are the biographies summarizing the extensive experience of these nominees in the tourism industry and chart specifically identifying their professional or civic affiliations and their designated terms once approved.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operating Officer

Olga M. Ramudo

Senior Vice President Latin America and Florida

Express Travel a Gray Dawes Company

After years of being a stay at home mother, Olga Ramudo decided to venture into the travel business by becoming an independent contractor for a small travel agency. Partnering with her sister and a best friend, that part time job took them further when they decided to start their own business in 1989.

Specializing in the Hispanic market and with a strong commitment to community involvement and customer service, Express Travel became one of the top ten travel agencies in Florida, later expanding by offering services nationally and all over the world.

Olga Ramudo has conspicuously pioneered and led the charge to not only promote and grow the South Florida tourism industry, but also has provided an outstanding public role model as a successful women owned business who has always found the time to serve the South Florida community and her industry through leadership appointments on numerous local, state and international organizations. She has been a prominent tourism community leader for over 30 years and has volunteered for leadership positions on hundreds of local events, which have resulted in millions of dollars of economic impact and new jobs for South Florida's local and State tourism. Additionally, Olga has donated her time and experience to many organizations serving on committees to promote bilingual education in order to maintain the "Gateway of the Americas" designation for South Florida.

Olga has received numerous awards and recognitions, among them , recognized as one of the top influential women business leaders in Miami Dade County and International Business Woman of the Year award by the Organization of Women in International Trade. The American Society of Travel Agents has awarded Olga with their national advocacy award in recognition of her significant contribution on behalf of the travel agency community before federal state and local governments as well as recognizing her as travel agent of the year.

The Mayor of Miami Dade County appointed her to the Board of the International Trade Consortium and to the Tourism Development Council Board. She also sits on the boards of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Beacon Council, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the World Trade Center. After completing two terms on the board, she continues to be an active member of ASTA. Olga fulfilled three terms as a member of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board under the leadership of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and is a member of the South Florida District Export Council.

In April of 2023, Express Travel was acquired by the Gray Dawes Group, a major and recognized travel company based in the U.K. This acquisition allowed Gray Dawes Travel to enter the U.S. market making Express Travel a global company. Having a presence in the U.K., the U.S, Netherlands and Australia, Express Travel/Gray Dawes' can always be "on" for our customer and offer world renowned technology.

Olga studied in Puerto Rico and has two sons and three granddaughters.

www.expresstravelus.com

SUMMARY

A self-motivated and detail-oriented team player with extensive experience and local networks in hospitality, entrepreneurship, and real estate in Miami, FL.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner-Operator, King Motel

- Oversee front desk and housekeeping staff ensuring daily responsibilities are completed in a timely fashion
- Optimize average daily rates and occupancy metrics through marketing strategies based on local demand
- Promote business through partnerships with local businesses and online hotel accommodation platforms
- Executed a strategic repositioning of the business in order to target demographics with higher discretionary incomes

Operations Analyst, Hampton Inn & Suites

- Collaborate with management to forecast the monthly/quarterly/annual revenue and expenses for operations
- Oversee P&L statements and budget labor costs for upcoming months (25+ employees)
- Optimize a daily rate pricing strategy based on business goals using market research, trend, and SWOT analysis
- Perform quantitative analysis to identify methods to increase ADR, daily occupancy, budget, and cost control
- Reduce operating expenses PAR by 2% through optimization of labor staff and focus on sustainability measures

Investment Sales Associate, Cushman & Wakefield

- Broker investment sales for hospitality and multifamily properties in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach
- Collaborate with property owners and prospective buyers to understand their real estate financial goals
- Research and specialize in submarket rental data, recent sales, zoning designations, and future redevelopment
- Facilitate complex real estate transactions in a secure, timely, and organized structure

Financial Analyst, The Zylberglait Group (Marcus & Millichap)

- Forecast revenues, expenses, and debt figures for Office and Industrial property types using rent rolls and P&Ls
 - Underwrite property values using financial statement analysis, financial models, and relevant sales and lease comps
 - Conduct research on types of leases, rents, expenses, and insurance prices in major Florida markets and submarkets
 - Leverage CRE databases and proprietary research to provide principals with Capital Market and Market Reports
 - Publish Broker Opinions of Value, Offering Memorandums, and Investment Overviews using Excel and InDesign
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EDUCATION

Masters of Business Administration of Finance, Florida International University 2023
GPA: 4.0/4.0

B.A. of Economics & B.S. of Marketing, University of Florida 2021
GPA: 3.53/4.0

Languages: Gujarati (Native), Spanish (Conversational)

ROBERT STEPHENS, III

Transformational Nonprofit Executive | Equity Advocate | Visionary CEO Leader

Miami Gardens, FL | ministerstephens523@gmail.com | (786) 523-5209

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dynamic and visionary executive leader with 15+ years of experience driving transformational change in nonprofit organizations, local government, and faith-based institutions. Proven record of leading innovative, equity-driven solutions for youth development, family stabilization, community wellness, and economic opportunity. As Vice Mayor of Miami Gardens and Senior Pastor of Logos Nonprofit Organization (Religious), I have mobilized diverse coalitions, built sustainable community infrastructure, and secured millions in public-private investment. A proven builder of teams, movements, and mission-aligned partnerships ready to lead FOUNd Miami into its next chapter of inclusive growth, civic innovation, and measurable social impact.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City of Miami Gardens, FL

Vice Mayor (Councilman, Seat 6) | 2020 Present

- Provide strategic leadership for a municipality of over 100,000 residents, championing initiatives focused on youth opportunity, economic mobility, and systems innovation.
- Authored the Economic Accountability Plan to ensure corporate partners reinvest in workforce development, education, and community infrastructure.
- Launched the City University Partnership to connect local youth and families with access to postsecondary education, credentialing, and entrepreneurship pathways.
- Serve as Chair of the Youth Violence Prevention Committee, advancing trauma-informed programs and justice-system alternatives.
- Lead efforts to integrate technology, sustainability, and equity across city operations and service delivery.

