

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 4(B)

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

DATE: October 20, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Ordinance related to the South Dade
Black History Center (“Center”) and the
South Dade Black History Center
Advisory Board (“SDAB”); amending
articles XLVI and CLXVI of the Code;
renaming the Center and SDAB; making
technical revisions; suspending Rule
5.06(a) by a two-thirds vote of Board
members present as related to the
preparation and enactment of ordinances
and resolutions

The accompanying ordinance was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairman Kionne L. McGhee.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 20, 2026

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 4(B)

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. 4(B)
10-20-26

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ORDINANCE RELATED TO THE SOUTH DADE BLACK HISTORY CENTER (“CENTER”) AND THE SOUTH DADE BLACK HISTORY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD (“SDAB”); AMENDING ARTICLES XLVI AND CLXVI OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; RENAMING THE CENTER AND SDAB; MAKING TECHNICAL REVISIONS; SUSPENDING RULE 5.06(A) BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AS RELATED TO THE PREPARATION AND ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN AND EXCLUSION FROM THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the South Dade Black History Center (“Center”) serves as an educational resource to visitors and provides them with information about the history of South Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, despite its name, the Center does not limit its resources and programming solely to matters focused on Black History; and

WHEREAS, rather, the Center’s focus is on preserving, promoting, and educating the public about the diverse and comprehensive history of South Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2021, this Board approved Ordinance No. 21-46, which created the South Dade Black History Center Advisory Board (“SDAB”); and

WHEREAS, the SDAB is housed in the Center and was created to assist with the operation and management of the Center and serve as a resource to this Board; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to fully capture the broader historical mission and scope of the Center and SDAB, this Board desires to rename both entities; and

WHEREAS, the Center shall be renamed the South Dade History Center and the SDAB shall be renamed the South Dade History Center Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to amend sections of the Code that reference the Center and SDAB to reflect their new names,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Article XLVI of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:¹

ARTICLE XLVI. SOUTH DADE ~~[[BLACK]]~~ HISTORY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.

Sec. 2-431. - Creation and purpose.

The South Dade ~~[[Black]]~~ History Center Advisory Board (“SDAB”) is hereby created. The purpose of the SDAB is to assist with the operation and management of the South Dade ~~[[Black]]~~ History Center (“~~[[Black History]]~~ Center”) and serve as a resource to the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) for matters related to the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center and other related matters of interest to ~~[[the Black]]~~ communities in South Miami-Dade County.

Sec. 2-432. - Composition; membership.

(a) Composition. The SDAB shall be comprised of a total of nine voting members. Each member of the SDAB shall be appointed by the sitting County Commissioner of District 9, where the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center is housed ~~[[and where the vast majority of South Miami-Dade County’s Black communities are located]]~~.

¹ Words stricken through and/or ~~[[double bracketed]]~~ shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

- (b) Qualifications. Each member of the SDAB shall be a permanent resident and duly qualified elector of Miami-Dade County in accordance with Section 2-11.38 of the Code, as may be amended, and shall have knowledge of and interest in ~~[[Black History and]]~~ matters of importance to ~~[[the Black]]~~ communities in South Miami-Dade County.
- (c) Compensation. SDAB members shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for parking in a County leased or owned parking facility.
- (d) Vacancies. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner by which original members were appointed.
- (e) Tenure and Removal. All SDAB members shall serve four-year terms. The term limits of SDAB members shall be in accordance with Section 2-11.38.2 of the Code, as may be amended. The sitting District 9 County Commissioner who has appointed the members of the SDAB may at any time, with or without cause, remove said board members from the SDAB by filing a notice with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners (“Clerk of the Board”) and appointing different persons to fill the position.
- (f) Attendance. Attendance requirements for members shall be in accordance with Section 2-11.39 of the Code, as may be amended.

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Sec. 2-435. - Duties; powers; responsibilities.

The SDAB shall have the following duties, powers and responsibilities:

- (a) The SDAB shall provide this Board with information pertaining to the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center and advise the Board on matters of interest to ~~[[the Black]]~~ communities in South Miami-Dade County.
- (b) The SDAB shall support the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center in carrying out its purpose.
- (c) The SDAB shall assist in raising funds to support the administration and operation of the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center and related efforts.

