Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: December 28, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Report on the Proposed Charter Amendment Public Meetings

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A proposed Charter amendment (Legistar 151495) sponsored by Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo regarding Special Taxing Districts was heard in the Metropolitan Services Committee meeting on August 26, 2015, and will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) in January 2016.

On July 7, 2011, the Board adopted Ordinance 11-44, which states that "the County shall hold six public meetings regarding any resolution calling an election on a proposed Home Rule Charter amendment."

Accordingly, my office scheduled seven (7) public meetings so that interested residents would have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed charter amendment. Attendance at the meetings varied; one meeting had no residents attend and others varied from two (2) to ten (10) residents. Staff from the Office of Commissioner Bovo, County Attorney's Office, Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department, and Public Works and Waste Management Department as well as my office were present at the meetings.

Meetings were held at the following locations on the following dates:

- December 1 - Homestead Branch Library
- December 2 - South Dade Regional Library
- December 3 - West Kendall Regional Library
- December 8 - Coral Gables Branch Library
- December 9 - City of Doral City Hall
- December 10 - North Dade Regional Library
- December 15 - Northeast Dade - Aventura Branch Library

A number of questions, comments, and concerns were raised at these meetings, including:

- How will this amendment affect the County as a whole?
- What are the cost savings associated with this amendment for both the County and the municipalities?
- Will this raise County or municipal taxes?
- How, why, and by whom are Special Taxing Districts created?
- If this measure passes the Board, does a municipality automatically assume control of the Special Taxing Districts?
- Do members of existing Special Taxing Districts have any way of repealing these districts?
- How will this ordinance affect me as a homeowner?
- What happens to the surplus money from the Special Taxing Districts?

- How does a resident ask for the elimination of a Special Taxing District and what is the process to achieve this end?
- How will the transition of the authority over these Special Taxing Districts from the County to the municipalities work?
- Are residents within Special Taxing Districts double taxed?
- What are the fees associated with Special Taxing Districts?
- What does the "shall" in the proposed change mean?
- Who will assume the liabilities and costs associated with this change?
- How is legal liability incurred by the Special Taxing Districts and their employees transferred to the municipalities?
- What protections will be given to residents who do not want their Special Taxing Districts to be transferred to the municipals?

If you need any additional information, please contact Gabriela Lopez, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, at (305) 375-5227.

c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Mayor's Office Senior Staff
Penelope Townsley, Supervisor of Elections
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Christopher Agrippa, Director, Clerk of the Board Division