

MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(17)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 4, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving 2023
federal legislative priorities;
waiving provision of Resolution
No. R-764-13 limiting number of
federal legislative priorities

Resolution No. R-330-23

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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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

Approved	_____	Mayor	Amended
Veto	_____		Agenda Item No. 11(A)(17)
Override	_____		4-4-23

RESOLUTION NO. R-330-23

**RESOLUTION APPROVING 2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES; WAIVING PROVISION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-
764-13 LIMITING NUMBER OF FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, the 118th United States Congress began on January 3, 2023 and will end on January 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2012, this Board approved Resolution No. R-59-12, which directed the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, when it presents the proposed federal or state legislative packages 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 directed that the federal and state legislative packages each be presented to the Board in two separate companion 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 items for approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-764-13 provided that, upon the priorities being approved and effective, incorporating any amendments by the Board, the Chair of the Board, or a County Commissioner designated by the Chair, shall transmit the priorities to the respective federal or state legislative delegation; and

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 2023 federal legislative package at the March 7, 2023 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 2023 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:

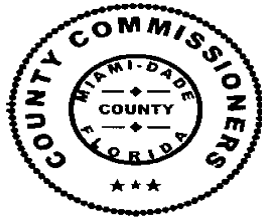
Section 1. Waives the provision of Resolution No. R-764-13 limiting the number of federal legislative priorities and approves the County's federal legislative priorities for 2023 as determined by the Board.

Section 2. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the 2023 federal legislative priorities.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III. It was offered by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of April, 2023. 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

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MSM

Jess M. McCarty
Javier Zapata
Michael J. Mastrucci

2023 Federal Legislative Critical Priorities

- **Protection and Enhancement of Biscayne Bay:** Urging the United States Congress and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to provide funding for the protection and enhancement of Biscayne Bay and for septic-to-sewer conversion projects (R-1118-22).
- **Visa Applications from Argentina:** Urging the United States Congress and the Secretary of the United States Department of State to jointly and expeditiously resolve the backlog of immigrant visa applications and visa renewal requests received from citizens of Argentina.
- **Funding for Septic to Sewer Conversion – *SUPPORT*** legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants and loans to facilitate septic to sewer projects where it is shown that septic systems are contributing to public health risks or environmental degradation of significant resources such as Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park. Funding is needed for the public infrastructure as well as for the cost of connection for private property owners.
- ***SMART Plan Funding - SUPPORT*** funding and financing for all corridors in the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.
 - ***ADVOCATE*** for accelerated review of East-West Bus Rapid Transit Project and Northeast Commuter Rail Corridors currently in the FTA evaluations process.
- **Infrastructure Finance and Programs – *SUPPORT*** the implementation of Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Authority (WIFIA), adequate funding of State Revolving Loan Funds, and federal policy on affordability, climate change, Clean Water Act mandates, and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, which are all significant factors for WASH2020 capital and operating requirements. The Department has been selected in each of the first four funding cycles for WIFIA projects, in addition to maximizing utilization of the State Revolving Loan Fund program, demonstrating the importance of these federal initiatives to produce results on the ground. A reliable utility system meeting all state and federal requirements is essential for the operation of other departments as well as the continued economic well-being of the County. Miami-Dade County has an \$8+ billion water and sewer capital needs program resulting from aging infrastructure, federal and state regulatory mandates, and changing conditions associated with documented sea level rise including sewer and water extensions needed to convert impacted septic tank systems and contaminated drinking water wells. This represents the largest capital burden of any comparably sized utility in the nation.
- **Biscayne Bay Restoration - *ADVOCATE*** to restore Biscayne Bay water quality and habitats, including the development of a Reasonable Assurance Plan; ***SUPPORT*** efforts to secure recurring funds to accomplish Biscayne Bay restoration; ***SUPPORT*** legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants to facilitate restoration-related projects to restore water quality and habitats and prevent fish kills and algal blooms. (Environmental Resources Management & Resilience)

