

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(A)

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

**DATE:** January 21, 2026

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving, after a public hearing and by a three-fifths vote of the Board members present, the naming of a portion of The Underline as “The Nikki Spoelstra Play Forest” for a period of five years, renewable through and including December 31, 2040

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

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**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
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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. 5(A)  
1-21-26

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING, AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING AND BY A THREE-FIFTHS VOTE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT, THE NAMING OF A PORTION OF THE UNDERLINE AS “THE NIKKI SPOELSTRA PLAY FOREST” FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS, RENEWABLE THROUGH AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2040

**WHEREAS**, on February 6, 2018, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-120-18, approving The Underline Management Agreement (the “Management Agreement”) between Miami-Dade County and The Underline Management Organization, Inc. d/b/a The Underline Conservancy (“The Underline Conservancy”); and

**WHEREAS**, under the Management Agreement, The Underline Conservancy undertook the obligation to manage, operate, and maintain the 10-mile stretch of real property that lies underneath the Metrorail guideway, between the southern seawall of the Miami River and the Dadeland South Metrorail Station (“The Underline”); and

**WHEREAS**, to support its substantial responsibilities in managing, operating, and maintaining The Underline, the Management Agreement grants The Underline Conservancy the power to fundraise through various means, including through the marketing (by either The Underline Conservancy or its fundraising arm, Friends of the Underline, Inc. (“Friends”) of naming rights for the County facilities within The Underline; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Management Agreement, the sale of such naming rights is subject to the Board’s approval, as the Management Agreement recognizes that the Board retains the prerogative to approve the naming of any County facility and conduct due diligence prior to the sale of any naming right; and

**WHEREAS**, The Underline Conservancy notified the County that Friends had entered into a gift agreement with Nikki Spoelstra, through which Ms. Spoelstra made a gift of \$500,000.00 for an initial five-year term to Friends for the maintenance, operation, and programming of The Underline; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Spoelstra is a Miami native, having been raised in Kendall, and is known in this community as an art gallery director, middle school teacher who was selected as teacher of the year by her colleagues and administrators in 2015, Miami Heat dancer and dance coach, and as a content creator and the podcaster of *Becoming: HER* (previously known as *The Know with Nikki Spo*) in which she is joined by expert guests and other friends to empower women while tackling life's complex challenges with humor, grace, and sass; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Spoelstra's gift contemplates the naming of the area depicted in Exhibit A (consisting of approximately 21,500 square feet and excluding internal pathways), now known as The Underline Play Forest, and located within County Commission District 7, for an initial period of five years (renewable through December 31, 2040) to be known as "The Nikki Spoelstra Play Forest"; and

**WHEREAS**, The Underline Play Forest features adventure play that is designed to inspire children and families to connect with nature and healthy activity; and

**WHEREAS**, at a groundbreaking event for The Underline Play Forest, Ms. Spoelstra, a mother of three children, remarked that The Underline furthered certain goals that were important to her, including "family, community, culture, education, service, transportation, and getting people to where they want to go"; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Spoelstra’s contribution to The Underline not only furthers each of those objectives, but also contributes to the continued success of what National Geographic identified as one of the 30 most exciting destinations to visit in the world in 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Rule 9.02 of the Board’s Rules of Procedure provides that resolutions regarding the proposed naming, renaming, or co-designation of Miami-Dade County roads, facilities, or property shall be sponsored by the district commissioner where the road, facility, or property is located and shall be considered at a public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, Rule 9.02 also provides that the Board may by a three-fifths vote of the Board members present name a County road, facility, or property after a living individual who “has made a direct, significant lifetime contribution to this community,”

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

**Section 1.** Finds that Nikki Spoelstra has made a direct, significant lifetime contribution to Miami-Dade County, pursuant to Rule 9.02(d) of the Board’s Rules of Procedure, and having considered this matter at a public hearing, by a three-fifths vote of the Board members present, approves the naming of the portion of The Underline now known as “The Underline Play Forest,” as depicted in Exhibit A as “The Nikki Spoelstra Play Forest” for an initial period of five years from the effective date, renewable through and including December 31, 2040.

**Section 2.** Authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to notify The Underline Conservancy that it may take such actions as are consistent with the Management Agreement and applicable law to identify the named portion of The Underline as “The Nikki Spoelstra Play Forest.”

**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to send certified copies of this resolution to the United States Postal Service, the Traffic Signals and Signs Division of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Development Services Division of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, the Division of Environmental and Resources Management of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, and the chief executive of any municipalities in the named portion of The Underline.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. 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          | Vicki L. Lopez         |
| Natalie Milian Orbis            | Raquel A. Regalado     |
| Micky Steinberg                 |                        |

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2026. 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.

MAG

Miguel A. Gonzalez

