

Memorandum



Date: October 10, 2025

To: The Honorable Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman
and Members, Miami-Dade Board of County
Commissioners

Supplement
Agenda Item No. 6(A)(1)
October 21, 2025

From: The Honorable Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners, District 10

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Rodriguez", written over the "From:" line.

Subject: Miami-Dade County Women's Hall of Fame – 2025 Inductees

On December 1, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted Resolution No. R-1173-21 establishing the Miami-Dade County Women's Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame). The Hall of Fame was created to honor and recognize women who have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and for all residents of Miami-Dade County and to preserve the legacies of important women whose contributions to Miami-Dade County should not be forgotten.

The BCC made the inaugural selection to the Hall of Fame on April 5, 2022, and the following women were selected: Roxcy Bolton, Mary Brickell, Annie Coleman, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Polita Grau, Carrie Meek, Arva Mooore Parks McCabe, Mary Athalie Range, and Julia Tuttle. The BCC then adopted Resolution No. R-376-23 on April 18, 2023, which modified the selection and induction process to the Hall of Fame. Then, on October 3, 2023, the BCC selected three more women for the Hall of Fame: Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson, and State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women (CFW) is responsible for calling for nominations, collecting those nominations, and presenting up to ten (10) candidates to the BCC Chairman for consideration. The BCC Chairman may add additional recommendations to those received from the CFW and then forwards no fewer than five recommendations to the BCC. The BCC may then select, by ballot, up to three women from the recommendations for membership to the Hall of Fame.

After reviewing the CFW's recommendations, the Chairman submits the following nominees to the BCC for consideration and induction to the 2025 Hall of Fame: Miami Beach Fire Chief Digna Abello, Barbara Baer Capitman (Posthumous), Miami-Dade County Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz, Gloria Estefan, Supervisor of Elections Alina Garcia, Dr. Lori Hanson, Emma McAllister (Posthumous), Dr. Adora Obi Nweze, Miami Dade College President Madeline Pumariega, and Sandra "Sandy" Sears.

Biographies of 2025 Women's Hall of Fame Finalists

Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz

Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz made history in 2025 as Miami-Dade County's first female sheriff. With over 29 years of distinguished service in law enforcement, she has risen through every level of the Miami-Dade Police Department, from patrol officer to assistant director. A dedicated public servant and FBI National Executive Institute alumna, Sheriff Rosie is committed to ethical leadership, community trust, and public safety innovation.

Dr. Lori Hanson

Dr. Lori Hanson is a visionary systems-builder who has transformed child and family services in Miami-Dade County. As a founding executive at The Children's Trust, she has led the development of strategic investments totaling over \$2 billion, directly impacting more than 2.2 million residents. Her work in evaluation, planning, and accountability has made The Trust a national model for ethical, data-driven community change.

Dr. Adora Obi Nweze

Dr. Adora Obi Nweze is a nationally recognized civil rights leader and longtime Miami-Dade educator. As president of the Florida State Conference NAACP and chair of its National Education Committee, she has led efforts in education equity, voting rights, and youth advocacy. Her legacy includes landmark legal challenges, policy reform, and decades of grassroots empowerment across Miami-Dade communities.

Barbara Baer Capitman (Posthumous)

Barbara Baer Capitman (1920–1990) was a pioneering preservationist who founded the Miami Design Preservation League. Her efforts saved Miami Beach's iconic Art Deco District and redefined it as a cultural and economic anchor for the region. A fierce advocate for historic preservation and urban revitalization, her legacy lives on in South Beach's global reputation as a design and tourism destination.

Emma McAllister (Posthumous)

Emma Cornelia Hatchett McAllister (1859–1936) was one of Miami's earliest women real estate developers and business leaders. She developed the McAllister Hotel—the city's first high-rise—in 1912, forever changing Miami's skyline. Her bold vision and leadership in a male-dominated era made her a true pioneer in civic and economic development.

Alina Garcia

Alina Garcia is a public servant and civic trailblazer who became Miami-Dade County's first constitutionally elected Supervisor of Elections in 2024. A former legislative aide and State Representative, she has championed bilingual access, election transparency, and grassroots voter education. Her decades of service reflect a steadfast commitment to integrity, equity, and civic participation in Miami-Dade.

Sandra “Sandy” Sears

Sandra Sears is a healthcare executive and civic leader who spent nearly 40 years at Jackson Health System, where she helped transform Jackson North into a teaching hospital. A mentor, advisor, and longtime advocate for equity in healthcare and education, she has served on national and local boards and continues to impact Miami-Dade through service, leadership, and community investment.

Chief Digna Abello

Chief Digna Abello is the first woman to lead the Miami Beach Fire Department since its founding in 1921 and the first female municipal fire chief in Miami-Dade County. With over 19 years of service, she has led major department initiatives, including Miami Beach’s COVID-19 vaccination response, and has overseen two national accreditations securing the department’s elite ISO Class 1 rating. A member of the 2025 Fire Service Executive Development Institute, she is a trailblazer committed to excellence, equity, and inspiring the next generation of women leaders in public safety.

Madeline Pumariega

Madeline Pumariega became the first woman president of Miami Dade College (MDC) in 2021. Her love for academics and service excellence began as a student at MDC and continued during her 20 years of service at the College in positions of ascending responsibility. As MDC President, she has championed a new strategic plan for the College and has prioritized working with business partners to identify the skills needed by key industries and tailoring higher education programs to match those needs, thus ensuring that MDC graduates can be successful and thrive in Miami’s diverse economy. Prior to serving as MDC President, she became the first woman and first Hispanic chancellor of the Florida College System and she also served as president and CEO of Take Stock in Children of Florida, a non-profit that provides mentors and scholarships to low-income students, all of which gives her a well-rounded perspective on the needs of today’s college students.

Gloria Estefan

Gloria Estefan is a world-renowned singer, songwriter, actress, and businesswoman. A founding mother of Latin crossover music, her awards and accolades illustrate the breadth of her talents and influence: multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy awards, induction into halls of fame, a Kennedy Center Honor in 2017, and a Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in 2018, to name just a few. Her latest album, *Raices*, has been nominated for a 2025 Latin Grammy award in the category of Album of the Year. As she marks 50 years in the music industry in 2025, the Queen of Latin Pop has spread Miami’s unique home grown sound far and wide.