

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(6)

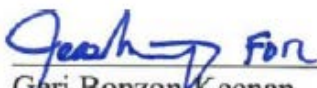
TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 20, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving 2027 state legislative package including guiding principles, resolutions urging the Florida Legislature adopted by the Board, and departmental legislative requests; waiving provisions of Resolution No. R-764-13 related to setting legislative priorities

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Anthony Rodriguez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/smm

MDC001



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. 11(A)(6)

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)(6)
10-20-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2027 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE INCLUDING GUIDING PRINCIPLES, RESOLUTIONS URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD, AND DEPARTMENTAL LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS; WAIVING PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION NO. R-764-13 RELATED TO SETTING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the 2027 session of the Florida Legislature is scheduled to convene on March 2, 2027; and

WHEREAS, committee meetings leading up to the 2027 session are scheduled to begin the week of November 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2012, this Board approved Resolution No. R-59-12, which directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, when it presents the proposed federal or state legislative agendas, respectively, to the Board, to include all “urging” resolutions and other resolutions related to federal or state legislation passed by the Board of County Commissioners to date for the current Congress or session; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2013, this Board approved Resolution No. R-764-13, which directs that the federal and state legislative packages each be presented to the Board in two separate items, one consisting of no more than ten priorities for distribution to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and the other to include guiding principles, Board “urging” resolutions enacted to date and departmental legislative requests for approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board would like to waive the provisions of Resolution No. R-764-13 relating to setting legislative priorities for the 2027 session; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2027 state legislative package including guiding principles, resolutions urging the Florida Legislature enacted through and including the October 6, 2026 Board meeting, and departmental legislative requests are attached to this resolution and incorporated by reference,

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

Section 1. Approves the proposed 2027 state legislative package including guiding principles, resolutions urging the Florida Legislature adopted through and including the October 6, 2026 Board meeting, and the departmental legislative requests that are attached to this resolution and incorporated by reference.

Section 2. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issues set forth in section 1 above for the 2027 session.

Section 3. Waives the provisions of Resolution No. R-764-13 relating to setting legislative priorities for the 2027 session.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Anthony Rodriguez. 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 20th 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.



Jess McCarty
Michael J. Mastrucci
Christian J. Fernandez-Andes



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2027 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Home Rule and Preemption: ***SUPPORT*** preservation of local home rule; ***OPPOSE*** any effort to preempt local authority.

State Funding, Cost Shifts and Unfunded Mandates: ***SUPPORT*** preservation of existing state funding for County programs. ***OPPOSE*** any additional cost shifts or unfunded mandates from the state to the County, and any reductions in County revenue, revenue sharing, or funding from the state. ***OPPOSE*** any measure that would adversely affect County revenues, including measures affecting or relating to property taxes.

Protect Previous State Funding: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to secure the same level of state funding for County programs as the previous year.

Promote Partnerships: ***SUPPORT*** partnerships with the state, other counties, municipalities, statewide associations, and any other entity that would help create favorable outcomes for the County.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted through October 6, 2026

R-769-26: RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO CONVEY STATE-OWNED REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDEVELOPMENT (Gilbert)

R-679-26: RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO AMEND STATUTES OR REGULATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE, TO REQUIRE THAT RETAIL GAS STATIONS SELLING MOTOR FUELS CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAY BOTH CASH AND CREDIT PRICE OPTIONS FOR MOTOR FUEL PRICES ON ALL SIGNAGE (Steinberg)

R-438-26: RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD DESIGNATE THE AMERICAN FLAMINGO AS THE OFFICIAL FLORIDA STATE BIRD (Milian Orbis)

R-193-26: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT H.R. 7221, WHICH AMENDS THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940 TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN LARGE PRIVATE FUNDS AND REGISTERED INVESTMENT COMPANIES FROM PURCHASING SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT LIMITS THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSING UNITS THAT MAY BE OWNED OR ACQUIRED BY CORPORATIONS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ENTITIES IN ORDER TO PROTECT HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, PROMOTE HOMEOWNERSHIP, AND PRESERVE COMMUNITY STABILITY; URGING THAT SUCH LEGISLATION INCLUDE CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS OR CONSIDERATIONS; AND URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT SIMILAR LEGISLATION (Garcia)

R-_____: RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM CAPITAL PROJECTS (Garcia)

R-_____: RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION EXPANDING FLORIDA'S "RIGHT TO TRY ACT" TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO ACCESS CERTAIN INVESTIGATIONAL DRUGS, BIOLOGICS AND MEDICAL DEVICES TO TREAT MORE THAN JUST TERMINAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS (Gonzalez)

R-_____: RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT LEGISLATION REQUIRING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES OPERATING ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO BE REGISTERED IN FLORIDA AND TO DISPLAY VALID FLORIDA LICENSE PLATES (Milian Orbis)

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS BY POLICY AREA

Policy Area: Transportation and Ports

Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)

Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Program: ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding for the advancement of Miami-Dade's SMART Program, including the North, Northeast, Beach, East-West, and Flagler corridors, and ensure that legislation restores funding for the New Starts Program using revenue received by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) from Documentary Stamp Tax proceeds at or above the FY 2025-26 level.

Funding for Tri-Rail: ***SUPPORT*** continued statutory-level funding by FDOT for Tri-Rail operations and maintenance.

Rural Roadway Resurfacing: ***SUPPORT*** the commitment of a funding program for milling and resurfacing the roadway network within the South Miami-Dade agricultural area. Road improvements in this area are critical to the agricultural economy and will improve reliability, safety, and traffic flow.

Safety Improvements along SW 328 Street from Entrance to Homestead Bayfront Park to SW 117 Avenue: ***SUPPORT*** the commitment of funding for safety improvements including canal stabilization and guardrail safety improvements along SW 328 Street. The scope of work includes repair, restoration and stabilization of the canal bank erosion. There is an immediate need to restore canal bank and erosion control to protect the canal from pollutants that are harmful to water quality and flood control throughout the canal network. The canal along SW 328 Street has experienced widespread erosion, which could compromise the structural integrity of the roadway that is located parallel to the canal. The guardrail installation will provide adequate protection for vehicles traveling parallel to the canal, preventing runoff accidents. The project will provide various benefits to the County by simultaneously restoring the canal bank and increasing reliability and safety to the corridor.

Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Projects: ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding for the installation and retrofit of stormwater drainage infrastructure to mitigate localized flooding, enhance stormwater conveyance and storage capacity, and improve stormwater quality for the following project areas: (1) NW 58 Avenue from NW 198 Terrace to NW 194 Terrace; (2) NW 30 Place from NW 106 Street to NW 103 Street; (3) SW 81 Avenue from SW 2 Street to SW 4 Street; (4) SW 136 Avenue between SW 39 Lane to SW 40 Lane; and (5) SW 20 Street between SW 22 Street from SW 97 Avenue to SW 100 Avenue.

Property Elevation Program: *SUPPORT* the provision and expansion of funding to assist property owners and renters with hazard mitigation assistance, including structural elevations in areas vulnerable to chronic flooding and storm surge in order to reduce safety and health risks from flood events and repetitive property damage. *SUPPORT* the expansion of and the provision of funding for the My Safe Florida Home Program. (DERM and DTPW)

Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

Funding of Aviation Capital Projects: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for airport development that is equal to or above what FDOT has programmed in its Tentative Work Plan for FY 2027. MDAD has several capital projects included in the FY 2026 Tentative Work Program and is scheduled to receive \$12,011,867 in state grant funds.

