

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

DATE: March 17, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to expand and implement free wi-fi access in all Miami-Dade County parks, including but not limited to, through the use of existing park infrastructure and partnerships, and report back to the Board on the progress thereof within 90 days

This item was amended at the March 10, 2026 Recreation, Tourism, and Resiliency Committee meeting to require that the report to the Board include information on the timeline for wi-fi installation, the infrastructure required, and the plan for installing wi-fi at those parks that currently do not have wi-fi.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Marleine Bastien, Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and Commissioner Micky Steinberg.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/wm

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: March 17, 2026

FROM: 
Cliff Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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)(4)
3-17-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXPAND AND IMPLEMENT FREE WI-FI ACCESS IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THROUGH THE USE OF EXISTING PARK INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS, AND REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD ON THE PROGRESS THEREOF WITHIN 90 DAYS

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County ("County") has one of the largest park systems in the United States with approximately 260 parks that serve over 2.5 million residents; and

WHEREAS, currently, however, less than half of all County parks offer free wi-fi access to visitors; and

WHEREAS, providing free wi-fi at County parks is important to attract visitors who expect constant connectivity and desire to maintain uninterrupted connectivity during their outdoor adventures; and

WHEREAS, providing free wi-fi at County parks enhances connectivity in cases of emergencies and unforeseen circumstances when access to free wi-fi can be crucial for seeking and providing timely assistance as well as a safer outdoor experience; and

WHEREAS, providing free wi-fi at County parks could help improve public safety by supporting and enhancing the reach of acoustic surveillance technologies such as ShotSpotter, which detects, locates, and alerts law enforcement of potential gunfire incidents in real time through an array of acoustic sensors connected wirelessly; and

WHEREAS, providing free wi-fi at County parks can help bridge the digital divide by bringing free wi-fi access to communities with limited connectivity; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2017, this Board, recognizing the need for providing free wi-fi in County parks, passed Resolution No. R-723-17 directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to expand and implement free wi-fi access in all County parks, including but not limited through the use of existing park infrastructure and partnerships such as those under the County's Marketing Partnership Program set forth in section 2-2201 of the Miami-Dade County Code and Implementing Order 8-9 ("Marketing Partnership Program"); and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-723-17 additionally directed the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to report back to the Board on the progress of the implementation and expansion of free wi-fi within all County parks within 60 days of the passage of such resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Parks Recreation and Open Spaces Department ("PROS") explained in its subsequent report, dated February 12, 2020, that it was "committed to expanding free Wi-Fi to all its parks as part of the departmentwide effort to provide parks users with improved experiences at parks to the maximum extent that resources allow"; and

WHEREAS, the PROS report identified 66 parks that had or were planned to have free wi-fi by June 2020; and

WHEREAS, however, the PROS report did not identify any efforts or opportunities that were considered or explored for using partnerships for defraying the costs associated with bringing free wi-fi to all County parks; and

WHEREAS, to date, only 88 County parks have free wi-fi, thus leaving a large number of County parks, including parks located in digital deserts or communities with limited or without access to reliable internet, without necessary connectivity; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee once again to continue expanding and implementing free wi-fi access in all County parks, including but not limited to, through the use of existing park infrastructure and partnerships with third-party providers or sponsors such as those under the County's Marketing Partnership Program,

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

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated as fully set forth herein and are approved.

Section 2. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to expand and implement free wi-fi access in all Miami-Dade County parks, including but not limited to, through the use of existing park infrastructure and partnerships with third-party providers or sponsors such as those under the Marketing Partnership Program. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall take all necessary steps to seek state and/or federal grant funds available to provide free wi-fi access in all Miami-Dade County parks. Additionally, the expansion and implementation of free wi-fi should include the placement of firewalls and other appropriate security filters to protect children and families from accessing pornographic, violent, or other non-age-appropriate sites using the County's wi-fi network.

Section 3. This Board further directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to report back to this Board on the progress of the implementation and expansion of free wi-fi in all County parks as well as any efforts or attempts to partner with third-party providers or sponsors within 90 days of this resolution. >>Such report shall include a timeline to implement wi-fi in parks once a decision is made to install wi-fi, a description of the infrastructure necessary for wi-

fi, and the plan for installing wi-fi at those County parks that currently do not have wi-fi.<<¹ To the extent that the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee is unable to undertake such implementation and expansion of free wi-fi due to the unavailability of legally available funds or for any other reason, the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee shall report in writing to this Board within 60 days of this resolution on the reasons therefore, including all actions and efforts undertaken to seek available state and/or federal grant funding, and place the completed report on an agenda of this 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 Senator René García, and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Marleine Bastien, Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado and Commissioner Micky Steinberg. 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 | |

¹ Committee amendments are indicated as follows: Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] are deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 17th 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.

mjs

Jose D. Vazquez
Melanie J. Spencer