



*Welcome to Inside Five!*

*This is the first edition of our newsletter dedicated to all the news, happenings, and events in Miami-Dade Commission District 5. Watch the video below to learn more about our newsletter from your County Commissioner Eileen Higgins.*



## BAHAMAS RELIEF EFFORTS

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian, local communities in Miami-Dade have taken immediate action to support our neighboring Bahamian family. Whether you live in Miami Beach, Miami, or other local communities, you have stepped up by donating supplies that we've already delivered to the Bahamas. More than 1 million pounds already! If you'd still like to give, you'll find all you need to know at [www.miamidade.gov/cares](http://www.miamidade.gov/cares).

## THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA WITH CONNECT FAMILIAS



For the second year in a row, District 5 and its partner ConnectFamilias held a "Back To School Extravaganza." With the help of over a dozen community partners, over 400 bookbags were distributed to students in Little Havana. Attendees also enjoyed face painting, entertainment, arts and crafts, food, health screenings, and more! Health organizations were on site to educate parents on the resources

available in our community to help our children get ready for the first day of school. Special thanks to the schools and teachers for their hard work and dedication to the county's youth. May all students have a rewarding and successful academic year!

### OTHER BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS



The District 5 team contributed to the Amigos For Kids Back-To-School event and the Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department's Back-To-School and 6th anniversary event, where each student who attended received fresh supplies and bookbags.

## WHERE'S MY BUS?

### TRANSIT ALLIANCE MIAMI

Earlier this month, Transit Alliance Miami (TA), a non-profit organization advocating for walkable streets, bikeable neighborhoods and better public transit, made a special visit to our district office. As part of the "Transit Marathon," where they visited all 13 commission districts - ALL by bus.

The TA team were welcomed with open arms, as they delivered the Better Bus Project's "[Choices Report](#)," which assessed the existing bus network, engaged the public, and developed recommendations for changing the transit network in the future.

The Better Bus Project is an advocacy-led and community-driven bus system redesign focused on the Miami-Dade County bus network. It is a collaborative planning effort to decide where bus service should go, when it should run, and how frequently it should operate.

Stay tuned to future project updates!



## SENIORS NEED TRANSIT, TOO



As Miami-Dade County and municipalities work towards a better bus system, Commissioner Higgins is making sure that seniors are not left behind.

That's why District 5 is launching a series of Transportation Outreach Workshops to solicit input regarding transportation and mobility from seniors in the district.

Together with Urban Impact Lab, a local civic innovation firm, the workshops will serve to identify and map all senior-specific facilities in the district and analyze transportation options. Through facilitated groups, participants will map out where they live, the places they go, and how they get around on weekdays and weekends. They will also discuss technology, ridership programs, and new potential transit services.

For more information about the workshops, read [here](#), email [district5@miamidade.gov](mailto:district5@miamidade.gov) or call 305-375-5924.

## SEAWEED ON OUR BEACHES

### WHAT 5 DID

Sponsored a **Resolution** urging Governor Ron

If you visited the South Pointe jetties or breakwaters



DeSantis, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue an **extended permit for use of heavy equipment** to remove identified hot spots in Miami-Dade beaches.

## READ MORE //

- [Miami-Dade County starts a removal operation or sargassum/seaweed on Miami Beach](#)
- [The fight to clear seaweed on Miami Beach faces a tiny, mighty foe: baby sea turtles](#)
- [Inician los operativos de limpieza de sargazo acumulado en la costa del condado de Miami-Dade](#)

*Watch Miami-Dade Minute on seaweed removal below*



between 29 and 32 streets in early summer months, it was hard to miss the stinky seaweed that inundated Miami-Dade beaches.

Together with the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department (PROS), the Division of Environmental Resources Management, and City of Miami Beach, Commissioner Higgins worked quickly to identify solutions and funding, as well as secure the required permits, to address this new phenomenon that was affecting the quality of life of beach residents and visitors.

Thanks to the leadership of Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, on July 23, an emergency contract was issued for the removal of seaweed in hot spot areas, locations of the beach with the most accumulation. The seaweed removal began on August 2.

Collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies was the key to navigating the complex permitting process required for the removal of seaweed along the shoreline. Working closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and Department of Environmental Protection, the County was issued a permit until October 31.

Thank you to Beach residents for keeping District 5 up-to-date with the progress made since implementing the removal plan. But this was the first step, and Mayor Gimenez has created a Seaweed Advisory Group to create a long term-plan to address this much bigger environmental issue and keep our beaches clean.



*Photographed by Mario Gutierrez, a Miami Beach resident, after seaweed removal*

## KEEPING DISTRICT 5 BEAUTIFUL



### 17th AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

A visually appealing community increases property values, attracts businesses, and improves the neighborhood's image. Beauty is one of the three most influential factors in community attachment, which means loyalty, to your particular town or city.

This is why Commissioner Higgins is pleased to have funded the beautification of 17th Avenue, from US 1 to NW 7th Street. It is a true testament to what can happen when government and residents work together to make neighborhoods happier and healthier.

Thank you to the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department and DisTREEbutors Inc. for bringing District 5 more trees and smiles.

## TAKING ACTION



### MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

In response to the frequent mass shootings in our country, most recently in El Paso, Dayton, and West Texas, Commissioner Higgins joined Moms Demand Action and community members to say enough is enough and fight against hatred and senseless violence in our nation. The time for change has long passed. We must act boldly to confront the horror of gun violence plaguing our nation.

**Text READY to 644-33 to join the fight**

### CALL 3-1-1

If you were to find a large pile of trash in front of your house, what would you do? What if your street was flooded, your car hits a pothole, or you see a dead animal?

You may vent to a neighbor or wait until you



What else can you do using 311 services?  
Report missed garbage pick-up; a broken sidewalk; an overgrown lot, graffiti; mosquitoes; and so on.

For more information on how 311 can help you, visit [here](#).

had the time to search the Internet. Better yet, do what Higgins does -- CALL 3-1-1 or use the 311Direct app!

By using 311, residents (anonymously or not) have the power to report neighborhood problems immediately, right on the spot, by calling the contact center.

You can also upload a picture of the problem you have spotted, add relevant information, and provide contact information for a follow up to the 311 app.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### THE FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN



In July, the Board of County Commissioners adopted legislation sponsored by Commissioner Higgins to create a master plan for a green, pedestrian-friendly, and transit-oriented Downtown Miami.

On July 27, Commissioner Higgins, together with Miami-Dade County Regulatory and Resources Department (RER), hosted a visioning public workshop on "The Future of Downtown."

The workshop allowed residents, organizations, and public officials to share their ideas on how to revitalize 26 acres of underutilized county property Downtown.

Over 80 attendees discussed future plans for the area including affordable housing, transit connectivity, open green spaces, schools, social and economic impacts, and much more.

With so many county-owned properties in the Downtown Miami area, Commissioner Higgins sees this as an opportunity not just to construct a building or two, but to shape an entire neighborhood.

### GOLDEN PASSPORT

Did you know that seniors and social security beneficiaries can get a free EASY card though





## GOLDEN PASSPORT FEES

**FIRST REPLACEMENT**

free

**SECOND REPLACEMENT**

\$10

**THIRD REPLACEMENT**

\$25

Miami-Dade County's Golden Passport program? Miami-Dade County created the Golden Passport program, which provides transportation to residents who are seniors, disabled, or low-income veterans in our county. Last December, District 5 held a Golden Passport event in Miami Beach where Commissioner Higgins identified ways to improve the program for our residents.

Since the event, Commissioner Higgins lowered the replacement costs for a lost card. The first replacement is now free, the second is \$10, and the third is \$25. The legislation also directed the Department of Transportation and Public Works to create a full-service, online system that allows residents to apply for and replace their Golden Passport cards from the comfort of their

own home.

This update will transform the customer service experience for our Golden Passport users by eliminating burdensome and inefficient processes. Modernizing the process has the added benefit of eliminating the inconvenience of a trip to Government Center for seniors.

The online system will be launching soon. Stay tuned.