- **Senior Housing Assistance Program (SHARP) - *ADVOCATE*** for federal funding to further expand the SHARP program to assist larger numbers of elderly homeowners with needed home repairs and rehabilitation services, which include electrical upgrades, HVAC upgrades, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, bathroom and kitchen upgrades, improved accessibility, roof repairs or replacement and flooring upgrades.
- **Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - *MONITOR*** agency activities surrounding the roll out of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) including the Notices of (FY 2023) funding opportunities (NOFOs) for the major programs of interest to ports: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (Mega); the Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program (PIDG), RAISE and INFRA. *ADVOCATE* for continuing (FY 2024) appropriations for IIJA programs and Mega Grant prioritization language by the (2024) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bills.
- **Everglades Restoration in Miami-Dade - *SUPPORT*** the State of Florida's request for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) funding at \$725 million for FY22 to continue the progress made for Everglades restoration that includes funds for planning efforts for the Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration project (BBSEER). The BBSEER project is essential to Miami-Dade County. BBSEER will restore parts of the south Florida ecosystem in freshwater wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Lands, the coastal wetlands, and subtidal areas, including mangrove and seagrass areas, of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park.
- **Strengthen Federal Passenger and Cargo Screening Staffing – *ADVOCATE*** for sufficient staffing to both address lengthy passenger wait times and delays in cargo processing. Maintaining the safety and security of the traveling public is a top priority for Miami International Airport (MIA). MIA continually works with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to protect passengers while providing an efficient passenger and cargo screening process. But staffing shortfalls from these government agencies have proven to be an on-going challenge.
- **Transit Build Back Better Framework – *SUPPORT*** the passage of the Build Back Better Framework for Transit and alternative fuel investments. The House Committee on Rules posted revised legislative text that reflects most of the Framework. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the bill provides:
 - \$10 billion for a new, innovative program providing competitive grants for public transit access to affordable housing and to enhance mobility for low-income riders and residents of disadvantaged communities;
 - \$10 billion for the planning and development of public high-speed rail projects; and
 - Additional investments in climate incentive grants and neighborhood access and equity grants.
 - It also creates a manufacturer's tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost of electric or hydrogen fuel-cell transit buses; extends the alternative fuel tax credit; and extends and substantially increases the alternative fuel vehicle property tax credit.

- **Biscayne-Everglades Greenway – *ADVOCATE*** for funding and/or authorize programs to assist in the Design and Construction of the 43-mile world class Biscayne-Everglades Greenway that will traverse and serve both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Miami-Dade County connecting Biscayne National Park to Everglades National Park providing a safe and scenic route to the parks without concern for vehicular traffic. The greenway will connect to a variety of other trails in the South Dade Greenways Network and will incorporate South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and County owned rights-of-ways. The project will provide for both recreation and alternative transportation. The funding will be used to complete trail extensions to the west of NE 12 Av. with connections to the existing South Dade Trail / East Coast Greenway along the Busway and downtown Homestead along SW 320 St. (E. Mowry Dr. and W. Mowry Dr.)
- **Agriculture Relief - *ADVOCATE*** for funding, programs, legislation, and assistance to increase viability of our local agricultural industry and mitigate any effects of invasive pests, diseases, freezes, flooding, windstorm and other potential damages to our said industry. (Economic Development)
- **Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program (Acquisition and Management) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** Federal grant programs that provide Miami-Dade County's EEL Program funding to acquire and manage environmentally sensitive lands that help the County to adapt to impacts of sea level rise (such as increased erosion, higher storm surges, salt water intrusion, impacts to Biscayne Bay) to absorb floodwaters, to cool nearby "heat islands", and to absorb and store carbon pollution that drive climate change. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Older Americans Act (OAA) - *ADVOCATE*** for increased federal funding through the OAA to meet the demand for services for the growing senior adult population such as in-home support, adult day care, and respite for caregivers, and meals, thereby helping seniors avoid or delay institutionalization, while remaining in their homes and in the community.
- **Funding for Homeless Programs – *SUPPORT*** expanding HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants programs, including the competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) formula grant program which are the cornerstones of our community's homeless system. In Miami-Dade, ESG grants fund outreach, shelter, prevention and rapid rehousing. The CoC program funds permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing (short- to medium-term rental assistance), transitional housing for youth, and coordinated entry (outreach). The Homeless Trust receives more than \$40 million in direct funding under the Federal CoC program competition, and coordinates with jurisdictions including Miami-Dade, Miami and Hialeah, and the State of Florida to house and serve additional homeless and at-risk households using ESG funding.

The biggest cost item in the homelessness programs is rental subsidies. Increasing rents will consume much of the FY 2022 HAG increase. HAG funding in the amount of \$3.6 billion is requested for Fiscal Year 2023.

- **Public Housing & Section 8 Housing - *ADVOCATE*** for increased federal funding from HUD for public housing and Section 8 programs. Funding for these programs will ensure the preservation of existing housing stock and improvement of federally funded programs that provide crucial affordable housing and rental subsidies to low-income families.
- **HUD Assisted Housing for Specific Disabilities and Elderly - *SUPPORT*** allowing for the designation of HUD assisted housing for specific disabilities and for the elderly, especially given Miami-Dade County's large population of elderly.
- **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 Resources Management)
- **Funding and Support for New Arrivals – *ADVOCATE*** for funding to support basic services for new immigrants in Miami-Dade County.