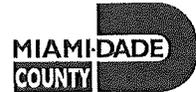


# Memorandum



**Date:** March 31, 2014

**To:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

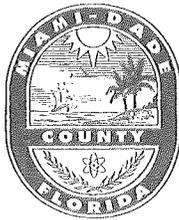
**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** FY2014-15 Budget Address

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Pursuant to Section 2.02(F) of the Miami-Dade County Charter, attached please find my Budget Address for FY 2014-15.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvín, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts  
Lazaro Solis, Property Appraiser  
Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney  
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff  
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 31, 2014

Dear Fellow Residents:

Last month, I presented the state of our county. I believe we are at a crossroads. Our recovery from the Great Recession continues turning the corner towards an expanding economy. We continue to solidify our community as the gateway to the Americas – the intersection between mature and emerging markets. A new global economy is emerging, and Miami-Dade County must decide the direction we will be taking to prepare for our future. And so, as we develop the FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget, we continue to transform our organization and the ways we serve our public.

As I have stated before, my recommended budget will be developed upon the foundation of responsible fiscal stewardship and holding the line on taxes. We continue to restructure our organization to focus on our core missions of public safety and essential services with children and elderly as priorities. Our emphasis is the provision of service on the streets and ways that we can reform our internal support structure to ensure these services are delivered well. We continue to approach the delivery of service in different ways, reaching out to the private sector to partner with us to promote our community.

Based on initial budget submissions, we have a gap of more than \$200 million that must be closed. This will not be an easy task, as this will be the seventh year in a row we have been forced to take significant budget reductions and after already closing gaps totaling more than \$2 billion. We will eliminate those services already being performed by other entities and Miami-Dade County government will be further consolidated as we focus on the true role of local government. We need our community to be safe, attractive, and accessible, a community that provides quality of life for our residents and can attract the world to visit, and to do business.

As I stated earlier, I will not be recommending an increase in tax rates. Short of any public referendum approving additional taxes, I will not recommend any tax rate increase for FY 2014-15. We must live within our means, what our residents can afford to pay, and establish practices that promote the sustainability of our organization. We cannot continue to face the specter of reductions each year and the uncertainty that goes with that circumstance. We will look for new ways of supporting our services, ensuring that users pay their fair share, but also look for new ways of delivering our services so that our customers may be assured they are value for their dollars.

I encourage you to be involved in the budget development process. Visit our website for information about our current budget and budget development efforts. Tune into Finance Committee meetings and involve yourself in the discussions regarding our departments and the costs of the services we provide. Attend the Town Hall meetings we will hold in the summer to discuss the proposed budget. Participate at the public hearings on the budget in July and in September to make your voice heard about your priorities.

We are at a crossroads and we all need to decide which path to take. I look forward to taking this journey with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Murphy", written in a cursive style.