

## MEMORANDUM

Amended  
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** March 16, 2021

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving 2021  
federal legislative priorities;  
waiving provision of Resolution  
No. R-764-13 limiting number of  
federal legislative priorities

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Resolution No. R-224-21

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/uw



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
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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 \_\_\_\_, 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) \_\_\_\_, or 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



**WHEREAS**, on December 4, 2018, this Board approved Resolution No. R-1267-18, which:

1. Directed the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to timely remit the federal legislative package, after its approval by the Board, to the County's federal contract lobbyists for feedback and to prepare a report detailing the findings of said feedback prior to the Board's consideration of the federal legislative priorities, with such report being placed on the Board agenda as a supplement to the item providing for the Board's consideration of the federal legislative priorities;

2. Directed the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include in the draft federal legislative package the federal legislative requests from the Public Health Trust, if available; and

3. Requested that the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, starting in December 2019 and each year thereafter, present the draft legislative package for the following year to the Board for consideration in December; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of Resolution No. R-1267-18 directing the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to seek the input of the County's federal contract lobbyists after the Board approves the federal legislative package necessitates the Board approving the federal legislative package at one meeting and then deciding on federal legislative priorities at a subsequent meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board approved the 2021 federal legislative package at the March 2, 2021 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the report detailing the findings of the feedback from the County’s federal contract lobbyists is contained in a supplement to this item pursuant to Resolution No. R-1267-18; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed 2021 federal legislative priorities as determined by the Board 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.** Waives the provision of Resolution No. R-764-13 limiting the number of federal legislative priorities and approves the County’s federal legislative priorities for 2021 as determined by the Board.

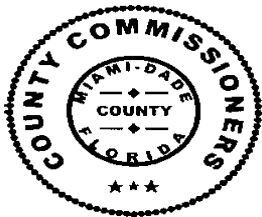
**Section 2.** Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the 2021 federal legislative priorities.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
Sen. René García	<b>aye</b>	Keon Hardemon	<b>aye</b>
Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>	Danielle Cohen Higgins	<b>aye</b>
Eileen Higgins	<b>aye</b>	Joe A. Martinez	<b>absent</b>
Kionne L. McGhee	<b>aye</b>	Jean Monestime	<b>aye</b>
Raquel A. Regalado	<b>aye</b>	Rebeca Sosa	<b>aye</b>
Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>aye</b>		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021. 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



HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

**Melissa Adames**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

Jess M. McCarty

## 2021 Federal Legislative Critical Priorities

1. **SMART Plan Funding:** - Support funding and financing for all corridors in the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.
2. **Septic to Sewer Conversion:** Resolution No. R-881-20 urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide funding to assist local communities with eliminating septic systems and converting to sewer system connections.
3. **Emergency Assistance to U.S. Airports, Airport Concessionaires, and Employees:** Advocate for at least \$13 billion in additional emergency assistance to U.S. airports, airport concessionaires, and employees. Provide \$10 billion to airports to mitigate expenses and lost revenue, and prevent furloughs from the decline in air travel due to COVID-19. Provide \$3 billion to airport concessionaires to support continued employment and prevent bankruptcies. America's airports – like the rest of the nation's aviation system – have been hit hard by the significant decline in travel caused by COVID-19. Passenger levels were down as much as 95 percent system-wide for an extended time and are still at only 30 to 40 percent of previous levels. Billions in revenue that airports expected to be generated by travelers has evaporated. Billions more in anticipated passenger facility charge (PFC) collections has also disappeared, depriving airports of a key source of revenue to support bond payments. Airports hold nearly \$100 billion in collective debt, with some \$7 billion in airport bond principal and interest payments due in 2020.

The CARES Act funding provided a critical lifeline to airports in the near-term that protected jobs, provided for enhance cleaning and sanitization efforts, ensured that debt payments be made and helped keep construction projects moving forward. Unfortunately, the relief provided by CARES Act funding was only temporary given the depths of the crisis. The cost of retaining employees, maintaining facilities and meeting debt obligations continues for airports even as airport revenue and PFC collections remain stagnant. Until passengers return, airports have few places to turn beyond the federal government.

Given the continuing decline in aviation activity and revenue, and the precipitous drop in PFC collections that help support bond payments, airports need additional federal assistance to meet existing requirements and to prepare for the return of passengers in a significantly different operating environment.

4. **COVID-19 Public Health Trust Emergency Relief Funding:** Resolution No. R-755-20 supporting additional Federal and State emergency funding relief for the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to enact legislation or take any necessary action to identify such additional emergency funding relief.
5. **COVID-19 Seaport Relief:** Advocate for Seaport COVID relief. PortMiami has joined the *Florida Ports Council* and the *American Association of Port Authorities* to advocate for Port COVID relief, requesting \$1.5 billion to cover lost revenues and additional expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19, including cleaning, sanitizing, staffing, work force retention and debt service payments.