PortMiami (PORT)

Ship-to-Shore Gantry Cranes: *ADVOCATE* for the provision of funding to assist PortMiami in the purchasing of ship-to-shore (STS) gantry cranes. PortMiami cargo volumes have exceeded the capacity of the Port's existing cargo ship-to-shore (STS) gantry cranes, creating a bottleneck that threatens efficiency, supply chain reliability, and U.S. competitiveness. With the anticipated retirement of 2 gantry cranes, and given the continued increase in utilization of the existing Super Post-Panamax (SPPX) gantry cranes, the Port requires additional SPPX gantry cranes to efficiently support growing load-on/load-off of cargo containers for continued, seamless supply chain operations and serve larger container vessels calling at PortMiami. A state appropriation, combined with Port funding, would help cover the increased cost of one new STS gantry crane where prices increased roughly \$12 million to as much as \$40 million.

PortMiami North Bulkhead Improvement Project: *ADVOCATE* for the provision of funding for the North Bulkhead Improvement project. The North Bulkhead Improvement project is a critical infrastructure investment that will preserve and enhance PortMiami's operational capacity as the Cruise Capital of the World and Florida's premier cruise gateway. The existing north bulkhead has reached the end of its useful service life. The project will replace and realign approximately 7,200 linear feet of aging waterfront infrastructure, creating a modern cruise berth system designed to serve the industry's largest and most advanced vessels while improving navigational safety, operational efficiency, and berth utilization. In addition to replacing aging infrastructure, the project significantly enhances the Port's resilience by incorporating modern engineering standards that improve resistance to storm surge, vessel loading, and extreme weather events.

PortMiami Roadway Improvements: *ADVOCATE* for the provision of funding for the PortMiami Roadway Improvements project. PortMiami is one of the busiest combined

cruise and cargo ports in the world, serving more than eight million cruise passengers annually while supporting the movement of containerized cargo through a constrained transportation network that relies on two primary access points, the Port Tunnel and the Port Bridge. The 2025 Transportation Master Plan identified multiple roadway bottlenecks that are currently constraining traffic flow and will worsen as future cruise and cargo demand increases. The PortMiami Roadway Improvements project directly supports the Seaport Access focus area by enhancing the primary surface transportation network that connects cargo trucks, cruise passengers, and service vehicles to port terminals and to the regional and interstate highway system.

Policy Area: Environment and Resilience

Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM)

DERM Project Funding Requests: **SUPPORT** the provision of funding for: (1) the Biscayne Bay Water Quality Grant Program, Water Quality Improvement Grant Program, and other funding for water quality including for the purchase of water quality sampling equipment and the enhancement of public outreach and education efforts with respect to water quality; (2) the South Dade Mangrove Forests Restoration through the Thin Layer Placement project; (3) local programs engaged in marine-related code enforcement and boater safety-oriented activities as well as enforcement of newly established provisions allowed under Fla. Stat. § 327.60(2)(f); (4) tree plantings at school sites, street tree sites, and countywide forests; (5) comprehensive wildfire mitigation and risk reduction implementation projects for all fire dependent habitats managed by EEL; (6) the urgent relocation of the DERM Laboratory.

Everglades Restoration and Environmentally Endangered Lands: **SUPPORT** complete implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), legislation, regulations, prioritization, and financial support for restoration, including, but not limited to Miami-Dade projects such as the Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Project (BBSEER) and projects that restore natural flows to the Southern Everglades and Biscayne Bay, as well as regional project such as the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir, storage and treatment in the Northern Everglades, projects that protect east and west coast estuaries, and projects that restore natural flows to Florida Bay. **SUPPORT** legislation for the appropriation of funds for Miami-Dade County to purchase environmentally endangered lands on the County's EEL Acquisition List or otherwise related to CERP projects, as well as grant programs that would fund the same.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Production: **OPPOSE** any oil exploration and drilling in the state or off the coast of Florida, including within Florida's territorial waters and the Everglades, including any form of extreme well stimulation, such as hydraulic and acid fracturing, and seismic surveying. **OPPOSE** oil exploration and drilling on federal lands in Florida and federal waters surrounding Florida and in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Florida's Coral Reef Restoration Goals: ***SUPPORT***, ***MONITOR***, and ***ADVOCATE*** for legislation and the reinstatement of sufficient funding to support Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery (FCR3) established by Executive Order 23-06. Florida's Coral Reef is an \$8.5 billion asset that protects shorelines, drives tourism, and supports fisheries. Coral reefs act as natural barriers against storm surge and erosion, reducing the risk of a 100-year flood by 20 percent for nearby properties.

Nature-Based Solutions for Resilience: ***SUPPORT*** legislation that facilitates greater use of natural and nature-based features in private and public development, including through State grant funding and capital project prioritization evaluation criteria, to protect against compound flooding, water quality impacts, storm surge, sea level rise, and extreme heat.

Resilient Land Use/Planning and Green Space: ***SUPPORT*** legislation, regulations, and policy to adopt land use, zoning, and planning measures that protect people and property from repetitive flood loss and facilitate adaptation to compound flooding and sea level rise, as well as continued funding for the Resilient Florida grant program. ***SUPPORT*** legislation that promotes land acquisition for parks, green space, and resilient flood mitigation, including funding through the Environmental Land and Water Management Act of 1972, Land Conservation Act, Florida Forever, and similar state programs. ***OPPOSE*** legislation that would cut funding for land acquisition and conservation programs.

Risk Mitigation Data, Property and Casualty, and Privately Held Flood Insurance: ***SUPPORT*** legislation, regulations, and policy that promotes information sharing between insurers and local and state government, including data aggregation and data sharing with respect to implemented wind and flood mitigation measures.

Vessel Turn-In Program and Marine Debris: ***SUPPORT*** continued funding of and officer staffing related to Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's (FWC) Vessel Turn-in Program and the removal and disposal of derelict vessels by FWC and local government agencies. ***OPPOSE*** legislation to reduce or eliminate funding for the FWC Vessel Turn-in Program. ***SUPPORT*** funding for all categories of marine debris removal and reduction efforts, including public education campaigns.

Financial Support for Small Businesses to Install Fats, Oils, and Grease Control Devices: ***SUPPORT*** legislation to provide funding for small businesses to replace or install Fats, Oils, and Grease control devices, that safeguard public health, safety and welfare, and protect the sanitary sewer infrastructure, preventing blockages and sanitary sewer overflows.

Florida Safe Beaches Program: ***SUPPORT*** legislation to expand and enhance the Florida Safe Beaches Program, including funding for water quality testing, improved testing response time and enhanced communication efforts.

Sustainable Commercial and Recreational Fishing Practices: ***SUPPORT*** legislation to improve sustainability of commercial and recreational fishing practices. This would include programs/regulations to reduce the use of non-biodegradable gear, remove lost and abandoned gear, and allow local governments to implement fishing gear “buy back” programs.

Biscayne Bay Protection Program: ***SUPPORT*** legislation to establish a Biscayne Bay Protection Program to recognize Biscayne Bay as a critical water resource and implement programs to benefit public health, safety, and welfare; and direct FDEP, in coordination with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the South Florida Water Management District, local governments, and other stakeholders to identify and prioritize strategies to implement the Biscayne Bay Watershed Plan and Biscayne Bay Reasonable Assurance Plan.

Net Metering: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to maintain existing net metering policies. ***OPPOSE*** any actions or policies to weaken net metering policies or practices and associated rates.

