

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

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

DATE: April 1, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging President
Donald J. Trump, United States
Secretary of Defense Pete
Hegseth, United States Secretary
of State Marco Rubio, and the
United States Congress to
maintain the location of the
United States Southern
Command

Resolution No. R-372-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 1, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

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 _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)
4-1-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-372-25

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP,
UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PETE
HEGSETH, UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE
MARCO RUBIO, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
MAINTAIN THE LOCATION OF THE UNITED STATES
SOUTHERN COMMAND

WHEREAS, the United States Southern Command (“SOUTHCOM”), located in Doral, Florida, is one of 11 unified Combatant Commands in the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM is responsible for United States military operations and security cooperation in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM is responsible for the force protection of United States military resources at these locations and the defense of the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM conducts counter-narcotics operations, counter-transnational crime efforts, and counter-terrorism activities in its areas of responsibility; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM promotes regional security cooperation through joint exercises, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM strengthens military-to-military relationships and democratic institutions across the region; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM defends the southern approaches to the United States and supports broader national security objectives; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM employs more than 2,000 active duty and civilian personnel; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis, SOUTHCOM, along with Homestead Air Reserve Base and the United States Coast Guard's 7th District, contributes \$3,100,000,000.00 in regional economic impact, \$480,000,000.00 in procurement opportunities, and supports more than 27,000 jobs in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, multiple media outlets have reported that the United States Department of Defense is exploring the merger of SOUTHCOM with the United States Northern Command ("NORTHCOM"), located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to enhance operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, any relocation or dissolution of SOUTHCOM would have significant economic and strategic consequences for Doral, the broader Miami area, and the nation at large; and

WHEREAS, Miami serves as the capital of the Americas, with unmatched economic, cultural, and military ties to the region, providing a geographic advantage for counter-drug interdiction and regional security efforts; and

WHEREAS, a merger with NORTHCOM could shift priority toward North America, reducing specialized attention to SOUTHCOM's areas of responsibility and leading Latin American allies to perceive a deprioritization of regional security partnerships; and

WHEREAS, integrating command elements could create the very inefficiencies and disruption to ongoing operations the federal government is trying to eliminate; and

WHEREAS, SOUTHCOM's merger with NORTHCOM could lead to job losses and reduced federal investment in South Florida,

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

Section 1. Urges President Donald J. Trump, United States Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and the United States Congress to maintain the location of the United States Southern Command and not consolidate it with the United States Northern Command. If such consolidation is to take place, this Board urges President Donald Trump, United States Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and the United States Congress to consolidate at the United States Southern Command's location in Doral, Florida.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, United States Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

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

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Roberto J. Gonzalez** 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	aye	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	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of April, 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.

BEQ

Brianna E. Donet
Javier Zapata