

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

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

DATE: May 5, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging hospitals
countywide to join the farm-to-
hospital initiative advanced by
the Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer
Services to improve patient food
quality by committing to source
whole nutritious foods from local
food producers

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Renè Garcia.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/wm

MDC001



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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**
- Requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3’s present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5’s ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 2/3 members present but not less than 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 9 votes (2/3 membership) _____) 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)(12)
5-5-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING HOSPITALS COUNTYWIDE TO JOIN THE FARM-TO-HOSPITAL INITIATIVE ADVANCED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO IMPROVE PATIENT FOOD QUALITY BY COMMITTING TO SOURCE WHOLE NUTRITIOUS FOODS FROM LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS

WHEREAS, the United States is facing an ongoing health crisis; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), diet-related chronic diseases are now responsible for nearly 60 percent of deaths nationwide, with an estimated one million Americans dying from diet-related chronic diseases each year; and

WHEREAS, additionally, nearly 90 percent of health care spending in the United States is used to treat people with chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that diet quality substantially affects health outcomes, mortality, and chronic disease progression; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2026, HHS and the United States Department of Agriculture jointly published the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030 (“DGAs”), which provides general food-based recommendations to promote health, help prevent diet-related chronic diseases, and meet nutrient needs; and

WHEREAS, these updated guidelines, which reflect the latest federal nutrition policy, emphasize diet quality, including limiting ultra-processed foods, sugar-sweetened beverages, refined carbohydrates, and added sugars, while prioritizing whole and minimally processed foods; and

WHEREAS, the DGAs include a stated purpose of supporting American farmers, ranchers, and companies who grow and produce real food; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) develops Conditions of Participation that hospitals must meet in order to begin and continue participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; and

WHEREAS, this includes a requirement that hospital menus and diets meet individual patient nutritional needs in accordance with recognized dietary practices; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2026, CMS issued a memorandum advising hospitals to review and revise their food and nutrition service policies, standard menus, therapeutic diet protocols, and food procurement practices to align with the DGAs; and

WHEREAS, as described by CMS, this includes, but is not limited to: (i) emphasizing vegetables, fruits, legumes, nuts, seeds, seafood, and healthy fats; (ii) prioritizing minimally-processed protein sources; (iii) eliminating refined grains and replacing them with 100 percent whole grains; (iv) eliminating sugar-sweetened beverages unless clinically appropriate; and (v) eliminating processed meats and foods high in added sugars, sodium, and artificial additives; and

WHEREAS, according to CMS, aligning patient food services with these standards may support improved patient outcomes, reduced cardiometabolic risk, enhanced recovery, and responsible stewardship of Medicare resources; and

WHEREAS, further, HHS and the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture recently announced the development of a state-led initiative to promote partnerships between Florida hospitals and farmers, to encourage hospitals to source food from local producers in a way that aligns with federal dietary guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Florida farm-to-hospital initiative supports expanding farm-to-hospital purchasing and streamlined sourcing pathways for local producers, workforce and training programs connected to nutrition services and food preparation, medically tailored meal strategies designed for specific patient populations, and partnerships that help hospitals improve food quality and nutrient density across menus; and

WHEREAS, Nicklaus Children’s Hospital has already joined the initiative, pledging to spend a portion of its yearly food and drink budget on nutritious, whole foods from Florida farmers; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports this Florida farm-to-hospital initiative; and

WHEREAS, hospitals have a responsibility to ensure that the food and nutrition services to patients under their care support high-quality, evidence-based care and improved health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, patients’ meals should be tailored to assist in the treatment of their conditions, with a goal of promoting faster recovery, fewer complications, and long-term health; and

WHEREAS, this Board encourages other Miami-Dade County hospitals to participate in Florida’s farm-to-hospital initiative,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board urges hospitals countywide to join the farm-to-hospital initiative advanced by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to improve patient food quality by committing to source whole nutritious foods from local food producers.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García. 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 5th day of
May, 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.

KMM

Kevin M. Marker
Christopher C. Kokoruda