Tag Fee Funds: ***SUPPORT*** continued funding pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 320.03(6). These tag fee funds support the management of the County’s local air pollution control program pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 403.182. These funds are used to provide the administrative organization, staff, financial and other resources necessary to effectively and efficiently carry out the air pollution program, including the ambient air monitoring network and the permitting and compliance inspections of potential sources of air pollution. ***OPPOSE*** legislation to reduce or eliminate tag fees and local air programs pursuant to Fla. Stat. §§ 320.03(6) and 403.182.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: ***SUPPORT*** legislation, policies, regulations, and funding that advance fuel and energy efficiency, renewable fuels, grid resilience, electrical vehicle charging infrastructure expansion, reduced energy cost burden for Miami-Dade County residents, and fair pricing for the County in connection with utility tariffs and standard offer contracts. ***OPPOSE*** any actions or policies to repeal or cut funding for existing energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

Mitigation Banking: ***SUPPORT*** legislation to require wetland mitigation bank credits to be used within a wetland bank’s existing mitigation bank service area or in the alternative allow a permittee-responsible project within the service area.

Land Acquisition: ***SUPPORT*** prioritization of state funds to acquire and manage lands in Miami-Dade County’s Bird Drive Basin in furtherance of local and regional habitat, hydrologic, and protected species restoration goals including but not limited to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

Delegated Programs and DERM Authority: ***SUPPORT*** legislation to continue funding and delegation of environmental protection and conservation programs to County government, including but not limited to underground storage tanks and air quality

monitoring, compliance, and permitting pursuant to the Clean Air Act and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. **SUPPORT** legislation that empowers DERM to regulate activities that impact natural resources, the environment, and public health. **OPPOSE** legislation that would reduce or eliminate the County's authority to regulate activities pursuant to Chapter 24, including but not limited to nuisance, wetland protection, air quality, water quality, protected land and conservation areas, and pollution prevention, as well as state delegation of regulatory authority to County government for environmental protection, code enforcement, and management of associated funding.

Environmental Rulemakings: **MONITOR**, **SUPPORT**, and **ADVOCATE** for regulations that advance the County's interest and Miami-Dade County specific considerations with respect to regulation of environmental clean-up and remediation, regulation of solid waste, surface water, drinking water, and pollution.

Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)

Funding for Statewide Waste-to-Energy Infrastructure: **SUPPORT** the provision of state funding for the planning, permitting, design, and development waste-to-energy facilities. SB 1764 (2022) established the Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy (MSWTE) Program and created two grant streams, Financial Assistance Grants and Incentive Grants, with an original annual \$100 million appropriation. This original appropriation was reduced thereby leaving a funding gap for the full implementation of the MSWTE Program. Following the loss of the County's waste-to-energy facility, Miami-Dade relies heavily on landfill disposal while advancing plans for a replacement facility. Approval of full FY 2027-28 funding for MSWTE will honor the legislative intent of SB 1764 and strengthen Florida's waste management capacity, improve disaster resiliency, and support future renewable energy production.

Landfill Gas and Renewable Natural Gas Projects: **SUPPORT** legislation and the provision of funding for landfill gas capture, renewable natural gas production, and other beneficial use projects that convert landfill gas into renewable energy. State investment will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy resilience, diversify Florida's energy portfolio, and maximize the value of existing landfill infrastructure.

Artificial Intelligence and Technology for Waste Collection and Illegal Dumping: **SUPPORT** the provision of funding for local governments to deploy advanced technologies for detecting and enforcing against illegal dumping, including artificial intelligence-enabled cameras, automated reporting systems, license plate recognition technology consistent with applicable privacy laws, and data analytics. These technologies will improve enforcement, reduce cleanup costs, and better protect Florida's communities and natural resources.

Enhanced Illegal Dumping Enforcement: **AMEND** Fla. Stat. § 403.413 to strengthen enforcement against illegal dumping by authorizing additional collection mechanisms for

unpaid civil penalties, including denial of vehicle registration, tag renewal, or decal issuance, and by increasing penalties for repeat offenders. Strengthened enforcement will improve compliance, reduce cleanup costs, and protect neighborhoods, waterways, and public health.

Producer Responsibility Study: *SUPPORT* legislation directing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate sustainable funding mechanisms for recycling and waste reduction programs, including packaging stewardship and extended producer responsibility models implemented in other states. The study will provide objective information to guide future policy decisions and identify opportunities to reduce local government recycling costs.

Shopping Cart Removal: *AMEND* Fla. Stat. § 506.5131 to remove the preemption (SB 1944 (1998)) on local governments to recover the administrative costs associated with collecting, transporting, storing, and returning shopping carts removed from public rights-of-way. Prior to the 1998 preemption, the County established Ordinance 97-213 which authorized and implemented cost recovery for administrative costs associated with public right-of-way shopping cart removal. This local authority was later preempted by state law. Cost recovery will reduce financial impacts on local governments, encourage responsible shopping cart management, and improve public safety and neighborhood appearance.

Waste Collection Fleet Modernization: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for local governments to modernize solid waste collection fleets and supporting infrastructure through the acquisition of alternative-fuel and advanced-technology collection vehicles. Modernized fleets will improve operational efficiency, reduce fuel and maintenance costs, enhance service reliability, strengthen disaster response capabilities, and support cleaner transportation technologies.

Battery, Vape, and Hazardous Material Collection Program: *SUPPORT* legislation establishing a statewide collection and funding program for batteries, electronic vaping devices, and other hazardous consumer products modeled after Florida's tire management program. A dedicated fee and collection system would improve proper disposal, reduce fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries, protect solid waste infrastructure, and lessen the financial burden on local governments.

Mattress Manufacturer Stewardship Program: *SUPPORT* legislation establishing a statewide mattress manufacturer stewardship program, including the establishment of a long-term funding mechanism to support program administration and operations. Local governments in Florida shoulder the operational costs and logistical challenges of handling mattress disposal without a supporting statewide policy structure. The proposed program would provide dedicated funding for mattress collection, recycling, and proper disposal. Diverting mattresses from landfills will improve landfill operations, reduce fire hazards, preserve disposal capacity, and increase opportunities for material recovery.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department (PROS)

Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Connecting Two National Parks, Segment D Phase

1: SUPPORT the provision of funding for the construction of the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway, Segment D, Phase 1, a 2.5-mile segment of the overall greenway that directly connects to the Biscayne National Park, between SW 328th Street and SW 117th Avenue. along L31E & C103S Mowry Canal in southern Miami-Dade County, east of Homestead. The Biscayne-Everglades Greenway will be the first non-motorized trail in the country to connect two National Parks and would have an immediate economic impact to Homestead and the surrounding communities in southern Miami-Dade County. The project represents a key step toward completing a connected greenway network throughout Miami-Dade County. The Biscayne-Everglades Greenway is identified as a state priority through the Florida Greenways & Trails System (FGTS) Plan due to its regional connectivity.

Snapper Creek Trail – Construction of the Segment B Phase 1 – Enhancing Regional Connectivity: SUPPORT

the provision of funding for the construction of the Snapper Creek Trail Segment B Phase 1, a critical 0.3-mile segment that will advance the completion of the Segment B corridor. Extending along the Snapper Creek Canal from US 1 and The Underline on the west to SW 67 Avenue/Ludlam Road on the east, this segment will provide a vital connection between existing and planned multimodal facilities, including The Underline, Ludlam Trail, the Metrorail system, and future shared-use path improvements along SW 67 Avenue/Ludlam Road. As part of the 10.6-mile Snapper Creek Trail greenway corridor, Segment B, Phase 1 will strengthen regional mobility by providing safe and accessible connections for pedestrians and bicyclists while linking residents to major transportation, recreational, and community destinations. The project represents a key step toward completing a connected greenway network throughout Miami-Dade County. The Snapper Creek Trail corridor is identified as a state priority through the Florida Greenways & Trails System (FGTS) Plan due to its regional connectivity.

