MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(5)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	November 17, 2026
FROM:	Geri Bonzon-Keenan County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Ordinance creating the Office of Dignitary Protection under the Board of County Commissioners; amending article CLXV of the Code; providing function; delegating to the Office of the Chair the authority to implement this legislation using existing appropriated funds

The accompanying ordinance was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III.

For
Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/smm

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: November 17, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(5)

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. 14(A)(5)
11-17-16

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ORDINANCE CREATING THE OFFICE OF DIGNITARY PROTECTION UNDER THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AMENDING ARTICLE CLXV OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FUNCTION; DELEGATING TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIR THE AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THIS LEGISLATION USING EXISTING APPROPRIATED FUNDS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the nation has seen a recent and concerning increase in political violence, including against elected officials across the nation; and

WHEREAS, in June 2025, in a politically motivated attack, former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband were assassinated in their home, and Minnesota state senator John Hoffman and his wife were shot and seriously injured in their home; and

WHEREAS, in July 2024, President Donald J. Trump was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania and was wounded in the ear, and a rally attendee was killed; and

WHEREAS, in April 2026, the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner was marred by gunshots at the dinner's security screening area, and law enforcement later identified a suspect who allegedly intended to target multiple individuals from President Trump's administration; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2026, Miami-Dade Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz issued correspondence to Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and this Board wherein she informed the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) would "discontinue the Sergeant-at-Arms Program effective November 9, 2026"; and

WHEREAS, historically, County law enforcement has provided dignitary protection to the Mayor and the County Commission beyond commission chambers, ensuring safety at community events; and

WHEREAS, the decision by Sheriff Cordero-Stutz to discontinue such support leaves a critical gap in the safety and support for County elected officials at a particularly vulnerable time; and

WHEREAS, given this critical gap, this Board wishes to create an Office of Dignitary Protection to provide protective services to elected officials; and

WHEREAS, such protective services may include, but are not limited to, threat assessment, personal protection, secure transportation, and coordination with law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, such protective services shall not include the exercise of law enforcement powers, including arrest or investigative powers; and

WHEREAS, creating the Office of Dignitary Protection as an office that reports to the County Commission will provide continuity, uniform standards, and accountability to this Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 2-2426 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the Chairperson of the County Commission has fiscal review and managerial and operational oversight over the offices in Article CLXV of the Code; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to delegate to the Chairperson of the Commission the authority to implement this legislation using existing appropriated funds,

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

Section 1. Article CLXV of chapter 2 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:[1]

ART. CLXV.
OFFICES OF AGENDA COORDINATION, PROTOCOL, MEDIA, [[~~AND~~]] SUPPORT STAFF SERVICES >>, AND DIGNITARY PROTECTION<<

Sec. 2-2424. Offices and Functions.

The following offices shall provide support to the Board of County Commissioners:

(a) Office of Agenda Coordination;
(b) Office of Protocol;
(c) Office of Board of County Commissioners Media; [[~~and~~]]
(d) Office of Support Staff Services[[~~,~~]]>>and;
(e) Office of Dignitary Protection.<<

The functions of each office shall be listed in the table of organization for the Board of County Commissioners adopted as part of the County's annual budget.

* * *

Section 2. The Office of Dignitary Protection shall have the function of providing dignitary services to the Chairperson and County Commission, which may include, but are not limited to, providing threat assessment, personal protection, secure transportation, and coordination with law enforcement agencies.

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

Section 3. The Office of the Chair is delegated the authority to implement this legislation using existing appropriated funds.

Section 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 5. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any sunset provision, shall become and be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 6. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED:

Approved by County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency:

JMM FOR

Prepared by:

Anita Viciana Zapata

Prime Sponsor: Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III