

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

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

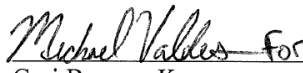
DATE: December 2, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting actions by the federal government to phase out the use of synthetic color additives in the nation's food supply; urging the federal government, including the United States Food and Drug Administration, to revoke the authorizations for synthetic color additives to be used in food products, or, at a minimum, to increase the standards for ongoing review and authorization of these additives and require that food products include labels that indicate that the product contains a synthetic color additive; urging all contractors, vendors, suppliers and grantees with an existing contract with Miami-Dade County for food services for a County-operated or County-funded food program to transition from using food products containing synthetic color additives under these contracts to using alternative food products that do not contain these additives; urging food manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, processors, grocery stores and other retailers, as well as restaurants and caterers operating in Miami-Dade County to transition from manufacturing, delivering, processing, selling, preparing, distributing or otherwise providing food products containing synthetic color additives, and to replace such products with those containing natural alternatives, if anything at all; directing the County Mayor to evaluate the feasibility of creating an informational program to provide education and guidance to the public in Miami-Dade County regarding synthetic color additives in food products; directing the County Mayor to evaluate the feasibility of creating a program to incentivize County contractors to voluntarily transition away from using synthetic color additives in County food programs, and to provide a report

Resolution No. R-1180-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez, Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez and Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks

MDC001



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: December 2, 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)
12-2-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-1180-25

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACTIONS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVES IN THE NATION'S FOOD SUPPLY; URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, TO REVOKE THE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVES TO BE USED IN FOOD PRODUCTS, OR, AT A MINIMUM, TO INCREASE THE STANDARDS FOR ONGOING REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION OF THESE ADDITIVES AND REQUIRE THAT FOOD PRODUCTS INCLUDE LABELS THAT INDICATE THAT THE PRODUCT CONTAINS A SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVE; URGING ALL CONTRACTORS, VENDORS, SUPPLIERS AND GRANTEEES WITH AN EXISTING CONTRACT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR FOOD SERVICES FOR A COUNTY-OPERATED OR COUNTY-FUNDED FOOD PROGRAM TO TRANSITION FROM USING FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVES UNDER THESE CONTRACTS TO USING ALTERNATIVE FOOD PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN THESE ADDITIVES; URGING FOOD MANUFACTURERS, SUPPLIERS, DISTRIBUTORS, PROCESSORS, GROCERY STORES AND OTHER RETAILERS, AS WELL AS RESTAURANTS AND CATERERS OPERATING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO TRANSITION FROM MANUFACTURING, DELIVERING, PROCESSING, SELLING, PREPARING, DISTRIBUTING OR OTHERWISE PROVIDING FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVES, AND TO REPLACE SUCH PRODUCTS WITH THOSE CONTAINING NATURAL ALTERNATIVES, IF ANYTHING AT ALL; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AN INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE TO THE PUBLIC IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY REGARDING SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVES IN FOOD PRODUCTS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A PROGRAM TO INCENTIVIZE COUNTY CONTRACTORS TO VOLUNTARILY TRANSITION AWAY FROM USING SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVES IN COUNTY FOOD PROGRAMS, AND TO PROVIDE A REPORT

WHEREAS, a food “color additive” is defined by the United States Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) as a dye, pigment or other substance capable of imparting color to a food; and

WHEREAS, food color additives are typically used to enhance the appearance of food to make it more visually appealing or appetizing; and

WHEREAS, this usage could be to offset natural color loss occurring due to the product’s exposure to light, air, extreme temperatures, and storage conditions; and

WHEREAS, synthetically produced food color additives—commonly referred to as “artificial food dyes” or “artificial food colorings”—are human-made, rather than naturally occurring substances, and are typically produced from petroleum-based chemicals; and

WHEREAS, these synthetic food color additives are often preferred by food manufacturers for their bright and uniform color and because they are generally less expensive to produce than dyes and pigments derived from natural sources; and

WHEREAS, synthetic color additives are present in a wide variety of food products sold in the United States, including candy and snacks, sodas and sports drinks, breakfast cereals, baked goods, and salad dressings; and