Ludlam Trail Construction of Overpass Bridge Over SW 40th Street: SUPPORT

the provision of funding for the construction of the Ludlam Trail Project. The Ludlam Trail is a 5.6-mile greenway corridor that spans from SW 80th St to NW 7th St (between 69-70 Avenues) and includes dedicated pedestrian and bicycle pathways. Upon completion, the Ludlam Trail will be an integral component of the County's regional network of greenway trails and multimodal mobility corridors that will provide alternative modes of transportation between schools, parks, transit, and economic hubs, and support growth throughout Miami-Dade County. Ludlam Trail is designated as a priority trail by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Boater Safety: SUPPORT the provision of funding to enhance the Miami-Dade Boater Safety Education Program. PROS focuses on improving public safety for waterfront users countywide, addressing the urgent demand for better safety measures. Miami-Dade holds the unfortunate distinction of being second in boating accidents in Florida. In response, proposed initiatives include a countywide Vision Zero Boater Education campaign. The

goal of this initiative is to minimize accidents, improve user experiences, and create safer recreational areas, benefiting residents, visitors, and the environment through education. **SUPPORT** legislation that improves boater safety, increases enforcement on the water, mandates education and licensing for boaters, and reduces the impacts of boating on benthic resources. (DERM and PROS)

Greynolds Park Raptor Center's Septic-to-Sewer Project: **SUPPORT** the provision of funding for septic-to-sewer conversion at the Museum of Science's Raptor Rehabilitation Center at Greynolds Park. Despite securing major grants from the Batchelor Foundation and the State of Florida's Cultural facilities Program for the renovation of the building, there is insufficient funding for the necessary septic-to-sewer conversion. This conversion is essential to meet environmental standards. The Museum of Science's Raptor Rehabilitation Center at Greynolds Park will enhance the Museum as well as the County's environmental education offerings and providing programming for both children and adults. The Center's operations will align with PROS strategic conservation goals and contribute to the community's understanding and appreciation on local wildlife. It will also offer environment educational programming for both children and adults related to the Center operations and in collaboration with the Parks' existing nature-based conservation initiatives.

Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER)

Amend Senate Bill (SB) 180 (2025): **ADVOCATE** for a statutory amendment to Fla. Stat. § 252.422 (SB 180 (2025)), such as the amendments contemplated in SB 840 (2026), to address the broad and retroactive requirements of SB 180, as well as its constraints on home rule, particularly its limitations on the County's authority to adopt, modify, and enforce local planning and land-use decisions. **SUPPORT** amendments to SB 180 (2025) that ensure that localities can responsibly manage flooding, development, and ensure public safety in good faith under its home rule authority including:

- **Safer Buildings and Development:** **ADVOCATE** for any changes made to the restrictions on County or municipal regulations after a hurricane as outlined in Fla. Stat. § 252.422. Due to the annual frequency of hurricanes making landfall in Florida, the current trigger and timeframe requirements of the law constitutes a continuous pause on a jurisdiction's ability to adopt local technical code amendments to the Florida Building Code following the provisions in Fla. Stat. § 553.73(4)(b), which already limit adoption of these changes to no more frequent than six (6) months. (Building)
- **Protection of Planning Efforts and Property:** **ADVOCATE** for an amendment to Fla. Stat. § 553.902 to allow the County to prepare a comprehensive Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). SB 180 (2025) could prohibit the County from preparing an effective EAR as directed by State law within the mandated deadlines. (Planning)

- **Protection of Neighborhoods and Communities:** **ADVOCATE** for amendments to SB 180 (2025) that would have the effect of allowing the County to retain authority to evaluate whether redevelopment projects are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods and retain the ability to enact regulations where necessary to protect that compatibility, including discretion over building height, setbacks, parking, traffic impacts, land uses, signage, and architectural design. **ADVOCATE** for amendments to Fla. Stat. § 163.31795(1) to restore the County's ability to adopt or enforce an ordinance for substantial improvements or repairs to a structure which includes a cumulative substantial improvement period. **ADVOCATE** for the restoration of discretion so that localities may continue using cumulative improvement history to regulate floodplain development responsibly. (Planning)
- **Protection Stormwater Management:** **ADVOCATE** for amendments to SB 180 (2025) to allow for enforcement of Board-adopted stormwater requirements and standards, such as those included in the Impervious Surfaces Ordinance (Ordinance No. 24-92), implemented as of March 31, 2025. As a result of SB 180 (2025) restrictions, the County is now experiencing a constraint on critical comprehensive stormwater management processes that prevent flooding, contamination, and pollution. In general, properties in Florida that succumb to storm emergencies do so because they are not built to proper windspeed and flood mitigation standards. To allow properties to be rebuilt to lesser standards puts residents at risk during future storms and exposes businesses and government to additional losses.
- **Keep Flood Insurance Premiums Low:** **ADVOCATE** to repeal Fla. Stat. § 163.31795(2). The implemented provisions from Section 2 of SB 180 (2025) removed a locality's ability to include in their flood ordinance a cumulative clause regarding substantial improvements or repairs to the structure. This ability should be restored to help maintain a high Community Rating System (CRS) rating under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). (Building)
- **Building Permitting and Waste Management:** **SUPPORT** the amendment of SB 180 to restore local authority to incorporate waste management requirements into the County's building permitting process. Current statutory preemption limits the County's ability to require waste management infrastructure and operational standards during development review. Restoring local authority will improve waste collection efficiency, support long-term planning, and ensure new development is designed to meet the County's solid waste management needs.

Wind-Borne Debris Definition: **MONITOR** legislation affecting the Business and Professional Regulation (Fla. Stat. § 455) and Building Construction Standards (Fla. Stat. § 553). It is anticipated that Fla. Stat. § 455 or Fla. Stat. § 553 may be amended to establish a new definition for "wind-borne debris", which is currently defined in the Florida Building Code and stems from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7-22 standard. **OPPOSE** any legislation imposing a new definition for "wind-borne debris," which differs from the ASCE 7-22 definition for use in Florida.

Local Licensing: **MONITOR** any additional changes made to local licensing in Fla. Stat. § 489.117 modifying the ability to issue local specialty licenses or modifying the implemented preemptions under SB 1142 (2024), HB 1383 (2023), and HB 735 (2021). **SUPPORT** any action limiting or removing these preemptions. **SUPPORT** efforts to allow local jurisdictions to continue issuing local specialty licenses in categories of work associated with construction for compliance with the Florida Building Code or requiring a permit in Florida. These changes align with the Board-adopted State Critical Priorities in Resolution No. R-700-24 and R-990-25.

Changes to Florida Statute 553 - Building Safety: **MONITOR** any new proposal made to the requirements for existing building safety inspections for condominiums, co-ops and any others, and any legislation to amend such inspection requirements in Fla. Stat. § 553.899. **MONITOR** any legislation affecting Building Permits – Fla. Stat. § 553 and Product Approval – Fla. Stat. § 553.842. **MONITOR** any legislation affecting the provisions for Alternative Plan Review and Inspection (Private Provider) in Fla. Stat. § 553.791. **OPPOSE** any further reduction in plan review timeframes for both standard plan review and private provider permit applications.