To date, the **CARES Act** and other proposed relief measures have not included targeted relief to seaports; however, ports are continuing to seek assistance by any COVID relief or future stimulus legislation. The updated *Heroes Act*, as passed by the House of Representatives on October 1, allows states to transfer relief funds to “**special purpose units of local governments that are involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo.**” Funds can be used for COVID-related expenses, to replace foregone revenues not projected on January 31, 2020, or to respond to negative economic impacts of COVID. Advocate for a technical amendment to the State Coronavirus Relief Fund (per House-passed H.R. 6800) which clarifies that special purpose units of local government are defined as units of state and county governments.

6. **Biscayne Bay:** Resolution No. R-884-20 urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide additional funding for Biscayne Bay.
7. **Stimulus Package for Companies and Local Governments:** Resolution No. R-443-20 urging the United States Congress to include funding for companies and local governments in future stimulus packages or other monetary stimulus measures to assist with the economic downturn caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
8. **Infrastructure Stimulus Plan:** Advocate for an Infrastructure Stimulus Plan that addresses the critical needs of airports - America's airports are a fundamental component of our nation's transportation infrastructure. Inadequate airport infrastructure that fails to meet the growing needs of local businesses and tourists puts in jeopardy the economic recovery and growth of American cities, states, and regions. From established metropolitan areas to small communities, sustained economic growth depends on the expansion of, and investment in our nation's airports.

Our nation's transportation infrastructure—which should serve to connect America—has fallen into a state of disrepair and is driving people further apart. Commutes are longer, family and friends feel more distant and it is harder than ever to see all of our great country. The future of mobility in America will require greener, more energy efficient modes of transportation, modernized systems and improved access to heavily trafficked destinations.

By making these investments now, the U.S. can prepare to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis with stronger, more connected infrastructure systems than ever before, and will be ready to meet a resurgence in travel demand. Miami-Dade County continues to urge Congress to pursue an infrastructure package that could help airports finance much-needed upgrades to better accommodate anticipated growth in passenger and cargo, improve the customer experience for air travelers, and enhance competition at the nation's airports.

9. **Stimulus Package to include Direct and Flexible Funding:** Resolution No. R-441-20 urging the United States Congress to include direct and flexible funding to counties in future stimulus or other relief packages to assist with the Economic downturn caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
10. **Stimulus Package to include Rental Assistance:** Resolution No. R-516-20 urging the United States Congress to include funding for rental assistance in a future stimulus package to assist renters experiencing financial hardship as a result of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and associated illness, job loss, furlough, and decreased work hours.
11. **Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (“HEROES ACT”):** Resolution No. 770-20 urging the United States Congress to Enact H.R. 6800, Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (“HEROES ACT”), or similar legislation that, among other things, would provide rental and mortgage assistance to individuals impacted by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), provide additional stimulus payment to individuals, increase food benefits, provide additional unemployment funds and provide funding to state and local governments.
12. **Climate Change/Resiliency:** Advocate for climate change/resiliency initiatives which provide for climate adaptation capital investment in seaports, including any follow up to the report released by the House Select Committee on Climate Change - “***Build a Cleaner and More Resilient Maritime and Shipping Sector***” - which recommends investments in climate resiliency projects for U.S. ports in future water resources (WRDA) legislation. The report proposes that interagency entities, such as the *Mitigation Framework Leadership Group*, coordinate a unified federal framework for climate - resilient investments in U.S. ports, including guidance on vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning for individual ports and harbors.

13. **Ludlam Trail Corridor:** Advocate for and Support federal funding for the construction of the Ludlam Trail. The Ludlam Trail Corridor is an approximately 5.6 mile long, generally one-hundred foot wide, abandoned Florida East Coast Railway spur-line that stretches from NW 7 St. just south of Miami International Airport to SW 80 St. just north of Dadeland Mall. This funding request will help reduce an estimated \$60,000,000 in unfunded needs for various phases of Ludlam Trail development and will help continue the phased conversion and activation of this abandoned railway corridor into a public bicycle and pedestrian corridor. This corridor will be owned, developed and maintained by Miami-Dade County and is an important element of the plan for a County-wide network of bicycle and pedestrian trails.
14. **Beach Erosion Control Sand Sources:** Support efforts to exempt Southeast Florida, specifically Miami-Dade County, from federal prohibition of cost-sharing non-domestic sources of beach sand for beach erosion control/sea level rise mitigation. (Environmental Protection).