Logos Nonprofit Organization (Religious), Miami Gardens, FL

Chief Executive Officer & Senior Pastor | 2024 Present

- Serve as CEO of a dynamic faith-rooted nonprofit organization delivering transformative programs in youth empowerment, education access, workforce readiness, food justice, and mental health support.
- Lead strategic planning, fiscal oversight, staff development, and cross-sector partnerships for all

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organizational arms, including ministry operations, community outreach, and donor engagement.

- Designed and implemented the Logos Youth Empowerment Program impacting 100+ youth annually through trauma-informed mentoring, financial literacy, and leadership training.
- Built strategic alliances with local schools, colleges, and nonprofits to deliver wraparound services addressing social determinants of health and economic opportunity.
- Secured capital improvements and launched a new Leadership Development Institute focused on equipping the next generation of civic, faith, and entrepreneurial leaders.

Barry University, Miami, FL

Director of Retention, Biomedical Sciences | 2017 - 2024

Miami Dade College - Medical Campus, Miami, FL

Associate Director of Financial Aid, Admissions & Registration | 2014 - 2017

Miami Dade College, Miami, FL

Student Services Specialist | 2012 - 2014

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration, Florida International University - 2017

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Florida International University - 2015

BOARD & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Board Member, Affirming Youth Foundation - Trauma-informed care & youth development
- President, Empowering Experience Conference - Leadership on education equity and innovation
- Chairperson, South Florida Youth Summit - Designed youth entrepreneurship & civic tracks
- Founder, Logos Youth Empowerment Program - Launched with 100+ youth participants annually
- Member, Miami-Dade League of Cities - Equity advocate for municipal systems reform

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CORE COMPETENCIES

- Executive Nonprofit Leadership & Strategic Planning
- Youth Empowerment & Workforce Development
- Cross-Sector Collaboration & Civic Innovation
- Fundraising, Grant Management & Capital Campaigns
- Systems Change & Equity-Centered Policy Advocacy
- Organizational Culture, DEI & Talent Development
- Faith-Based & Community-Rooted Program Design
- Data-Driven Performance & Budget Oversight

CERTIFICATIONS

Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership Miami Dade College

Pastoral Leadership Certification Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship



FY 2025-2026 Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council


MEMBERS	AFFILIATION	TITLE	Term
Chairperson			
Keon Hardemon	Miami-Dade County Commissioner	Chairman	03/23 – 03/27
Elected Municipal Officials			
Christine King	City of Miami	Commissioner	03/25 – 03/29
*Robert Stephens, III	City of Miami Gardens	Vice Mayor	04/26 – 04/30
Owners/Operators of Hotels or other Tourist Accommodations			
*Milan Patel	Kings Motel	General Manager	04/26 – 04/30
Danielle Torres	Marriott Courtyard Hampton Inn – Homestead	Director of Sales	03/25 – 03/29
T. Gene Prescott	Biltmore Coral Gables	President	03/25 – 03/29
Involved in Tourist Industry			
Robin Libby Jacobs	Miami Beach Chamber of Convention Center Advisory Board	Chair	03/25 – 03/29
William Perry, III	Airport Parking Associates	Partner/Owner	03/25 – 03/29
*Olga Ramudo	Express Travel of Miami, Inc.	President/CEO	04/26 – 04/30



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: July 21, 2026

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

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**
- _____ **Requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3’s present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5’s ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 2/3 members present but not less than 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 9 votes (2/3 membership) _____) 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.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF
OLGA RAMUDO AND VICE-MAYOR ROBERT STEPHENS,
III, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MILAN PATEL, A TOTAL
OF THREE MEMBERS, TO THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1978, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 78-28 (the “Ordinance”), establishing the Tourist Development Council; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance directs that each member shall be appointed by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance and section 125.0104 of the Florida Statutes specify that the Tourist Development Council shall be composed of nine members, including a County Commissioner, who is appointed by the chair of the governing Board of the County, two elected municipal officials, three owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tourist development tax, and three persons involved in the tourist industry but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels or other tourist accommodations in the County subject to the tourist development tax; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance specifies that all members of the Council must be electors of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance and section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, specify that Council members shall serve staggered terms of four years as determined in the appointing resolution; and

WHEREAS, section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, specifies that there shall be two elected municipal officials where at least one official is from the most populous municipality in the County and the County Commission shall fill this seat by appointment; and

WHEREAS, the Tourist Development Council board recommends that Olga Ramudo and Vice-Mayor Robert Stephens, III be reappointed to the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Tourist Development Council board recommends that Milan Patel be appointed to the Council,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board approves the reappointment of the following two members and the appointment of one member to the Tourist Development Council for four-year terms commencing April, 2026 and ending April, 2030:

- 1) Olga Ramudo, Tourism Industry;
- 2) City of Miami Gardens Vice-Mayor Robert Stephens, III, elected official;
- 3) Milan Patel, Owner/Operator of Hotels or other Tourist Accommodations.

The foregoing resolution 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	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Sen. René García	Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Vicki L. Lopez
Natalie Milian Orbis	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of July, 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.

mmg

Melissa M. Gallo