Live Local Act Revisions: **SUPPORT** legislation that would address the continuing issues with the “Live Local Act,” Fla. Stat. § 125.01055 (Live Local Act) and revisions to Fla. Stat. § 125.01055(7) to provide for greater local control of zoning, ensure community input and provide for affordable housing based on the local housing market and income levels. While the Act, as has been adopted, continues to have problems, such as it disincentivizing local governments from re-designating or rezoning land for commercial or industrial use in order to avoid triggering inappropriate Live Local development. Several issues should be revised with the Act to address pressing needs:

- **Industrial and Agricultural Properties:** Remove industrial properties or properties with industrial zoning as well, as all properties with agricultural zoning, from eligibility. This would include amendments to Fla. Stat. §§ 125.01055(7)(a) and (7)(n)(2). The loss of industrial land negatively affects the local tax and employment base. While currently operating farms or farm operations were recently exempted from the Live Local Act via SB 962 (2026), other agriculturally zoned or designated lands were not. Accordingly, all agriculturally zoned areas and areas designated for agriculture by local comprehensive plans should also be exempted from the Live Local Act.
- **Density and Bulk Standards:** Density and bulk standards need to be adjusted to local neighborhood conditions rather than the conditions of an entire county or municipality. This would include amendments to Fla. Stat. §§ 125.01055(7)(d)(3) and (7)(e)(3). While local planning practices, comprehensive plans, and zoning regulations would best address these issues, the Live Local Act, if it were to remain in its current form, could at a minimum set the density and height standard to be based on properties within the abutting zoning districts rather than a one-mile radius or the entire jurisdiction.
- **Historic Districts:** Protections afforded to historic districts and properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are limited to those designations made

before January 1, 2000. This would include amendments to Fla. Stat. §§ 125.01055(7)(a) and (7)(n)(2). This date restriction needs to be removed and allow locally designated districts and properties to be included in this exemption.

- **Area Median Income and Missing Middle:** Amend the Act to ensure that a percentage of housing units serve low-income families earning 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below. Further amend the Missing Middle Tax Exemption to lower the unit goal from 71 units or more to two (2) or more, allowing for a new incentive to preserve triplexes and fourplexes as affordable and workforce housing. (HCD)

Enhance Educational Requirements for Condo Board Members: **ADVOCATE** for the enhancement of the educational requirements delineated in Fla. Stat. § 720.3033 (Officers and Directors) to ensure closer alignment with Community Association Manager (CAM) requirements by requiring more extensive continuing education and enhanced training. RER's Consumer and Neighborhood Protection Division which manages the Community Association Registry would see an improvement in compliance as properly trained and educated board members and directors would better understand the importance of an association's compliance with Chapter 17D-3 and compliance with all other Code requirements such as building recertification and all building and zoning codes.

Condominium Law Reform: **SUPPORT** the enactment of legislation that would reform the current condominium laws delineated in Fla. Stat. §§ 718.112 and 553.899 to promote both affordability and safety. There is a need to address the financial burden many condominium owners face due to the new regulations such as the "structural integrity reserve study" (Fla. Stat. § 553.899). Although these new regulations are beneficial in the long term to ensure building safety and structural integrity, the financial impact it will have on unit owners must be considered as well as the potential intensification of the affordability issues facing South Florida. This is especially true for those associations that oversee buildings with mostly elderly and fixed-income residents.

Streamline Plat Review Process: **SUPPORT** the enactment of legislation which includes language that allows for digital final plats and e-signature on final plats, including a one-to-two-year transition period from hard copies to digital, to streamline plat reviews, provide for more efficient processing and reduce the overall timeline.

Increased Viability of Local Agricultural Industry: **SUPPORT** and **ADVOCATE** for the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to aid legislation, programs and/or funding to mitigate the effects of invasive pests, disease, freezes, flooding, windstorms as well as other potential damage to the County's agricultural industry and the viability of local farmers, should the need arise. The ability to respond quickly and work with State agencies and other groups to mitigate and assist with current and potential unpredictable impacts is imperative. Damage and losses from pests, disease and disasters can occur rapidly in the agricultural industry, and the ability to act quickly is essential.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments: *OPPOSE* the enactment of legislation which includes language that would require the County or municipalities within to recognize pre-existing zoning approvals in the local government's comprehensive plan. Fla. Stat. § 163.3167(3) requires newly incorporated municipal comprehensive plans to incorporate pre-existing development orders into the comprehensive plan and further states that the policies may not impair the completion of a development in accordance with such existing development order and must vest the density and intensity approved by such development order. RER-Planning has strong concerns about the effect of similar legislation that may seek to expand this requirement to other municipalities or the County. (Planning)

Infill Redevelopment Act Revisions: *SUPPORT* the enactment of statutory amendments that would restore the County's authority, allowing either administrative or discretionary review via traditional local land use planning and zoning, for developments governed by SB 1434 (2026 Infill Redevelopment Act). SB 1434 (2026) removed local authority to regulate qualifying infill redevelopment through traditional local land use planning and zoning processes. This change: (1) limits the County's ability to address infrastructure strain, localized flooding, or cumulative impacts on utilities and public services; (2) risks the loss of industrial, commercial, and agricultural land through unplanned conversion to residential development and increases litigation risks; and (3) eliminates the public hearing and notice requirements for qualifying parcels. Restoration of local authority supports balanced growth by pairing infill development with thoughtful mitigation, public input, and transparency in community planning and development.

Local Land Planning/Zoning and Development Preemptions: *SUPPORT* a bill to repeal or revise the statutory changes created by HB 927 (2026) which imposes rigid administrative deadlines, requires a "qualified contractor" registry for pre-application review, and prohibits public hearings or discretionary review for plats and development orders, thereby constraining the County's ability to responsibly assess complex or environmentally sensitive applications and raising concerns over impartiality in project approvals. This bill has substantial impact on the development review and approval process with mandatory time limits and the potential removal of unbiased local officials from the development review process. While the time limits mandated by this bill may be appropriate for small, simple projects, they would lead to negative local impacts if projects involving environmentally sensitive land, complex infrastructure, or major traffic impacts were required to be reviewed and approved within the same review time period. The bill's requirement that local governments provide a list of consultants that developers could use creates opportunities for biased or erroneous approvals of construction projects. ***SUPPORT*** legislative efforts to rescind similar measures, affirming that local governments must retain authority to apply public hearings, environmental assessments, traffic and infrastructure analyses, and mitigate site-specific impacts to ensure equitable, accountable, and context-sensitive development across Miami-Dade's distinct communities.

Miami-Dade Spaceport Territory: *ADVOCATE* for state funding to develop the Miami-Dade Spaceport Territory—designated by the Florida Legislature through CS/SB 968 (2024)—into a shovel-ready aerospace employment center in South Dade. Funding

would support critical horizontal infrastructure, including roadway access, water and wastewater systems, drainage and stormwater systems, electrical capacity and redundancy, and environmental remediation. These improvements are essential to attract investment from leading global aerospace and defense companies, create high-wage jobs, and position Miami-Dade as a global aerospace center. The investments would also strengthen community-owned infrastructure that enhances the military value and resilience of the adjacent Homestead Air Reserve Base, advancing both local economic development and national defense objectives. (Economic Development)

Water and Sewer Department (WASD)

Homeowner Assistance to Connect Sanitary Sewers: *MONITOR* and *SUPPORT* the provision of grant funding to help homeowners with the private property cost of constructing and connecting to sanitary sewer laterals. (WASD and DERM)

Septic Systems: *MONITOR* and *SUPPORT* the provision of sustained funding to address failing septic systems and convert compromised septic systems to centralized sewer infrastructure to protect public health and water quality.

Critical Infrastructure Security for Water and Wastewater Facilities: *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for legislative initiatives and funding opportunities that strengthen the physical security and operational resilience of critical water and wastewater infrastructure. *SUPPORT* investments in modern security technologies, including access control systems, video surveillance, perimeter intrusion detection, and other protective measures that safeguard treatment plants, wellfields, pump stations, and other essential facilities. These investments help prevent unauthorized access, reduce the risk of service disruptions and environmental contamination, protect public health, and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of reliable water and wastewater services to nearly three million Miami-Dade County residents.

