

MEMORANDUM

Substitute
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to designate all land
that is part of or used to support
operations at Miami Executive
Airport, including any land that
may become part of or used to
support operations at Miami
Executive Airport in the future,
as "spaceport territory" under
section 331.304 of the Florida
Statutes

Resolution No. R-71-25

This substitute differs from the original version in that the substitute seeks to clarify that a designation of land as "spaceport territory" does not mean that the land will be used for rocket launches and that most "spaceport territory" is not used for rocket launches. Furthermore, the substitute seeks to clarify that a designation of Miami Executive Airport land as "spaceport territory" is not intended to make Miami Executive Airport a rocket launch site and will not limit Miami Executive Airport's aviation uses.

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

Substitute
SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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 _____
Override _____

Substitute
Agenda Item No. 11A(7)
1-22-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-71-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO DESIGNATE ALL LAND THAT IS PART OF OR USED TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS AT MIAMI EXECUTIVE AIRPORT, INCLUDING ANY LAND THAT MAY BECOME PART OF OR USED TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS AT MIAMI EXECUTIVE AIRPORT IN THE FUTURE, AS “SPACEPORT TERRITORY” UNDER SECTION 331.304 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Florida Legislature passed the Space Florida Act, codified at chapter 331, Part II of the Florida Statutes, to foster the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading aerospace industry in this state; and

WHEREAS, the Space Florida Act, among other things, created Space Florida, an independent special district, body politic and corporate, and subdivision of the state, to promote aerospace business development by facilitating business financing, spaceport operations, research and development, workforce development, and innovative education programs; and

WHEREAS, section 331.303 of the Florida Statutes defines “aerospace” as the technology and industry related to the design, manufacture, maintenance, repair, and operation of aircraft or any other device intended to be used or designed for flight or reentry, including rockets, missiles, spacecraft, satellites, space vehicles, space stations, space and aircraft facilities or components thereof, and related equipment, systems, facilities, simulators, programs, and activities, including, but not limited to, the application of aerospace and aviation technologies in air-based, land-based, space-based, and sea-based platforms for commercial, civil, and defense purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 331.304 of the Florida Statutes, certain land in the state has been designated “spaceport territory,” which makes such land eligible for a host of benefits to

support the aerospace industry, including the receipt of state funding and other assistance in the development of aerospace infrastructure; and

>>WHEREAS, according to Space Florida’s website, “Spaceport territories are not simply areas that support launches, and in most cases they currently do not. They serve as hubs for aerospace commerce and innovation, and ultimately bolster the state’s position as the global center for the industry.... Expanding the Spaceport System Territory allows Space Florida to attract more companies and private investment in non-traditionally ‘space’ regions.”; and

WHEREAS, there are currently seven (7) “spaceport territories” in the State of Florida, and most are not used for rocket launches; and

WHEREAS, Space Florida has further described “spaceport territory” as “an aerospace hub that creates an ecosystem for companies to be centralized in one area with access to resources, shared ideas, a talented workforce, premium locations, and capital. This designation enhances the use of the Space Florida toolkit, which includes the Florida Department of Transportation’s Spaceport Improvement Program, unlocking the ability for companies to access funding from this program for development and infrastructure improvements.”; and<<¹

WHEREAS, aerospace infrastructure includes any infrastructure that supports the state’s aerospace industry, including the manufacturing of aerospace equipment such as rockets, satellites, or any other goods or equipment used in any way to support space travel; and

WHEREAS, the County recently hosted an aerospace roundtable discussion that was attended by myriad representatives from major aerospace institutions and companies, including NASA, Space Florida, major aerospace manufacturers such as Boeing and Airbus, the Miami-

¹ The differences between the substitute and the original item are indicated as follows: Words double stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] are deleted, words double underlined and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.

Dade School Board and major South Florida universities, and aerospace maintenance, repair and overhaul (“MRO”) companies; and

WHEREAS, according to a presentation made by Space Florida during the roundtable discussion, the aerospace industry is growing quickly, with emphasis on the growth of the global satellite manufacturing and launch systems markets, the global air mobility and MRO markets, and the aircraft manufacturing and flight simulator markets; and

WHEREAS, according to statements made by NASA during the roundtable discussion, the Kennedy Space Center has reached capacity, and other spaceport sites are needed to support its mission; and

>>**WHEREAS**, according to statements made by NASA and Space Florida during the roundtable discussion, there are numerous aerospace components, such as rockets, that are manufactured in other parts of the country and shipped long distances to the Kennedy Space Center, and it would make much more sense if those components could be manufactured locally, including in the County; and<<

WHEREAS, the roundtable discussion attendees, including NASA and Space Florida, believe that Miami-Dade County is primed to be one of the next frontiers in the growth of Florida’s aerospace industry; and

>>**WHEREAS**, according to statements made during the roundtable discussion, NASA and Space Florida do not envision using spaceport territory in the County for the purpose of launching rockets; rather, they see the County as an ideal location for the growth of the aerospace equipment manufacturing and MRO industries; and<<

WHEREAS, the County is currently exploring ways to grow the size and operational capacity of Miami Executive Airport; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that there are numerous benefits to growing Miami-Dade County's aerospace industry, and believes Miami Executive Airport land would be an ideal location for such purpose; and

>>**WHEREAS**, a designation of Miami Executive Airport land as "spaceport territory" would not limit the County's use of Miami Executive Airport for aviation; and<<

WHEREAS, this Board accordingly desires to urge the Florida Legislature to designate all land that is part of or used to support operations at Miami Executive Airport, including any land that may become part of or may be used to support operations at Miami Executive Airport in the future, as "spaceport territory" under section 331.304 of the Florida Statutes,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to designate all land that is part of or used to support operations at Miami Executive Airport, including any land that may become part of or used to support operations at Miami Executive Airport in the future, as "spaceport territory" under section 331.304 of the Florida Statutes.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Florida Senate President, the Florida House Speaker, and the Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez. It was offered by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sen. René García** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of January, 2025. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RCZ".

Ryan C. Zagare