

Clerk of the Board
Date and Time Recorder Stamp

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Agenda Item No. 2(A)(1)
October 20, 2026

VETO AND VETO MESSAGE

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez and
Members of the Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County, Florida

From: Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor
Miami-Dade County, Florida



Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 2.02(D) of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby veto the motion adopted at the October 6, 2026, Board of County Commissioners meeting:

COMMISSIONER REGALADO MOVES THAT THIS BOARD DIRECT THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO STOP ALL SPENDING OF MONIES BUDGETED FOR THE CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION OF THE RESOURCES RECOVERY FACILITY ("RRF"), EXCEPT FOR SUCH EXPENDITURES NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OR SECURITY OF THE RRF SITE, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CITY OF DORAL ("DORAL"), HAVE BEEN RESOLVED FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO PARTIALLY DEFRAY ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH RELOCATING AND REBUILDING THE COUNTY'S WASTE TO ENERGY FACILITY OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF DORAL.

VETO MESSAGE

On October 6, 2026, the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") adopted a motion ("Action") directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to stop all spending of monies budgeted for the closure and demolition of the RRF, except for such expenditures necessary for public safety or security, until such time as negotiations with the City of Doral ("Doral"), have been resolved for its contribution of funds to partially defray additional costs associated with relocating and rebuilding the County's waste-to-energy ("WTE") facility outside the boundaries of Doral. I am vetoing the Action because (1) the administration is not overdue in any obligation to bring back a negotiated agreement with Doral to the Board; (2) the Action restricts the ability of the County to properly address conditions on the Doral RRF site, causing the County to incur additional carrying costs to maintain a non-operational facility; and (3) the Action does not improve the County's negotiating position with Doral.

MDC001

The Board's Action was driven by an incorrect assumption that the administration is delayed in negotiating an agreement with Doral to defray the costs of moving the WTE facility outside of City boundaries. In fact, the Board's original direction to the administration was to bring a negotiated agreement with Doral back to the Board within 60 days of the Board adopting a resolution selecting a site for the new WTE facility outside of Doral, which has not occurred. The administration has worked collaboratively with the Board to aid its deliberations on the future of the RRF site and our solid waste system, providing over 30 reports, memoranda, analyses, and presentations on potential options. However, the Board has not decided the future use of the RRF site as a WTE facility, another type of solid waste facility, or something else entirely.

The Board recently modified its original directive related to the Doral agreement in an early-morning vote during the second budget meeting on September 17, 2026, to require the administration to bring back an agreement with Doral **by December 26, 2026**. By imposing an arbitrary deadline rather than tying the negotiation of an agreement to the selection of a site, the Board disadvantaged the County's position with Doral. The Action doubles down on this disadvantage.

In the months after the fire, before the delay occasioned by the lack of a site selection for the WTE facility, the administration and Doral negotiated in good faith on the basic terms of an agreement for Doral's financial contribution. The administration will continue those negotiations and make best efforts to bring an agreement for the Board's consideration within the new timeframe provided by the directive. However, the goal of reaching an agreement with Doral to defray costs of relocating the WTE facility should not hinder the administration from addressing critical needs on the RRF site.

It is not an option to leave the facility as-is any longer because of the nature of the regulations and permits controlling activities at the site. The County is required by certain orders of the Unsafe Structures Board to demolish structures of the RRF for public safety purposes and in lieu of renovation and repair by February 18, 2029. Other regulatory agencies likewise require that County either demolish or repair the RRF. These critical actions require the expenditure of funds. Additionally, the County is expending approximately \$60,000 per month to maintain and secure the RRF facility. Allowing the administration to complete demolition and closure activities will result in reduced security, utility and other carrying costs on this site.

Because of the Doral RRF site's long-term use as a solid waste facility, demolition, closure, long-term care, and environmental remediation are highly regulated processes. The demolition and closure process requires permits, approvals, and specific actions following timelines provided by regulating agencies in accordance with federal, state and local laws. The Action of the Board is too restrictive, limiting the ability for the administration to remain nimble and responsive to the next steps imposed by regulators. The Board's Action amounts to micro-managing financial decisions related to existing liabilities on the site, impeding progress, efficiency, and regulatory compliance.

The administration is not late in meeting its obligations to negotiate with Doral. The Board's continued indecision as to the site for a future WTE facility has caused delay, and that delay continues to cost the County money. Despite these delays, the administration continues to make strides in securing the future of the solid waste system. Through the implementation of a strategic waste haul-out plan and a permit modification

approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the County has reduced annual waste disposal at South Dade Landfill from 750,000 tons to 450,000 tons—a 40% reduction. The County now diverts more than 60% of its managed waste stream to third-party landfills, further conserving capacity at County-owned facilities. These strategic initiatives have preserved valuable landfill capacity, extended the operational life of County landfills, and strengthened the long-term sustainability and resilience of Miami-Dade County's solid waste management system.

CLOSING

Prohibiting the expenditure of funds to responsibly close, demolish, and remediate the RRF site based on an arbitrary deadline puts the administration in an untenable position. For the reasons stated above, I must veto the Board's Action.

MEMORANDUM

Non-Agenda Item No. 15(F)(1)

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

DATE: October 6, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the
County Mayor to stop
spending of monies budgeted
for closure and demolition of
the Resources Recovery
Facility until negotiations
with City of Doral for the
contribution of funds to
defray costs associated with
relocating and rebuilding the
County's waste to energy
facility have been resolved

R-793-26

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: October 6, 2026

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Non-Agenda Item No. 15(F)(1)

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
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto 10/16/2026 kkb - e118567
Override _____

Non-Agenda Item No. 15(F)(1)
10-6-26

RESOLUTION NO. **R-793-26**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO STOP SPENDING OF MONIES BUDGETED FOR CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION OF THE RESOURCES RECOVERY FACILITY UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CITY OF DORAL FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO DEFRAY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH RELOCATING AND REBUILDING THE COUNTY'S WASTE TO ENERGY FACILITY HAVE BEEN RESOLVED

WHEREAS, at the October 6, 2026 Board of County Commissioners' meeting, a motion was made to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to stop all spending of monies budgeted for the closure and demolition of the Resources Recovery Facility ("RRF"), except for such expenditures necessary for public safety or security of the RRF site, until such time as negotiations with the City of Doral ("Doral"), have been resolved for its contribution of funds to partially defray additional costs associated with relocating and rebuilding the County's waste to energy facility outside the boundaries of Doral,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to stop all spending of monies budgeted for the closure and demolition of the RRF, except for such expenditures necessary for public safety or security of the RRF site, until such time as negotiations with the Doral have been resolved for its contribution of funds to partially defray additional costs associated with relocating and rebuilding the County's waste to energy facility outside the boundaries of Doral.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Vicki L. Lopez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	absent		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marlene Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	nay
Sen. René García	absent	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Vicki L. Lopez	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	absent	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of October, 2026. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

dsh

David Stephen Hope