PFAS Treatment and Disposal Facilities: *MONITOR*, *SUPPORT*, and *ADVOCATE* for legislative efforts to establish or expand funding opportunities for local utilities to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements. This includes funding for the research, testing, evaluation, planning, design, permitting, construction, installation, operation, and implementation of infrastructure, equipment, systems, facilities, and technologies necessary to detect, treat, manage, dispose of, or destroy PFAS at water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Biosolids Processing Facilities: *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for legislative efforts to establish or expand funding opportunities for local utilities to partner with private entities or independently develop biosolids processing facilities. This includes funding for the planning, design, permitting, construction, equipment, and land acquisition necessary to implement biosolids processing and resource recovery facilities. Expanding these funding opportunities will help utilities reduce long-term biosolids management and disposal costs,

improve operational efficiency and reliability, and provide greater flexibility in complying with evolving state and federal regulatory requirements.

Biosolids Management: *MONITOR*, *SUPPORT*, and *ADVOCATE* for biosolids management legislation to be preceded by a comprehensive environmental assessment that identifies the actual sources of pollutants and focuses regulatory efforts on mitigating those sources, rather than disproportionately targeting biosolids management practices. *OPPOSE* legislation that unnecessarily restricts the beneficial reuse of biosolids without sound scientific justification.

Data Centers and Water Use/Re-Use/Land Use Planning: *SUPPORT* legislation that empowers local governments to regulate data centers, including those with energy demand less than 50 MW and requirements for energy and water saving technologies and reduced heat impacts.

- *SUPPORT* legislation to require data center resource and community impact statement addressing electricity demand, water impacts, proposed infrastructure upgrades, heat and noise mitigation, and fire risk reduction. *SUPPORT* building code requirements, legislation and regulations applicable to data centers to ensure implementation of water conservation technology, minimization of generator usage, energy conservation and other measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to environmental resources and communities while providing a mechanisms to ensure large energy and water consumers bear the financial burden of infrastructure expansion needed to support their operations. (DERM)
- *MONITOR*, *SUPPORT*, and *ADVOCATE* to ensure that any new statutory or regulatory requirements appropriately consider the impacts on public water and wastewater utilities for legislation relating to the development, regulation, and operation of data centers. *SUPPORT* policies that preserve local water utility authority, promote sustainable water use and infrastructure planning, and ensure that the infrastructure needed to serve large, high-demand facilities is funded by growth rather than existing ratepayers. *OPPOSE* legislation that shifts the financial burden of serving data centers onto existing utility customers or limits a utility's ability to protect system reliability and capacity. (WASD)

Policy Area: Community Services

Animal Services Department (ASD)

Mobile Pet Adoption Unit: *SUPPORT* funding to continue the offering of mobile pet adoption services. The mobile pet adoption unit covers all areas of Miami-Dade County, expanding access to adoption services, and supporting lifesaving outcomes for shelter animals.

Free Spay and Neuter Services: *SUPPORT* efforts to expand affordable and free spay and neuter access across the County, particularly in underserved areas. With 2.8 million residents, the demand for pet healthcare is immense. Contracting high-volume vets for low-cost surgeries reduces overpopulation, shelter intake, and improves the community's safety. Proven programs, such as "Spay It Forward!" and partnerships with local nonprofits, have successfully increased community outreach. Animal Services is requesting \$500,000 and will match, from the department's annual operating budget.

Shelter Renovation and Expansion: *SUPPORT* funding for new construction, facility upgrades, and expansion of existing shelter facilities which would greatly increase the capacity of Animal Services to serve Miami-Dade County residents.

CareerSource South Florida (CSSF)

Road to Independence Program: *SUPPORT* legislation that would reform Fla. Stat. §§ 409.1451 and 1009.25, so that a foster youth the workforce system steers into a registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program keeps the Road-to-Independence (PESS) housing stipend and the tuition-and-fee exemption. This adjustment aligns the benefit statutes with the apprenticeship strategy the State is already funding.

Community Services Department (CSD)

Enhancing the Provision of Services to Veterans: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the County's Veteran Services Program which assists veterans and their families with applying for veteran benefits, claims, and appeals to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *ADVOCATE* for revisions to the requirements set forth in the Florida Statutes pertaining to who can perform these services to allow for more flexibility in hiring and volunteering to meet the growing needs of the County's veterans and their families.

Educational and Workforce Readiness Partnership: *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for legislation that establishes on-site educational services at rehabilitative treatment facilities. This includes funding for the provision of educational testing, materials and developing incentives for participation in education or job readiness programs as part of treatment plans. Many participants in treatment programs lack a high school diploma or vocational skills, significantly hindering their long-term recovery and self-sufficiency. Currently, there is no structured partnership or dedicated pathway with Miami-Dade County Public Schools or other adult education providers for participants to access GED preparation, ESL, or job training programs.

Department of Cultural Affairs (CUA)

Competitive Cultural Affairs Grants: *SUPPORT* the provision of full funding for competitive cultural affairs grants recommended through the Florida Department of State Division of Arts and Culture. The FY 2026-27 veto of the Culture Builds Florida grant affected 54 Miami-Dade County-based nonprofit organizations, accounting for \$1,342,500. By not funding two of the four competitive grants programs, three Miami-Dade County-based nonprofit organizations recommended for Cultural Facilities grants did not receive \$1,181,664 in funding (Adrienne Arsht Center, City of Homestead, Coral Gables Museum) and two Miami-Dade-based organizations recommended for Cultural Endowment grants did not receive \$480,000 in funding (Actors' Playhouse and the South Florida Arts Center).

Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Affordable and Workforce Housing: *SUPPORT* sustained and increased state funding for affordable and workforce housing programs that expand housing opportunities, preserve existing affordable housing stock, promote homeownership, and address the growing housing affordability challenges facing Florida's residents.

Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Surtax Program: *SUPPORT* an extension of the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Surtax Program, currently scheduled to sunset on October 1, 2031.

Helen Sawyer Assisted Living Facility: *SUPPORT* funding in the amount of \$3 million to assist with the continued operation and long-term sustainability of the Helen Sawyer Assisted Living Facility. This facility is a Miami-Dade County-owned assisted living facility that provides safe, affordable housing and supportive services to low-income seniors and other vulnerable elderly residents who rely on the facility for stable housing and daily care.

Modernizing Support Systems: *SUPPORT* a \$3 million state appropriation for HCD to modernize technology systems supporting affordable housing, public housing, assisted housing, and community development programs. Funding would support the modernization and integration of critical business systems; cybersecurity enhancements; resident-facing digital services; business intelligence and data analytics; electronic records management; workflow automation; disaster recovery capabilities; data integration; fraud detection; and other technology investments that improve operational efficiency, strengthen program integrity, protect sensitive resident information, and enhance customer service. As one of Florida's largest public housing authorities, HCD administers thousands of federally assisted housing units and serves tens of thousands of residents each year. Continued investment in modern technology infrastructure is essential to ensure efficient program administration, improve accountability and transparency, strengthen cybersecurity, reduce administrative costs, and enhance access to housing services for Florida residents.

State Housing Initiatives Partnership: *SUPPORT* preserving and expanding funding for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program and the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program and maintaining the program's flexibility to allow local governments to address the unique housing needs of their communities. These programs remain Florida's most effective housing programs, leveraging state, local, federal, and private investment to increase the supply of affordable and workforce housing, promote homeownership, preserve existing housing stock, and provide critical housing rehabilitation and disaster recovery assistance. Continued and enhanced investment in SHIP and SAIL will help local governments address Florida's growing housing affordability challenges while supporting economic development and workforce stability.

Homeless Trust (HT)

Acquisition and Renovation of Housing for Disabled Adults and Seniors: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding to acquire and convert existing properties in Miami-Dade County to serve as affordable rental housing for vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness, with a prioritization for the disabled and/or elderly.

