

# MEMORANDUM

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Agenda Item No. 2(A)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** October 16, 2025

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing the County Mayor to determine the feasibility of direct passenger or cargo flights between Miami International Airport and the cities of Tokyo, Asuncion, Riyadh, and Singapore and, if feasible, to undertake all appropriate efforts to solicit such flights from the appropriate carriers; directing the County Mayor to provide a report to this Board on a quarterly basis regarding such feasibility or efforts; directing the County's International Trade Consortium to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare sister cities agreements with Tokyo, Riyadh, and Singapore, and transmit any such agreement to the County Mayor for execution; authorizing and directing the County Mayor to execute any such agreement upon receipt from the International Trade Consortium; and directing the International Trade Consortium to monitor performance of any such agreement and provide a report to this Board within 60 days

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.

  
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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/ks

MDC001



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** November 4, 2025

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No.

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 \_\_\_\_, majority plus one \_\_\_\_, 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) \_\_\_\_, 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

Agenda Item No.

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

Override \_\_\_\_\_

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

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF DIRECT PASSENGER OR CARGO FLIGHTS BETWEEN MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE CITIES OF TOKYO, ASUNCION, RIYADH, AND SINGAPORE AND, IF FEASIBLE, TO UNDERTAKE ALL APPROPRIATE EFFORTS TO SOLICIT SUCH FLIGHTS FROM THE APPROPRIATE CARRIERS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO THIS BOARD ON A QUARTERLY BASIS REGARDING SUCH FEASIBILITY OR EFFORTS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO NEGOTIATE AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, PREPARE SISTER CITIES AGREEMENTS WITH TOKYO, RIYADH, AND SINGAPORE, AND TRANSMIT ANY 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 ANY SUCH AGREEMENT UPON RECEIPT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM; AND DIRECTING THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO MONITOR PERFORMANCE OF ANY SUCH AGREEMENT AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THIS BOARD WITHIN 60 DAYS

**WHEREAS**, Miami International Airport ("MIA") is the gateway from the United States to the world, ranking second in international cargo and third in international passengers among U.S. airports; and

**WHEREAS**, MIA's status as a hub for international travel and trade directly benefits the local community through tourism and international trade; and

**WHEREAS**, international connections also offer indirect benefits, making it easier for international firms to operate in Miami, and providing Miami businesses with easier access to cities that are financial centers of the world and international opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, modern aircraft technology allows direct service from MIA to virtually all major international cities without the need for refueling; and

**WHEREAS**, although MIA is world-renowned as the Gateway of the Americas, MIA lacks direct passenger service to Asuncion, the capital and largest city of Paraguay, which has been one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America throughout the last decade; and

**WHEREAS**, the Middle East is an emerging business and technology hub; and

**WHEREAS**, although MIA currently has direct service with Dubai, and Doha, it lacks direct passenger service to Riyadh, which, along with the Middle East generally, is rapidly transforming into a leading global economic hub; and

**WHEREAS**, although MIA currently receives direct cargo flights from Asia, it currently does not have direct passenger service to Tokyo or Singapore; and

**WHEREAS**, Tokyo is the capital and most populous city of Japan, and is one of the world's leading economies; and

**WHEREAS**, Singapore is an island country and city-state in Southeast Asia and is also one of the world's leading economies; and

**WHEREAS**, direct passenger flights to Tokyo and Singapore would provide direct connections between Miami and Asia for tourism and business travelers; and

**WHEREAS**, continued expansion of service is critical to preserving MIA's competitive standing among U.S. airports; and

**WHEREAS**, for the foregoing reasons, the Board would like to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to determine the feasibility of direct passenger or cargo service between MIA and the cities of Singapore, Tokyo, Riyadh, and Asuncion and, if feasible, to undertake all appropriate efforts to solicit such flights from the appropriate carriers to achieve such efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the establishment of direct flight operations, it is also economically and culturally beneficial to establish affiliations between 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 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**, despite the global economic and cultural significance of Tokyo, Riyadh, and Singapore, the County currently does not have a Sister Cities relationship with any of these cities; 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**, 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 Sister Cities Agreements for execution by the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee with the cities of Tokyo, Riyadh and Singapore,

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

**Section 1.** Approves the foregoing recitals and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to determine the feasibility of direct passenger or cargo service between MIA and Singapore, Tokyo, Riyadh, and Asuncion and, if feasible, to undertake all appropriate efforts to solicit such flights from the appropriate carriers, which efforts may include partnering with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau and the Beacon Council.

**Section 2.** Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to, on a quarterly basis, provide a report to the Board, which report shall be subject to committee review, regarding such feasibility or efforts and any changes in feasibility. As part of such report, the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee may also include information regarding other markets to which direct flights are being pursued.

**Section 3.** Directs the ITC to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare Sister Cities Agreements with Tokyo, Riyadh, and Singapore, in substantially the form of the agreements attached hereto, and transmit any such agreement (the “Agreement”) to the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee for execution.

**Section 4.** Authorizes and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to execute any such Agreement upon receipt from the ITC.

**Section 5.** Directs the ITC to monitor the performance of any such executed Agreement in connection with its powers and duties under sections 2-1501 through 2-1503 of the Code.

**Section 6.** 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 any such Agreement and place the completed report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to Rule 5.06(j) of the Board’s Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.

It was offered by \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	
Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Sen. René García	Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Eileen Higgins
Natalie Milian Orbis	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, 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 TOKYO, JAPAN**

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida and Tokyo, Japan (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, the parties seek to strengthen their trade relationship with one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND TOKYO, JAPAN, 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. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
4. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
5. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tokyo, Japan

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA**

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (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, the parties seek to strengthen their trade relationship with one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, 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. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
4. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
5. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND SINGAPORE**

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida and Singapore (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, the parties seek to strengthen their trade relationship with one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND SINGAPORE, 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. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
4. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
5. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Singapore

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_