WHEREAS, many food products containing synthetic color additives are marketed to children; and

WHEREAS, these additives serve an aesthetic purpose, and provide no nutritional value; and

WHEREAS, further, some studies suggest that there is a link between the consumption of synthetic color additives and adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, for example, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment analyzed clinical trials and concluded in a 2021 report that synthetic food dyes are associated with adverse neurobehavioral outcomes in some children; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the FDA announced that FD&C Red No. 3, a synthetic color additive, will lose its authorization to be used in food due to evidence that its consumption is linked to cancer; and

WHEREAS, whether there is a link between other synthetic food color additives and cancer is currently being studied; and

WHEREAS, the addition of synthetic color additives to food products in the United States is regulated by the FDA; and

WHEREAS, when the FDA authorizes the use of a color additive, its regulations may specify the types of foods in which the additive can be used, the maximum amounts allowed to be used, and how the additive must be declared on food labels; and

WHEREAS, in April 2025, the FDA announced new measures to promote the transition away from using synthetic color additives in food products, including conducting comprehensive research on how food additives impact children's health and development, working with the food industry to end the use of six common synthetic color additives in food products, and authorizing new natural color additives; and

WHEREAS, many other developed countries require that the packaging for food products containing synthetic color additives include a warning; and

WHEREAS, many consumers, including those residing in Miami-Dade County, may be unaware of the prevalence of synthetic color additives in food products and the potential risks associated with the consumption of these chemicals; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County contracts with vendors for the provision of food products for various County purposes, including for food programs operated or funded by the County; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports efforts by the federal government to promote the transition away from the use of synthetic color additives in the food supply and replacement with natural alternatives; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to see Miami-Dade County vendors and contractors similarly transition away from using synthetic food color additives in food products utilized in County-operated or County-funded food programs; and

WHEREAS, this Board also desires to educate the public regarding the prevalence of synthetic color additives in food and the potential impacts of consumption,

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

Section 1. Supports actions by the federal government to phase out the use of synthetic color additives in the nation's food supply.

Section 2. Urges the federal government, including the United States Food and Drug Administration, to revoke the authorizations for synthetic color additives to be used in food products, or, at a minimum, to increase the standards for ongoing review and approval of these additives and require that food products include labels that clearly indicate that the product contains a synthetic food color additive.

Section 3. Urges all contractors, vendors, suppliers and grantees with an existing contract with Miami-Dade County for food services related to a County-operated or County-funded food program to voluntarily transition from and ultimately discontinue producing or

providing food products containing synthetic color additives under these contracts, and to replace them with alternative food products that do not contain these additives.

Section 4. Urges food manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, processors, grocery stores and other retailers, as well as restaurants and caterers operating in Miami-Dade County to voluntarily transition from and ultimately discontinue manufacturing, delivering, processing, selling, preparing, distributing or otherwise providing food products containing synthetic color additives, and to replace such products with those containing natural alternatives, if anything at all.

Section 5. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to evaluate the feasibility of creating an informational program to provide education and guidance to the public in Miami-Dade County, regarding synthetic color additives and their use in foods and beverages, as well as the potential negative health effects of consuming them.

Section 6. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to evaluate the feasibility of creating a program or other means to incentivize County contractors, vendors, suppliers, and grantees to voluntarily transition away from using food products containing synthetic color additives as relates to any County-funded or County-operated food program.

Section 7. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee, within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution, to prepare a written report regarding the directives in sections 5 and 6 and to place the completed report on an agenda of this Board without committee review pursuant to rule 5.06(j) of the Board's rules of procedure. The report should include discussion of the estimated fiscal impact of any proposed programs.

Section 8. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to provide a copy of this resolution to all contractors, vendors, suppliers, or grantees that have an existing contract with Miami-Dade County for food services related to a Miami-Dade County funded or operated food program.

Section 9. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation and the Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Section 10. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez, Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez and Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins**, 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:

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	absent	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Vicki L. Lopez	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	absent		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of December, 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 dark ink, appearing to read "KMM", is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin M. Marker