Bridge Housing for Homeless Persons with Special Needs: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for bridge housing for homeless persons with special needs to include homeless persons with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders and those in need of medical respite care while recovering from an illness or injury in the amount of \$275,000. This program is for homeless persons in need of stabilization in a site-based setting. Housing this population reduces or eliminates frequent jail and hospital stays and provides a specialized housing solution for unsheltered single adults.

Project Lazarus Specialized Outreach: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for Project Lazarus Specialized Outreach in the amount of \$90,000. The goal is to reduce unsheltered homelessness using a specialized, multidisciplinary behavioral health outreach team, with a focus on homeless individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUD). Highly vulnerable individuals are engaged and connected to the comprehensive services they need to achieve stability, recovery, and ultimately, permanent housing.

Challenge Grant: *SUPPORT* maintaining recurring statewide Challenge Grant funding for a total amount of \$20,016,822 for Continuums of Care. Of the recurring funding, the Homeless Trust receives \$768,634. Funding is flexible, but Miami-Dade uses it to support Rapid Re-housing and Homeless Prevention initiatives. Funding is awarded to Chapman Partnership.

Staffing Grant: *SUPPORT* maintaining recurring statewide Staffing Grant funding Continuum of Care Lead Agencies at or above FY 2025-26 funding levels. Funding supports local coalition operations and staffing costs to administer programs for persons experiencing homelessness. In Miami-Dade, the Staffing Grant provides \$181,270 to offset administrative costs for the Trust and is being used to support our HUD- and CoC-

mandated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which provides client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of persons experiencing homelessness.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse: *ADVOCATE* for amendments to the Baker and Marchman Acts (Fla. Stat. §§ 394, 397) to revise existing mental health and substance abuse laws and civil commitment standards. Specifically, the definition of “imminent danger to self or others” would benefit from the addition of criteria to address the need for treatment to permit intervention before tragedy becomes imminent with the goal of balancing individual liberty and due process considerations with public health and safety. Adding criteria to address the need for treatment would permit intervention before tragedy becomes imminent, including revising requirements of involuntary examination, involuntary outpatient treatment, as well as provide new requirements related to involuntary assessment and stabilization orders.

Bridge Employment Program: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$500,000 for Chapman Partnership (CP) Works, Chapman Partnership’s innovative bridge employment program designed to break the cycle of homelessness by restoring the dignity of work.

Housing Stipends for Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Program Participants: *ADVOCATE* for the amendment of Fla. Stat. §§ 1009.25(1)(b), 409.1451(2)(a)4 to allow for housing stipends to youth who enter apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs as standard policy, rather than a waiver. Youth aging out of foster care are among the most reliable pipelines into adult homelessness in Miami-Dade County. Florida’s workforce system is actively steering these same young people toward registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. The requested modification to address this is two narrow statutory amendments:

- Fla. Stat. § 409.1451(2)(a)4 — clarify that enrollment in an approved apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program constitutes the “vocational school equivalent” of full-time enrollment, so the PESS stipend and the housing support linked to it follow the youth automatically rather than case-by-case.
- Fla. Stat. § 1009.25(1)(b) — add pre-apprenticeship alongside approved apprenticeship in the postsecondary tuition-and-fee exemption.

Increase Funding and Flexibility of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): *SUPPORT* the provision of unobligated funding in the amount of \$1 million and expanded allowable uses for such funds. HT is currently allocated \$31,574 in TANF, which is sub-granted to the Advocate Program. In FY 25-26, the HT successfully assisted 13 households with minor children and fully expended TANF funding in 6 months. The average assistance per household was \$2,462, well below the maximum allowable amount of \$3,626. With the help of TANF’s cash assistance and supportive services, together with other local, state, federal and philanthropic funding, Miami-Dade is positioned to utilize additional TANF funding to provide rental assistance for at-risk families experiencing hardships. In FY 24-25, 1,115 families with minor children

experienced homelessness in Miami-Dade, demonstrating the urgent need for additional homelessness prevention resources in our community.

Medical Examiner (ME)

Amend Florida Statute §406: *ADVOCATE* for the amendment of Fla. Stat. § 406 to allow ME offices to directly submit decedent fingerprints to state and federal databases and receive instant demographic results. Fla. Stat. § 406.145 limits submissions to law enforcement, forcing ME offices to use paper fingerprint cards and wait for agencies to process and upload data. Modernizing the law would speed identifications, support timely family notifications, allow families to schedule funerals without unnecessary delay, and support members of religious and cultural communities who value prompt disposition of remains.

Public Library System (LIB)

Increased Funding for Public Library Construction Grants: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program that provides funding to libraries throughout the state to construct and renovate public libraries. LIB has an extensive list of funded and unfunded capital projects, with numerous renovations, improvement projects, and new or replacement branches in progress. Funding provided via the Public Library Construction Grant Program is critical for offsetting the local investment made in improving libraries throughout the State and will help ensure the successful completion of these projects. With a growing list of capital projects eligible for this program each year and statewide allocations unfunded in the last Legislative Session, there is a growing need to reinstate, if not enhance, the level at which this program was funded.

State Aid to Libraries: *SUPPORT* the provision of increased funding for State Aid to Libraries, which is a significant source of operational revenue to the Miami-Dade Public Library System, as well as to libraries throughout the State of Florida. This funding provides mission-critical staffing and resources that enable libraries to fulfill their mission and better serve their communities. The 2026 State Legislative Session statewide allocation of \$17,304,072 was flat compared to 2025. In 2000-01, State Aid to Libraries was funded at over \$33 million. Since then, Florida's population has grown significantly while State Aid to Libraries funding has decreased.

Policy Area: Finance and Government Operations

People and Internal Operations Department (PIOD)

Disabled Parking Reform: *ADVOCATE* for amending statutory provisions to address the unlawful acquisition and use of disabled parking placards. Disabled parking placards allow for free parking and the misuse of such a beneficial program has led to an annual loss in parking revenue and a reduced quantity of disabled parking spaces for the legitimately disabled.

Beach Access for All: *ADVOCATE* for the amendment of state environmental prohibitions against permanent pathways across beaches (west of the dunes to the shoreline). Many advocates in the disability community believe that the prohibition of permanent pathways on beaches is discriminatory.

Formulating Visitability Legislation: *SUPPORT* legislation which enacts Visitability requirements in the State of Florida for residential construction and builds stakeholder support.

Strategic Procurement Department (SPD)

Construction Project Advertising: *ADVOCATE* for the amendment of Fla. Stat. § 255.0525, to authorize advertising of construction projects valued at more than \$200,000 on a website as opposed to in a newspaper of general circulation which will result in a substantial cost savings.

Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids: *ADVOCATE* for the amendment of Fla. Stat. § 255.0518 to clarify that sealed bids may be received either electronically or hardcopy and that the sealed bids will be opened publicly at a meeting either virtually or in person.

Paper Permit Requirements: *ADVOCATE* for the reduction of red tape by eliminating the requirement for businesses to display paper permits. Repeal state requirements, including those enforced by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) and other agencies, that mandate paper permit postings. Electronic permitting has made this outdated practice unnecessary, and the elimination of this requirement would assist in reducing administrative burdens while streamlining government and supporting Florida's small businesses.

RISE Miami-Dade Loan Fund: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$2 million to establish the RISE Miami-Dade Loan Fund. This funding would support bringing the vision of Florida Commerce's Rebuild Florida Business Revolving Loan Fund to the local level, expanding affordable access to capital for small businesses. Eligible businesses operating for at least two years, with fewer than 50 employees, under \$5 million in annual sales, and a 620+ personal credit score, may qualify for loans up to

\$75,000 with a five-year repayment term at Prime minus 1%, helping entrepreneurs invest, grow, and strengthen Miami-Dade's economy.

