

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

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

DATE: October 21, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to suspend the disconnection of water service by the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department during the federal government shutdown and for 60 days after the end of the shutdown for active military personnel

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairman Kionne L. McGhee.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: October 21, 2025

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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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 ____, 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
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)
10-21-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO SUSPEND THE DISCONNECTION OF WATER SERVICE BY THE MIAMI-DADE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT DURING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND FOR 60 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE SHUTDOWN FOR ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (“WASD”) operates the largest water and sewer utility in the Southeastern United States and provides water and sewer services to millions of residents throughout Miami-Dade County (the “County”); and

WHEREAS, WASD’s Rules and Regulations provide WASD with the right to disconnect water service to customers who fail to pay in full the total amount due on their bills; and

WHEREAS, the federal government of the United States entered a shutdown at midnight on October 1, 2025 when lawmakers did not pass a new funding bill for federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, since the shutdown began, several federal workers have been working without pay, furloughed, or laid off; and

WHEREAS, federal workers affected by the shutdown may include active military personnel, some of whom may be County residents and WASD customers; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear how long the shutdown will last; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to ensure that affected active military personnel do not lose access to potable water if they face financial hardship,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Board directs the County Mayor to suspend the disconnection of water service due to nonpayment for active military personnel during the current federal government shutdown and for 60 days after the end of the shutdown. This temporary stay shall not act as a waiver, release, or amnesty from payment for water services that are due or any liability for tampering with water meters. This temporary stay shall also not affect WASD's other procedures for collection such as entering into payment arrangements and placement of liens. To receive the relief contemplated in this resolution, active military personnel must provide WASD with proof of current employment with the United States military.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairman Kionne L. McGhee. 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:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 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 21st day of October, 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.



Jose I. Ortega