

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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

DATE: January 21, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing support for President Donald J. Trump's actions to order and effectuate the arrest of wanted fugitive Nicolás Maduro as well as the Trump administration's efforts to prosecute Maduro for narco-terrorism and crimes against the people of Venezuela; urging the United States Congress, President Donald J. Trump, and Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio to take all actions necessary to restore democracy in Venezuela and either support Edmundo González as the rightly elected president of Venezuela, or conduct free and fair elections that express the will of the Venezuelan people; and urging the United States Congress, President Donald J. Trump, and Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio to take additional measures to promote democracy in the Americas, including in Cuba, Nicaragua, and other nations ruled by repressive regimes

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: January 21, 2026

FROM: 
Cliff Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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. 11(A)(3)
1-21-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S ACTIONS TO ORDER AND EFFECTUATE THE ARREST OF WANTED FUGITIVE NICOLÁS MADURO AS WELL AS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO PROSECUTE MADURO FOR NARCO-TERRORISM AND CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA; URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP, AND SECRETARY OF STATE MARCO A. RUBIO TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA AND EITHER SUPPORT EDMUNDO GONZÁLEZ AS THE RIGHTLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA, OR CONDUCT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS THAT EXPRESS THE WILL OF THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP, AND SECRETARY OF STATE MARCO A. RUBIO TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN THE AMERICAS, INCLUDING IN CUBA, NICARAGUA, AND OTHER NATIONS RULED BY REPRESSIVE REGIMES

WHEREAS, many residents of Miami-Dade County are refugees of Venezuelan origin that fled the repressive, totalitarian regime currently governing Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Nicolás Maduro, the ruler of Venezuela until his recent arrest, ascended to power in 2013, succeeding Hugo Chávez, who had previously ruled the country for 14 years in an increasingly antidemocratic and authoritarian manner; and

WHEREAS, Maduro remained in power despite widely-reported election irregularities that suggest significant fraud in Venezuela's recent elections; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has accused the Maduro regime of conspiring with gangs and drug cartels to flood the streets of the United States with deadly illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, Maduro was charged in a Southern District of New York federal indictment for narco-terrorism, conspiracy to import cocaine, possession of machine guns and destructive devices, and conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices in violation of Title 21 U.S. Code §§ 960a and 963, and Title 18 U.S. Code § 924; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Nicolás Maduro and his predecessor, Venezuela has provided economic, political, and military support to foreign terrorist organizations such as the National Liberation Army (ELN); and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2026, the United States military conducted an operation in Venezuela to arrest Maduro and bring him to justice in federal court; and

WHEREAS, before dawn on that day, a large-scale strike was approved by President Donald J. Trump and reportedly carried out in Caracas by the United States Armed Forces, resulting in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment–Delta (known as “Delta Force”) of the United States Army successfully effectuating the arrest and extraction of Maduro; and

WHEREAS, Maduro is now in federal custody in New York City and awaits trial for the many crimes that he is accused of; and

WHEREAS, this Board greatly desires the return to democratic rule in Venezuela and freedom for the Venezuelan people; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the 2024 Venezuelan Presidential Election, several nations and world leaders declared opposition candidate Edmundo González as the rightful winner of the election for presidency; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of State at the time, Antony Blinken, stated that there was overwhelming evidence to support the conclusion that Edmundo González “won the most votes” in the 2024 election, and that Maduro claimed victory with “no supporting evidence”; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to urge the federal government to take all necessary measures to restore democracy in Venezuela, and either support Edmundo González as the rightly elected president of Venezuela or conduct free and fair elections that express the will of the Venezuelan people; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires that the United States government take action to promote democracy in the Americas, including in Cuba, Nicaragua, and other nations ruled by repressive regimes,

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

Section 1. Expresses support for President Donald J. Trump’s actions to order and effectuate the arrest of wanted fugitive Nicolás Maduro as well as the Trump administration’s efforts to prosecute Maduro for narco-terrorism and crimes against the people of Venezuela.

Section 2. Urges the United States Congress, President Donald J. Trump, and Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio to take all actions necessary to restore democracy in Venezuela and either support Edmundo González as the rightly elected president of Venezuela or conduct free and fair elections that express the will of the Venezuelan people.

Section 3. Urges the United States Congress, President Donald J. Trump, and Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio to take additional measures to promote democracy in the Americas, including in Cuba, Nicaragua, and other nations ruled by repressive regimes.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and the Chair and Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 5. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2026 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez. 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 21st 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.



Christian J. Fernandez-Andes