- (d) The SDAB shall develop policies, activities or programming related to collections, conservation, exhibitions, and education at the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center.
- (e) Notwithstanding any provision in the Code to the contrary, the SDAB shall be authorized to accept and solicit gifts of money or services for the public purposes provided for in this article.
- (f) The SDAB shall prepare, on an annual basis, the SDAB's budget request so as to be considered as part of the annual budget process, including the amount of funds that are needed for deposit into the SDAB Trust Fund for programming at the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center.
- (g) The SDAB shall expend funds for the purposes provided in this article. The SDAB shall only be authorized to expend funds deposited in the SDAB Trust Fund. All expenditures of the SDAB shall be subject to a county audit.
- (h) The SDAB shall assist in the solicitation and approval of grant agreements for the public purposes provided for in this article. The SDAB shall assist in the application for grants to the SDAB for the public purposes provided in this article and may recommend to the Board, for its approval, all such grant agreements for the County's receipt of funds. All funds received pursuant to grant agreements shall be deposited in the SDAB Trust Fund.
- (i) The SDAB may recommend to the Board, for the Board's approval, contracts with agencies, corporations, persons or other entities, including but not limited to grant agreements, in amounts within the SDAB Trust Fund. The SDAB shall only recommend grant agreements distributing funds to a third-party to the extent that funds are currently available in the SDAB Trust Fund.
- (j) The SDAB shall monitor the performance and enforcement of all SDAB contracts approved by the Board.
- (k) The SDAB shall act as an advisor to the Board on all other policy matters pertaining to ~~[[Black History in]]~~ >>history of<< South Miami-Dade County, as may be requested by the Board.

- (l) The SDAB shall report at least annually to the Board as to its activities, recommendations, and other relevant issues and shall appear as needed before the Board to present any matters pertinent to the SDAB. The completed reports required by this section shall be placed on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Sec. 2-436. - Financial support for the SDAB.

There is hereby created the South Dade ~~[[Black]]~~ History Center Advisory Board Trust Fund for the public purposes provided for in this article. The Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to establish the South Dade ~~[[Black]]~~ History Center Advisory Board Trust Fund and disburse monies in accordance with the provisions of this article. Funds deposited into the Trust Fund may be used to support activities and programing at the ~~[[Black History]]~~ Center as well as conferences, projects, and special events, including the purchase of food, which further the purposes of the SDAB.

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Section 2. Article CLXVI of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE CLXVI. - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Sec. 2-2427. - Creation and Functions.

The Office of Community Advocacy is hereby established.

- (a) The Office of Community Advocacy shall provide administrative support to those advisory boards established by the County Commission as set forth in this section and perform any other functions established by the County Commission. The following advisory boards shall receive administrative support from the Office of Community Advocacy:

- (1) Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board;
- (2) Miami-Dade County Interfaith Advisory Board;
- (3) Miami-Dade County Commission for Women;

- (4) Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board;
- (5) Miami-Dade County Black Affairs Advisory Board;
- (6) Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board;
- (7) Miami-Dade County Asian-American Advisory Board;
- (8) Miami-Dade County Elder Affairs Advisory Board;
- (9) Miami-Dade County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Plus (“LGBTQIA+”) Advisory Board;
- (10) The Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council for Miami-Dade County;
- (11) South Dade [[Black]] History Center Advisory Board; and
- (12) Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board.

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Sec. 2-2428. - Director.

The Office of Community Advocacy shall be headed by an executive director, who shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the County Commission in accordance with the following process. The selection process shall be open and competitive and shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Establishment of an Ad Hoc Executive Director Screening Committee (“Screening Committee”) responsible for the screening and preliminary interviewing of candidates. The Screening Committee shall be comprised of five members of the County Commission appointed by the Chairperson of the County Commission.

2. The County Human Resources Department, or its successor department, shall advertise the availability of the position of the executive director and shall provide the Screening Committee with a list of qualified candidates.
3. The Screening Committee shall screen, interview and evaluate applicants for the position of executive director and propose a slate of the top three candidates for the Chairperson of the County Commission's consideration. The Screening Committee shall be staffed by the Human Resources Department, or successor department.
4. The Chairperson of the County Commission shall interview and select the executive director from the slate presented by the Screening Committee, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the County Commission members present at the next regularly scheduled County Commission meeting after the selection.

The executive director shall have the power to appoint, employ, remove, and supervise such assistants, employees, and personnel, including program officers for the advisory boards that the Office of Community Advocacy supports, as deemed necessary to provide appropriate support for the functions of the Office of Community Advocacy.

However, the power to appoint and remove the program officer and other staff support for the South Dade ~~[[Black]]~~ History Center Advisory Board shall be delegated to the sitting County Commissioner of District 9, where the South Dade ~~[[Black]]~~ History Center is housed~~[[and where the vast majority of South Miami Dade County's Black communities are located]]~~. The executive director may be removed at any time with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the full membership of the County Commission then in office. However, the Chairperson of the County Commission shall have the authority, on behalf of the County Commission, to counsel the executive director and, if applicable, impose appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal after consultation with the County's Human Resources Department and the County Attorney's Office.

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Section 3. This Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to take all necessary steps to ensure that the South Dade Black History Center is referenced by its new name, the South Dade History Center, in all County records, materials, and communications, including signage and other public-facing references.

Section 4. This Board, by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present, suspends Rule 5.06(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the County Commission related to the preparation and enactment of resolutions and ordinances solely for the Board's consideration and approval of this ordinance.

Section 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 6. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance, including any sunset provision, shall become and be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 7. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED:

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency:



Prepared by:



Shanika A. Graves

Prime Sponsor: Vice Chairman Kionne L. McGhee