

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(C)

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution renaming the North
Dade Justice Center located at
15555 Biscayne Boulevard as the
“Harvey Ruvín Justice Center”

Resolution No. R-919-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Co-Prime Sponsors Senator René García and Commissioner Micky Steinberg.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5(C)

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(C)
10-9-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-919-25

RESOLUTION RENAMING THE NORTH DADE JUSTICE
CENTER LOCATED AT 15555 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD AS
THE “HARVEY RUVIN JUSTICE CENTER”

WHEREAS, Harvey Ruvin was Miami-Dade County’s longest-serving elected official, having devoted over 50 years to public service, including 30 years as Clerk of the Courts for Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, yet as an early environmentalist he was as proud of his service to the planet as he was of his service to the County; and

WHEREAS, in both endeavors, he was both universally respected and well-liked; and

WHEREAS, born in New York City on June 1, 1937, Mr. Ruvin later moved with his family to Miami and received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida in 1959 followed by his Juris Doctor from the University of Miami School of Law in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruvin was elected to his first office in 1968, when he became mayor of North Bay Village at age 30; and

WHEREAS, he then served as a Miami-Dade County Commissioner from 1972 until 1992, when he was elected as the Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Courts, a position which he held—winning reelection seven times—until his passing in 2022; and

WHEREAS, as Clerk, Mr. Ruvin helped launch what is known as SPIRIT, an electronic case management system to handle the extremely large amount of traffic citations levied every year in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruvin is credited, in the mid-1990s before documents could be digitized as quickly as today, with helping implement a system to help his attorneys get case files quicker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruvin was also instrumental in helping former felons restore their voting rights under Amendment 4, which passed in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruvin's popularity among voters was unmatched, as evidenced in 2020 when more Miami-Dade residents voted for him—nearly 759,000 people—than any other candidate on the ballot, including presidential and congressional candidates; and

WHEREAS, as an elected official, he was humble, diplomatic, and positive, always shifting credit for his lasting public favor to his staff, and preferring to persuade rather than attack those who opposed him on an issue; and

WHEREAS, from his earliest working years Mr. Ruvin was also a staunch supporter of the environment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruvin is widely recognized as one of the earliest and most vocal advocates for the protection of Biscayne Bay, and he played a pivotal role in pioneering “Baynanza,” a longstanding environmental initiative dedicated to preserving and restoring the bay's ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, many of today's core environmental efforts in Miami-Dade County are the result of ordinances and policies that Mr. Ruvin set forth as a commissioner decades before climate change was a commonplace concern—among them, Miami-Dade's residential and commercial recycling system, efforts to curb greenhouse gases that offset 40 million-plus metric tons of carbon emissions, an endangered land preservation program that at the time of its creation was the largest of its kind in the nation and, more recently, leading the county's Sea Level Rise Task Force; and

WHEREAS, in such efforts, he crossed party lines and alliances, working with all and listening to everyone's concerns; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, he was a founding member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) as a representative of what was then Dade County, later serving as vice chairman of the international ICLEI and then president of ICLEI USA; and

WHEREAS, he also served as president of the National Association of Counties in the late 1980s and remained on the board of directors until his passing; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Ruvin passed away on December 31, 2022, at his home surrounded by his wife, Risa, and their family; and

WHEREAS, he will forever be remembered as an exemplary public servant and leader, and a champion of the environment; and

WHEREAS, to honor Harvey Ruvin's legacy and his tremendous contributions to the community, this Board desires to rename the North Dade Justice Center located at 15555 Biscayne Boulevard as the "Harvey Ruvin Justice Center"; and

WHEREAS, the North Dade Justice Center is a County-owned facility located in the City of North Miami and County Commission District 4,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board, having considered this matter at a public hearing, renames the North Dade Justice Center located at 15555 Biscayne Boulevard as the "Harvey Ruvin Justice Center".

The Co-Prime Sponsors of the foregoing resolution are Senator René García and Commissioner Micky Steinberg. It was offered by Commissioner **Micky Steinberg**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** 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	aye
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 9th day of October, 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.

MSM

Michael J. Mastrucci