Policy Area: Public Safety

Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)

Amend Fla. Stat. § 985.265 “Detention, Transfer and Release; Education; Adult Jails”: **AMEND** Fla. Stat. § 985.265(5) to further define certain terms to make compliance with the statute more practicable and ensure consistent application of such statute provisions. MDCR currently incarcerates approximately 30-40 juveniles charged as adults. The juveniles are considered a specialized population requiring proportionately more supervision and resources than the adult population. To address this, MDCR requests the following modifications be made to the statute section:

- Define regular contact with adults or trustees specifically “sight and sound” contact by defining “sight contact” as “sustained visual contact between an adult inmate and the child” and “sound contact” as “direct and sustained oral communication between an adult inmate and the child” to provide some relief with physical space considerations.
- Further define the separation of children from adults as “no more than haphazard or accidental contact”.
- Change the obsolete term “trustees” to “inmate workers”.

Temporary Custody of State Inmate in County Jail: **AMEND** Fla. Stat. § 944.17(8) to define the term "temporary custody" by including the maximum amount of time a state inmate can remain in a local jail before being returned to state custody. Requested modification: "If a state prisoner's presence is required in court for any reason after the Sheriff or Chief Correctional Officer has relinquished custody to the Department, the court shall issue an order for the Sheriff or Chief Correctional Officer to assume temporary custody and transport the prisoner to the County jail pending the court appearance. Temporary custody shall not exceed seven (7) business days in any six (6)-month period. On the eighth day, the state prisoner shall be transported back to the custody of the state." This requested modification would apply to those inmates returned to local custody for various reasons (e.g. appeal or as a witness who could utilize video conferencing technology to attend court appearances rather than local jails expending the cost to transport and house a state inmate). Miami-Dade County jails have a growing number of state inmates languishing in our jails with no imminent court date or have been transported for the convenience of parties to an action. This growing number of inmates has contributed to crowding in our jails and ultimately results in a shifting of the financial burden. Crowding is linked to increased inmate violence, increased operational costs, and increased strain on staff. Reducing the amount of time a state inmate remains in local jails benefits taxpayers, local sheriffs and jails as well as inmates themselves.

Use of X-Ray Body Scanner on Correctional Employees and Visitors: *SUPPORT* an administrative change to Fla. Admin. Code R. 64E-5.502(1)(a)7.b. (2026) for the usage of x-ray scanners on persons other than inmates (legal detainees) in correctional facilities. Correctional facilities have long grappled with the introduction of contraband into detention facilities. Several tools and practices have been used to help curb this problem, including the use of an x-ray body scanner. Body scanners have proven to be an efficient tool to deter the smuggling of contraband into facilities. The Florida Administrative Code currently prohibits the usage of x-ray body scanners on persons other than inmates. This prohibition prevents correctional facilities from creating a safe and controlled environment for our inmates, employees and visitors. Requested modification: replace the words “the system is used only on legal detainees in a jail or penal institution, and never on detainees’ family members, children, institution employees, contractors, visitors, the public, or any other persons” with “the system is used on legal detainees in a jail or penal institution as well on institution employees, contractors, visitors, the public, or any other persons seeking to access the institution.”

Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

Mobile Command Unit Acquisition and Deployment Funding: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$1 million to acquire and deploy a Mobile Command Unit (MCU) to enhance emergency response, real-time coordination, and operational resiliency during disasters and major incidents. The MCU strengthens regional interoperability, improves situational awareness, and ensures continuity of operations across agencies, especially during hurricanes, mass-casualty events, and large-scale gatherings.

Situational Awareness LED Board System: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for advanced, mission-critical display technology to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery operations during major storm, hurricane, and multi-hazard events to be deployed at the Miami-Dade Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Next-generation LED situational awareness boards provide a unified, high-visibility operational display capable of integrating real-time data feeds, weather intelligence, live camera imagery, geospatial mapping, and multi-agency coordination tools. Before landfall, the LED boards support evacuation route visualization, flood-risk identification, and real-time environmental tracking. By consolidating multiple data sources onto a single seamless display, emergency managers can rapidly interpret deteriorating conditions and direct public messaging while keeping personnel out of hazardous field locations. The total project cost is \$2 million.

Information Technology Hardware: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the procurement of modern, reliable IT hardware to strengthen emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations at its new EOC. The proposed network systems, workstations, displays, telephone equipment, and backup power solutions provide resilient communications, real-time data sharing, and seamless interoperability across responding agencies. During major incidents, this upgraded technology ensures

uninterrupted operations, improved situational awareness, and faster decision-making—allowing the County to identify emerging threats quickly and deploy resources more efficiently throughout all phases of an emergency. The provision of this funding will significantly improve the County’s capability to manage disasters and restore essential services more effectively. The total project cost is \$8.7 million.

Fixed-Wing Drone Operations: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for reliable autonomous aerial systems to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery during major storm and hurricane events. Fixed-wing drones housed in weather-resilient docking systems offer 24/7 autonomous launch, rapid 20-second deployment, and remote operation in extreme temperatures, rain, wind, and high humidity, enabling continuous coverage before, during, and after landfall. Continuous long-range connectivity ensures real-time data sharing and coordination across agencies, strengthening situational awareness and accelerating resource deployment. A comprehensive maintenance program provides preventative service and rapid repair support, ensuring uninterrupted readiness throughout hurricane season. The provision of this funding will significantly improve the County’s ability to assess damage quickly, safeguard responders, and restore critical services more efficiently during high-impact storm events. The total project cost is \$1.2 million.

Fire Rescue Department (MDFR)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue All-Hazards Emergency Support Trailer: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$625,000 to purchase and outfit an All-Hazards Emergency Support Trailer to enhance response capabilities at the local, regional, and state levels during natural and man-made disasters. This mobile asset will be a critical resource, enabling interagency interoperability and technical support during large-scale incidents. The trailer can be deployed to support Specialized Response Teams, neighboring fire departments, and mutual aid partners for large-scale emergencies.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Regional Training Towers: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$600,000 for MDFR to purchase two prefabricated fire training towers to expand and enhance the department’s capacity to train fire rescue personnel and support regional emergency preparedness. These training towers will be a regional asset, providing a realistic, controlled environment to conduct critical firefighting exercises including live fire drills, tactical operations, search and rescue, hose advancement, roof operations, forcible entry, and ladder deployment. MDFR’s current training capacity is limited by space and scheduling constraints, thus reducing the availability of training opportunities. Acquiring the training towers will alleviate these limitations by enabling concurrent training sessions and accommodating larger class sizes, including the Miami-Dade Sheriff’s Office, neighboring fire and law enforcement agencies, Special Response Teams, and the United States Coast Guard. The multi-agency use of this facility will foster enhanced collaboration and interoperability among regional emergency service providers, ensuring a unified and effective response during large-scale incidents that require coordinated interagency mitigation efforts.

Clarify Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders: *AMEND* Florida law to clarify the relationship between Fla. Stat. §§ 112 and 440 to ensure that a qualifying first responder who dies by suicide as a direct result of compensable, service-related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is eligible for the applicable line-of-duty death and workers' compensation benefits. Fla. Stat. § 112.1815 provides benefits and protections for qualifying first responders suffering from PTSD and establishes PTSD as an occupational disease under certain circumstances. Fla. Stat. § 440 (Florida's Workers' Compensation) generally prohibits workers' compensation benefits for injuries or death resulting from intentional self-inflicted injuries. This creates a conflict in circumstances where a qualifying first responder dies by suicide as a result of service-related PTSD. While Fla. Stat. § 112 recognizes PTSD as a compensable occupational condition and provides a framework for line-of-duty benefits, Chapter 440 may prevent the first responder's family from receiving the corresponding workers' compensation benefits because the death resulted from suicide.