

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 3(A)(3)

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

DATE: October 6, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving
the City of Miami's
codesignation of that portion
of Franklin Avenue between
southwest 37th Avenue
(Douglas Road) and Plaza
Street as "Rev. Theodore and
Thelma Gibson Way"

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh

MDC001



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 6, 2026

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 3(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
- ☐ 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. 3(A)(3)
10-6-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF MIAMI'S
CODESIGNATION OF THAT PORTION OF FRANKLIN
AVENUE BETWEEN SOUTHWEST 37TH AVENUE
(DOUGLAS ROAD) AND PLAZA STREET AS "REV.
THEODORE AND THELMA GIBSON WAY"

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2026, the Commission of the City of Miami (the "City") adopted City Resolution No. R-26-0126, codesignating that portion of Franklin Avenue between Southwest 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) and Plaza Street as "Rev. Theodore and Thelma Gibson Way"; and

WHEREAS, a copy of City Resolution No. R-26-0126 is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Theodore R. Gibson ("Rev. Gibson") served as one of Miami's most influential civil rights leaders, a faith leader, and a public servant, including serving as a City of Miami Commissioner for over nine (9) years and twice as Vice-Mayor, while advancing equality in education, housing, public accommodations, and civic representation; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson played a central role in advancing civil rights in Miami throughout the 1950s and 1960s, challenging discriminatory practices in education, housing, public accommodations, and public transportation, and helping lead the movement that reshaped equal access for all Miami residents; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thelma Vernell Anderson Gibson (“Mrs. Gibson”) was a pioneering healthcare leader, surgical nurse, and community advocate who overcame systemic barriers to serve on the Jackson Health System Board for 15 years, on the University of Miami Board of Trustees for two decades, and as interim Miami City Commissioner in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gibson overcame discriminatory barriers in the nursing and medical training fields during the 1940s and 1950s, ultimately becoming a leading healthcare advocate and one of Miami’s most influential figures in improving health access and health equity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gibson’s decades of civic service, significantly strengthened Miami’s healthcare infrastructure and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Gibsons’ combined service to the Miami and South Florida community spans several decades, during which they championed civil rights, access to healthcare, improved education, and civic participation, leaving a generational impact on Coconut Grove and beyond; and

WHEREAS, their historic family residence is located on Franklin Avenue, making this location emblematic of their life’s work and dedication to public service; and

WHEREAS, the codesignation of Franklin Avenue between 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) and Plaza Street as “Rev. Theodore and Thelma Gibson Way” will serve as a lasting tribute to their legacy and a source of pride and inspiration for residents of the community; and

WHEREAS, that portion of Franklin Avenue between Southwest 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) and Plaza Street is a city-maintained road located in the City; and

WHEREAS, the codesignation is located in County Commission District 7,

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

Section 1. Approves the City of Miami's codesignation of that portion of Franklin Avenue between Southwest 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) and Plaza Street as "Rev. Theodore and Thelma Gibson Way".

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Mayor, City Commission, City Manager, and City Clerk of the City of Miami, 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 Regulatory and Economic Resources Department, the City of Miami Fire Rescue Department, and the City of Miami Police Department.

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 6th day of October, 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.

D.P.C

Dale P. Clarke



City of Miami Certified Copy

City Hall
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133
www.miamigov.com

File Number: 18917

Enactment Number: R-26-0126

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, BY A FOUR-FIFTHS AFFIRMATIVE (4/5THS) VOTE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 54-137 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA ("CITY CODE"), WAIVING ANY RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO CO-DESIGNATING FRANKLIN AVENUE BETWEEN SOUTHWEST 37TH AVENUE (DOUGLAS ROAD) AND PLAZA STREET AS "REV. THEODORE AND THELMA GIBSON WAY" IN HONOR OF THE GIBSONS' HISTORIC AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF MIAMI; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO EFFECTUATE THE CO-DESIGNATION; AND FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE HEREIN DESIGNATED OFFICIALS.

SPONSOR(S): Mayor Eileen T. Higgins, Commissioner Damian Pardo, Commissioner Rolando Escalona, Commissioner Ralph "Rafael" Rosado, Commissioner Christine King

WHEREAS, Rev. Theodore R. Gibson ("Rev. Gibson") served as one of Miami's most influential civil rights leaders, a faith leader, and a public servant, including serving as a City of Miami Commissioner for over nine (9) years and twice as Vice-Mayor, while advancing equality in education, housing, public accommodations, and civic representation; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson played a central role in advancing civil rights in Miami throughout the 1950s and 1960s, challenging discriminatory practices in education, housing, public accommodations, and public transportation, and helping lead the movement that reshaped equal access for all Miami residents; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thelma Vernell Anderson Gibson ("Mrs. Gibson") was a pioneering healthcare leader, surgical nurse, and community advocate who overcame systemic barriers to serve on the Jackson Health System Board for fifteen (15) years, on the University of Miami Board of Trustees for two (2) decades, and as interim Miami City Commissioner in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gibson overcame discriminatory barriers in the nursing and medical training fields during the 1940s and 1950s, ultimately becoming a leading healthcare advocate and one of Miami's most influential figures in improving health access and health equity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gibson's decades of civic service, significantly strengthened Miami's healthcare infrastructure and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Gibsons' combined service to the Miami and South Florida community spans several decades, during which they championed civil rights, access to healthcare, improved education, and civic participation, leaving a generational impact on Coconut Grove and beyond; and

WHEREAS, their historic family residence is located on Franklin Avenue, making this location emblematic of their life's work and dedication to public service; and

WHEREAS, the co-designation of Franklin Avenue between Southwest 37th Avenue and Plaza Street as "Rev. Theodore and Thelma Gibson Way" will serve as a lasting tribute to their legacy and a source of pride and inspiration for residents of the community; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 14317, adopted on September 26, 2024, provides that the restrictions related to street co-designations contained in Section 54-137 of the Code of the City of Miami, Florida ("City Code"), may be waived by a four-fifths (4/5ths) affirmative vote of the City Commissioners, or an unanimous vote of the quorum that exists because of either abstentions or vacancies resulting from resignation, death, suspension, or physical incapacitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. The Miami City Commission, by a four-fifths affirmative (4/5ths) vote, pursuant to Section 54-137 of the City Code, hereby waives any restrictions related to the co-designation of Franklin Avenue between Southwest 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) and Plaza Street as "Rev. Theodore and Thelma Gibson Way."

Section 3. The City Manager is directed to take all necessary steps to effectuate this co-designation, including but not limited to the installation of appropriate signage.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Departments of Police, Fire-Rescue, and Solid Waste; the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works; the Miami-Dade County Commissioner of District 7; the United States Postal Service; and, if applicable, the Florida Department of Transportation, District Six, for sign installation within the newly designated roadway.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

DATE:	3/12/2026
RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Ralph "Rafael" Rosado, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Miguel Angel Gabela, Commissioner
AYES:	Christine King, Miguel Angel Gabela, Damian Pardo, Rolando Escalona, Ralph "Rafael" Rosado

I, Todd B. Hannon, City Clerk of the City of Miami, Florida, and keeper of the records thereof, do hereby certify that this constitutes a true and correct copy of Resolution No. R-26-0126, passed by the City Commission on 3/12/2026.



City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk
(for Todd B. Hannon, City
Clerk)

March 24, 2026
Date Certified