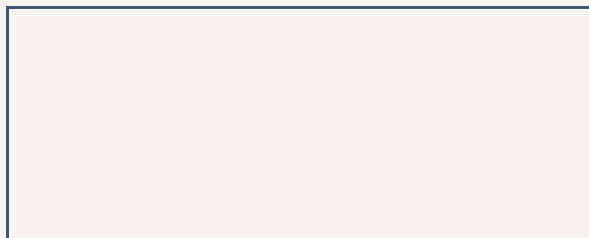
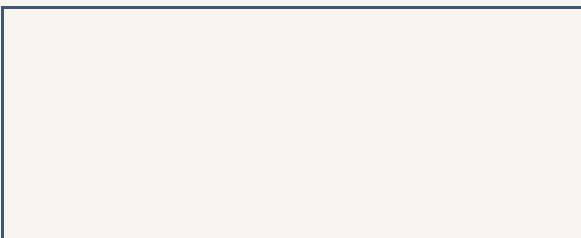
## LGBTQ TASK FORCE

While progress has been made for the LGBTQ community, more must get done. That's why Commissioner Higgins sponsored legislation that will create a formal Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board. The board will be working with community advocates that will serve to address matters that affect the quality of life of LGBTQ residents and visitors to the county. The LGBTQ advisory board will propose policies and recommendations to address social, economic, cultural and political problems facing the LGBTQ community. Similar to other county boards, each county commissioner can appoint a representative, with deep knowledge or involvement in the community.

The item has passed committee and is headed to the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners meeting for final approval on **October 3rd**.

## COUNTY SERVICES

**WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU**





## IT'S HURRICANE SEASON, ARE YOU READY?

The peak of Hurricane Season is here, and it's time for residents to be storm ready.

Download the [ReadyMDC app](#) or check out our County's [Hurricane Readiness Guide](#) where residents can follow Miami-Dade County's hurricane checklist to ensure they are fully prepared.

Residents who require special evacuation assistance should register to the Emergency and Evacuation Assistance Program (**EEAP**) before an emergency to ensure that support will be given to those who need transportation assistance or whose medical needs prevent them from evacuating on their own. More information [here](#).



## GUIDING YOU ON YOUR PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

September 17 is Citizenship Day, and what better way to celebrate than with The Office of New Americans of Miami-Dade (ONA)?

The Office of New Americans of Miami-Dade connects county residents to much needed services, in order to overcome barriers to US citizenship. This includes free weekly citizenship classes, onsite application assistance, financial coaching, and much more.

ONA is a public - private partnership between Miami-Dade County, The Florida Immigration Coalition, Citi Community Development and local non-profit organizations.

For more information on ONA, visit [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Government Meetings

- **September 17 / 11 am** - Transportation and Finance Committee (TAF) Meeting
- **September 19 / 3:30 pm** - BCC Special Meeting - Seaport
- **September 19 / 5 pm** - 2nd Public Budget Hearing
- **September 26 / 2 pm** - Transportation Planning Organization



## Neighborhood Meetings

- **September 25 / 7 pm** - The Roads Neighborhood Association Meeting

## Community Events

- **September 13 - 22** - Miami Citizenship Week
- **September 16 / 6 pm** - Workshop No. 2 Beach Corridor
- **September 18 / 3 pm** - South Florida Seniors in Action: Food Distribution
- **September 18 / 6 pm** - Community Zumba Class at CIC Miami
- **September 19 / 6 pm** - Immigrant Powered Weekend Kick Off at PAMM
- **September 19 - 22** - Immigrant powered Weekend
- **September 20 / 8:30 am** - Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit: The Action Summit
- **September 20 / 7 pm** - Viernes Culturales

*[Miami-Dade County Commission Calendar](#)*

## CONTACT US

# OFFICES

### District Office

2100 Coral Way, Suite 400  
Miami, Florida, 33145

**Monday - Friday**

**9:00 am to 5:00 pm**



**305.375.5924**



**District5@miamidade.gov**

### Miami Beach Office

Miami Beach City Hall  
1700 Convention Center Drive,  
1st Floor  
Miami Beach, Florida, 33139

**Tuesday, Thursday**

**9:30 am to 4:30 pm**

**Come Visit Us!**

*[View as Webpage](#)*

FOLLOW US

