

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners


**DATE:** June 1, 2022

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing the County's International Trade Consortium to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare a Sister Cities Agreement with Madrid, Spain, and transmit such Agreement to the County Mayor for execution; authorizing and directing the County Mayor to execute such Agreement upon receipt from the International Trade Consortium; and directing the International Trade Consortium to monitor performance of such Agreement and provide a report to this Board

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Co-Sponsors Vice-Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee, Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and Senator Javier D. Souto.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/smm



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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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 \_\_\_\_, 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) \_\_\_\_, or 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)(2)  
6-1-22

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO NEGOTIATE AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, PREPARE A SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT WITH MADRID, SPAIN, AND TRANSMIT SUCH AGREEMENT TO THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE FOR EXECUTION; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE SUCH AGREEMENT UPON RECEIPT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM; AND DIRECTING THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO MONITOR PERFORMANCE OF SUCH AGREEMENT AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THIS BOARD

**WHEREAS**, it is economically and culturally beneficial to establish affiliations between Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "County") and other cities throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, a sister cities relationship is a long-term cooperative relationship between two cities in different countries through which cultural, art, educational, business, and technical exchanges are fostered; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Cities International is an international nonprofit organization created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for prosperity and peace by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, since its inception, Sister Cities International has worked to create global relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, which has resulted in participants developing lifelong friendships that enable communities to better tackle the world's most pressing issues at the local level, through person-to-person "citizen diplomacy"; and

**WHEREAS**, business and trade exchanges are a fundamental component of Sister Cities programs, and they help create connections between international municipal officials, institutions, and businesses that build trust, access, and expertise and help local businesses find new opportunities and resources, including access to new markets, assistance navigating import and export regulations, and introductions to new business partners; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is the Gateway to the Americas; and

**WHEREAS**, Spain is a crucial trade partner to the County, and more than 500 Spanish companies are doing business in South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, PortMiami has sister seaport agreements in place with 14 Spanish ports; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the total value of trade between Spain and South Florida exceeded \$800,000,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Madrid, in particular, is vital not only because it is the capital of Spain, but also because it is home to more than 2,000 multinational companies, because four percent of Latin America's GDP is managed by Madrid companies, because 72 percent of the largest 2,000 Spanish companies are based in Madrid, and because Madrid is one of the most populous cities in Europe; and

**WHEREAS**, another vital component of Sister Cities relationships is the exchange of arts and culture, and the County, in 2015, jointly signed a cooperation declaration with Madrid, wherein the County expressed its desire to strengthen the cultural and artistic exchange between both communities, to develop the potential of artistic partnerships between museums, art centers, theaters, performing arts companies and special events in both communities, and to explore the possibilities of exchanging artists for presentations and residencies in both communities, among other things; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Cities International recommends formalizing a sister cities relationship through execution of a memorandum of understanding between communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1981, the Miami-Dade Sister Cities Program (the “Sister Cities Program”) was founded by the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Sister Cities Program has established Sister Cities relationships with numerous cities in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sister Cities Program has developed innovative projects, furthered international cooperation and understanding between the County and its respective sister cities, and helped to promote the County’s position as the Gateway to the Americas; and

**WHEREAS**, under section 2-1501 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (the “Code”), the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium of Miami-Dade County (the “ITC”), an advisory board of this Board, is charged with, among other things, cultivating relations with the County’s Sister Cities and administering the Sister Cities Program; and

**WHEREAS**, chambers of commerce play a vital role in developing trade opportunities and promoting economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the Latin Chamber of Commerce of U.S.A. (CAMACOL), in partnership with its sister organization, CAMACOL Doral, plays a vital role in promoting economic development in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, through the work of chambers of commerce like CAMACOL and the trade missions and other entrepreneurial initiatives that they make possible, the County recognizes the importance of Sister Cities agreements and, in particular, the importance of a Sister Cities Agreement with Madrid, Spain; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the great benefits in trade, tourism, cooperation, and understanding brought by sister cities agreements, this Board would like to direct the ITC to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare a Sister Cities Agreement with Madrid, Spain, for execution by the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board:

**Section 1.** Directs the ITC to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare a Sister Cities Agreement with Madrid, Spain, in substantially the form of the agreement attached hereto, and transmit such agreement (the “Agreement”) to the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee for execution.

**Section 2.** Authorizes and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to execute such Agreement upon receipt from the ITC.

**Section 3.** Directs the ITC to monitor the performance of such executed Agreement in connection with its powers and duties under sections 2-1501 through 2-1503 of the Code.

**Section 4.** Directs the ITC to provide a report to this Board within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution regarding the status of the negotiation and execution of the Agreement and place the completed report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz and the Co-Sponsors are Vice-Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee, Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and Senator Javier D. Souto. 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:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman  
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman  
Sen. René García  
Sally A. Heyman  
Eileen Higgins  
Kionne L. McGhee  
Raquel A. Regalado  
Sen. Javier D. Souto  
Keon Hardemon  
Danielle Cohen Higgins  
Joe A. Martinez  
Jean Monestime  
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2022. 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

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Ryan C. Zagare

**SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE CITY OF MADRID, SPAIN**

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida (the “County”) and the City of Madrid, Spain (“Madrid”) (collectively, the “Parties”), desire to enter into a Sister Cities Agreement as more specifically described below:

WHEREAS, it is economically and culturally beneficial for cities throughout the world to establish affiliations with each other; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is an international nonprofit organization created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for prosperity and peace by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, business and trade exchanges are a fundamental component of Sister Cities programs, and they help create connections between international municipal officials, institutions, and businesses that build trust, access, and expertise and help local businesses find new opportunities and resources, including access to new markets, assistance navigating import and export regulations, and introductions to new business partners; and

WHEREAS, another vital component of Sister Cities relationships is the exchange of arts and culture, and, in 2015, the parties signed a cooperation declaration in which they expressed their mutual desire to strengthen the cultural and artistic exchange between them, to develop the potential of artistic partnerships between museums, art centers, theaters, performing arts companies and special events in their communities, and to explore the possibilities of exchanging artists for presentations and residencies in both communities, among other things; and

WHEREAS, the parties share an important trade relationship with one another, with the total value of trade between the County and Spain exceeding \$800,000,000.00 in 2021 alone; and

WHEREAS, the County’s seaport, PortMiami, already has sister seaport agreements with 14 seaports in Spain; and

WHEREAS, the County is the Gateway to the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Madrid, the capital of Spain and one of the most populous cities in Europe, is home to more than 2,000 multinational companies and 72 percent of the largest 2,000 Spanish companies, and Madrid companies handle four percent of Latin America’s GDP; and

WHEREAS, both Parties’ economies are based heavily on trade and tourism, and the Parties desire to further expand industry and trade ties, tourism, health, agriculture, art, and educational opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE CITY OF MADRID, SPAIN, THAT THE PARTIES MUTUALLY AGREE TO:



1. Establish a Sister Cities Agreement with each other.
2. Explore programs, arrangements, activities, transactions, agreements and other ways to enhance trade and business opportunities for the citizens of both Parties, mutually benefit economic development and growth and tourism for both Parties, and enhance prosperity for the citizens of both Parties.
3. Explore ways to increase cultural, arts, and educational exchanges between the Parties.
4. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
5. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
6. Make periodic reports and recommendations to their respective governing bodies regarding the foregoing objectives.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, WE HAVE AFFIXED OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT ON THIS DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Miami-Dade County, Florida  
 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City of Madrid, Spain  
 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_