

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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


**DATE:** March 3, 2026

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio, and the United States Congress to (1) engage and consult with the Cuban exile community in deliberations concerning the future of Cuba and (2) provide resources to local governments and Cuban exile groups in South Florida, if necessary, in the event there is regime change in Cuba

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

  
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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

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MDC001



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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)(7)  
3-3-26

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

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP, SECRETARY OF STATE MARCO A. RUBIO, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO (1) ENGAGE AND CONSULT WITH THE CUBAN EXILE COMMUNITY IN DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF CUBA AND (2) PROVIDE RESOURCES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CUBAN EXILE GROUPS IN SOUTH FLORIDA, IF NECESSARY, IN THE EVENT THERE IS REGIME CHANGE IN CUBA

**WHEREAS**, for over 60 years, the Cuban people have suffered under a totalitarian regime that has denied the people of their basic rights and freedoms; and

**WHEREAS**, many Miami-Dade County residents are either refugees or descendants of refugees that fled the Cuban communist regime; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is therefore home to perhaps the largest Cuban exile community in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, Cuba has experienced shortages of food and fuel, which have become increasingly more serious; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuban government has, at times, reportedly censored their own citizens and restricted internet access within the country in order to control the flow of information into and out of the country; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these efforts at suppression of information by the Cuban government, the dire situation in the country has become apparent in the international community, and the attempts to stifle criticism of the regime from both within Cuba and among the exile community has failed; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the Trump administration's foreign policy and recent actions, Cuba reportedly has far less foreign assistance from oil producing nations that were previously subsidizing and thus enabling the regime; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly, the Cuban regime's hold on power is increasingly tenuous, and the coming months may be a critical moment for the Cuban people to rise up and transition to a democratic form of self-government with free and fair elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuban exile community has been driving the conversation on a free Cuba for decades, and has made some of the most significant contributions towards achieving a free Cuban society; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, the late Congressman Lincoln Díaz-Balart authored a democracy requirement for the lifting of U.S. sanctions against Cuba, ensuring that sanctions would not be lifted unless the Cuban government satisfied certain specific democratic conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuban exile community can contribute greatly to any potential transition to a free and democratic Cuba, and should thus play a key role in U.S. foreign policy in the event of regime change; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of federal resources to local governments and exile groups in South Florida will also be critical to a transition to a free Cuba; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wholeheartedly supports all efforts to bring about democratic reform in Cuba, and stands in solidarity with the Cuban people,

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

**Section 1.** Urges President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio, and the United States Congress to (1) engage and consult with the Cuban exile community in deliberations concerning the future of Cuba and (2) provide resources to local governments and Cuban exile groups South Florida, if necessary, in the event there is regime change in Cuba.

**Section 2.** 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 3.** Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the action described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2026 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

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 3rd day of March, 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