Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: October 6, 2026

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(13)
November 17, 2026

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

Subject: Action to Bring the Organization of American States Headquarters to Miami-Dade County – Directive No. 250085

This report is in response to Resolution No. R-84-25, sponsored by Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on January 22, 2025. The Resolution directed the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to take all appropriate action to help bring the Organization of American States (OAS) headquarters to Miami-Dade County, including, and if necessary, to negotiate an agreement with the OAS for this Board's review and approval.

Executive Summary

On March 20, 2026, Mayor Levine Cava transmitted a letter to Marco Rubio, Secretary of State of the United States, expressing Miami-Dade County's interest in permanently hosting the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Miami-Dade County and respectfully requesting the opportunity to engage with the United States Department of State to further discuss the proposal (see Attachment A). The letter notes that relocating the OAS headquarters to Miami-Dade would strengthen hemispheric engagement, enhance operational accessibility, and reinforce the United States' commitment to regional cooperation and democratic governance across the Americas.

Miami-Dade's position as the principal gateway between North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean, combined with its multilingual workforce, international diplomatic presence, and global air connectivity, offers a compelling strategic platform for an institution whose mission centers on inter-American collaboration. A response from Secretary Rubio's office was received Friday April 3, 2026, confirming receipt of the statement of interest and that the request was forwarded to the appropriate channels of communication with OAS for review and consideration.

Organization of American States (OAS)

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the principal multilateral political organization of the Western Hemisphere, bringing together 35 independent countries of the Americas to advance democracy, human rights, security, and economic cooperation across the region. Established in 1948, its headquarters has long been based in Washington, D.C., where it operates from a diplomatic campus centered around the historic Pan American Union Building and four adjacent administrative buildings near the White House, U.S. Department of State, and other major international institutions. The OAS is led by a Secretary General and governed through its General Assembly and Permanent Council, where each member state maintains diplomatic representation.

The United States plays a central role in the organization through its Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OAS. Procedurally, the Ambassador is appointed by the

President and confirmed by the Senate. The Ambassador then works under the policy direction of the United States Department of State. The Washington headquarters supports an estimated 400 to 600 staff, while an additional 200 to 400 diplomats from member-state missions interact regularly through OAS bodies, creating a hemispheric diplomatic ecosystem of roughly 600 to 1,000 professionals in Washington.

It is important to note, the OAS remains the primary forum for collective action in the Americas on issues ranging from election observation and democratic governance to regional crisis response and intergovernmental dialogue. Recent examples include OAS support for the democratic transition following Guatemala's 2023 election and its longstanding role in facilitating peaceful dialogue between Belize and Guatemala over their territorial dispute.

Next Steps
The County will continue to engage with the U.S. Department of State and appropriate OAS representatives to assess interest in Miami-Dade County as a potential location for the OAS headquarters. Should there be interest in advancing the proposal, the administration will evaluate potential facility requirements, costs, partnerships, and other considerations necessary to support a relocation. Any proposed agreement requiring Board approval will be presented to the Board for consideration.

This report will be placed on the next available Board agenda pursuant to Rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure. Should you need further information, please contact James Kohnstamm, Director, Economic Development, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, at 305-375-5893 or james.kohnstamm@miamidade.gov.

Attachment

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Jess M. McCarty, First Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Department Directors
Christina M. Cicilia, Director, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board Division
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

Attachment A

DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Relocation of the Organization of American States Headquarters in Miami-Dade

Dear Secretary Rubio:

As Mayor of Miami-Dade County, I write to express my interest in permanently hosting the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Miami-Dade. In support of this effort, please find enclosed Resolution R-84-25, recently adopted by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.

Miami-Dade is known as the "Gateway to the Americas" and is uniquely positioned to serve as the headquarters of the OAS. Our geographic proximity to Latin America and the Caribbean, direct air connectivity to nearly every OAS member state, and strong business and cultural ties with the region make Miami-Dade the ideal location.
Relocating the OAS headquarters to Miami-Dade would further strengthen hemispheric engagement, enhance operational efficiency, and reinforce the United States' commitment to regional cooperation and democratic governance across the Americas.

We respectfully request the opportunity to engage with the Department of State to further discuss this proposal and outline the advantages our community offers. My office stands ready to coordinate at your convenience regarding next steps.

Thank you for your service to our nation and we look forward to working closely with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Daniella Levine Cava
Daniella Levine Cava