

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(A)

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

DATE: May 20, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution codesignating, by a three-fifths vote of Board members present, that portion of Northwest 131st Street between North Miami Avenue and Northwest 2nd Avenue as “Councilman Jacques Despinosse Street;” and approving the City of North Miami codesignation of that portion of Northeast 131st Street between Northeast 2nd Avenue and North Miami Avenue, and that portion of Northwest 131st Street between Northwest 2nd Avenue and Northwest 13th Avenue, as “Councilman Jacques Despinosse Street”

Resolution No. R-471-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Marleine Bastien.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: May 20, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5(A)

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. 5(A)
5-20-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-471-25

RESOLUTION CODESIGNATING, BY A THREE-FIFTHS VOTE OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT, THAT PORTION OF NORTHWEST 131ST STREET BETWEEN NORTH MIAMI AVENUE AND NORTHWEST 2ND AVENUE AS “COUNCILMAN JACQUES DESPINOSSE STREET;” AND APPROVING THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI CODESIGNATIONS OF THAT PORTION OF NORTHEAST 131ST STREET BETWEEN NORTHEAST 2ND AVENUE AND NORTH MIAMI AVENUE, AND THAT PORTION OF NORTHWEST 131ST STREET BETWEEN NORTHWEST 2ND AVENUE AND NORTHWEST 13TH AVENUE, AS “COUNCILMAN JACQUES DESPINOSSE STREET”

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse was born in Haiti and immigrated to New York City in 1968, where he embraced entrepreneurship by opening a variety store in Brooklyn, selling African and Haitian goods and music; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, he relocated with his family to Miami, Florida, settling in Little Haiti and later becoming active in American civic and political life; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of civic engagement, Jacques founded the Haitian American Democratic Club of Greater Miami in 1985 and became deeply involved in local, state, and national politics, serving as a delegate to six Democratic National Conventions and advocating for Haitian interests in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Jacques was honored by President Bill Clinton with the opportunity to serve as an observer of the electoral process in Haiti on two occasions, further solidifying his reputation as a trusted voice for the Haitian-American community; and

WHEREAS, understanding the power of the vote, Jacques tirelessly encouraged Haitian immigrants to pursue U.S. citizenship to gain political representation and influence, culminating in his own political career with his 1994 campaign for State House District 104 and subsequent elections to the City of North Miami City Council in 2001 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, even after leaving public office, Jacques Despinosse has remained an active figure in the political landscape through his long-running radio program, *Radio Citizen*, and ongoing community advocacy with the local Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Jacques was always supported by his family, including his late wife Ruth, late mother Amarante, his four children, and one grandchild; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that on May 27, 2025, the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami (the “City”) will adopt a Resolution codesignating that portion of Northeast 131st Street between Northeast 2nd Avenue and North Miami Avenue, and that portion of Northwest 131st Street between Northwest 2nd Avenue and Northwest 13th Avenue as “Councilman Jacques Despinosse Street” to acknowledge the contributions of Jacques A. Despinosse to the City of North Miami; and

WHEREAS, the City would like for the County to install signage indicating this codesignation on County street signs and traffic signal mast arms; and

WHEREAS, that portion of Northwest 131st Street between North Miami Avenue and Northwest 2nd Avenue is a County-maintained road located in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County and within County Commission District 2; and

WHEREAS, that portion of Northeast 131st Street between Northeast 2nd Avenue and North Miami Avenue, and that portion of Northwest 131st Street between Northwest 2nd Avenue and Northwest 13th Avenue, are City-maintained roads located in the City and within County Commission District 2; and

WHEREAS, Rule 9.02 of the Board's Rules of Procedure provides that resolutions regarding proposed naming, renaming, or codesignation of Miami-Dade County roads, facilities, or property shall be sponsored by the district commissioner where the road, facility, or property is located and shall be considered at a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, Rule 9.02 also provides that the Board may, by a three-fifths vote of the Board members present, name a County road, facility, or property after a living individual who "has made a direct, significant lifetime contribution to this community"; and

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse has made direct, significant lifetime contributions to Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to honor Jacques Despinosse and his contributions to the community by (1) codesignating that portion of Northwest 131st Street between North Miami Avenue and Northwest 2nd Avenue as "Councilman Jacques Despinosse Street;" and (2) approving the City's codesignations of that portion of Northeast 131st Street between Northeast 2nd Avenue and North Miami Avenue, and that portion of Northwest 131st Street between Northwest 2nd Avenue and Northwest 13th Avenue, as "Councilman Jacques Despinosse Street,"

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

Section 1. Incorporates the foregoing recitals into this resolution and finds that Jacques Despinosse has made direct, significant lifetime contributions to this community pursuant to Rule 9.02(d).

Section 2. Having considered this matter at a public hearing and by a three-fifths vote of Board members present, codesignates that portion of Northwest 131st Street between North Miami Avenue and Northwest 2nd Avenue as “Councilman Jacques Despinosse Street”.

Section 3. Approves the City of North Miami’s codesignations of that portion of Northeast 131st Street between Northeast 2nd Avenue and North Miami Avenue, and that portion of Northwest 131st Street between Northwest 2nd Avenue and Northwest 13th Avenue, as “Councilman Jacques Despinosse Street”.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, the United States Postal Service, the Traffic Signals and Signs Division of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Development Services Division of the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department, the Miami-Dade Sheriff’s Office, the City of North Miami Police Department, and the Miami-Dade County Fire-Rescue Department.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Marleine Bastien. It was offered by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien**, 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
Sen. René García	aye	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of May, 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.

Narinah P. Jean-Baptiste
Michael J. Mastrucci