

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving 2026 state legislative guiding principles, resolutions urging the Florida legislature adopted by the Board, departmental legislative requests, and priorities of the Public Health Trust; waiving the provisions of Resolution No. R-764-13 relating to setting legislative priorities

Resolution No. R-990-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Anthony Rodriguez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



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. 11(A)(20)

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)(20)
10-9-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-990-25

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES, RESOLUTIONS URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD, DEPARTMENTAL LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS, AND PRIORITIES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST; WAIVING THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION NO. R-764-13 RELATING TO SETTING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the 2026 session of the Florida Legislature is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2026; and

WHEREAS, six weeks of committee meetings leading up to the 2026 session began the week of October 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2012, this Board approved Resolution No. R-59-12, which directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, when it presents the proposed federal or state legislative agendas, respectively, to the Board, to include all “urging” resolutions and other resolutions related to federal or state legislation passed by the Board of County Commissioners to date for the current Congress or session; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2013, this Board approved Resolution No. R-764-13, which directs that the federal and state legislative packages each be presented to the Board in two separate items, one consisting of no more than ten priorities for distribution to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and the other to include guiding principles, Board “urging” resolutions enacted to date and departmental legislative requests for approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board would like to waive the provisions of Resolution No. R-764-13 relating to setting legislative priorities for the 2026 session; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2026 state legislative guiding principles, Board “urging” resolutions enacted through and including the September 3, 2025 Board meeting, departmental legislative requests, and priorities of the Public Health Trust are attached to this resolution and incorporated by reference,

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

Section 1. Approves for the 2026 session the state legislative guiding principles, resolutions urging the Florida Legislature adopted by the Board through and including the September 3, 2025 Board meeting, departmental legislative requests, and priorities of the Public Health Trust.

Section 2. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the issues set forth in section 1 above for the 2026 session.

Section 3. Waives the provisions of Resolution No. R-764-13 relating to setting legislative priorities for the 2026 session.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Anthony Rodriguez. It was offered by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marlene 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.

Jess M. McCarty
Javier Zapata
Michael J. Mastrucci
Christian J. Fernandez-Andes



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Home Rule and Preemption: ***SUPPORT*** preservation of local home rule; ***OPPOSE*** any effort to preempt local authority.

State Funding, Cost Shifts and Unfunded Mandates: ***SUPPORT*** preservation of existing state funding for County programs. ***OPPOSE*** any additional cost shifts or unfunded mandates from the state to the County, and any reductions in County revenue, revenue sharing, or funding from the state. ***OPPOSE*** any measure that would adversely affect County revenues, including measures affecting or relating to property taxes.

Protect Previous State Funding: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to secure the same level of state funding for County programs as the previous year.

Promote Partnerships: ***SUPPORT*** partnerships with the state, other counties, municipalities, statewide associations, and any other entity that would help create favorable outcomes for the County.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted through the September 3 Board meeting

R-68-25: Urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation ensuring that the notary process has sufficient procedures and safeguards in place to protect our elderly and vulnerable community against the fraudulent transfer of real property and other financial abuse, and to increase penalties for the abuse of notary powers (Garcia)

R-94-25: Urging the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding for the Triangle Park and Children's Academy Pedestrian Safety Initiative as well as the Citrus Grove School Children and Families Pedestrian Safety Initiative (Higgins)(Citrus Grove funding approved 2025 session)

R-308-25: Urging the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding to Miami-Dade County and other local government entities to address critical public safety and security needs relating to hosting the 2026 World Cup (Gilbert)

R-444-25: Urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation to protect condominium unit owners from exploitative tactics by predatory real estate developers or other bad actors (Garcia)

R-778-25: Urging the Florida Legislature to codesignate that portion of State Road 959/SW 57th Avenue from SW 8th Street to SW 24th Street as "Wayne Russell and Jimmy Fabbriatore Way" (Milan Orbis)

R-784-25: Urging the Florida Legislature to reinstate the 95 Express LEV Toll Exemption Program or create a similar program allowing hybrid and electric vehicles to operate toll-free on 95 Express (Steinberg)

R-885-25: Appropriate funding for the Florida Rail Enterprise Program to fund South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's Tri-Rail operations to maintain Tri-Rail's level of service, and further urges the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to include such funding, as it may be necessary, in the appropriate current and future FDOT Five-Year Work Programs (Higgins)

R-886-25: Urging the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to appropriate funding for the Stormwater Management System Cistern Project in Miami-Dade County near Grapeland Heights and the Miami River (Milian Orbis)

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS BY POLICY AREA

Policy Area: Transportation and Ports

Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)

Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Program: ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding for the advancement of Miami-Dade's SMART Program, including the North, Northeast, Beach, East-West, and Flagler corridors, and ensure that legislation restores funding for the New Starts Program using revenue received by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) from Documentary Stamp Tax proceeds at or above the FY 2024-25 level.

Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP): ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding for the TRIP; restore funding for the TRIP using revenue received by FDOT from Documentary Stamp Tax proceeds at or above the FY 2024-25 level.

Funding for Tri-Rail: ***SUPPORT*** continued statutory-level funding by FDOT for Tri-Rail operations and maintenance.

Safety Improvements along SW 328 Street from Entrance to Homestead Bayfront Park to SW 117 Ave: ***SUPPORT*** the commitment of funding for safety improvements including canal stabilization and guardrail safety improvements along SW 328 Street. The scope of work includes repair, restoration and stabilization of the canal bank erosion. There is an immediate need to restore canal bank and erosion control to protect the canal from pollutants that are harmful to water quality and flood control throughout the canal network. The canal along SW 328 Street has experienced widespread erosion, which could compromise the structural integrity of the roadway that is located parallel to the canal. The guardrail installation will provide adequate protection for vehicles traveling parallel to the canal, preventing runoff accidents. The project will provide various benefits to the County by simultaneously restoring the canal bank and increasing reliability and safety to the corridor.

Roadway Resurfacing within the area bounded by NW 115 Street to NW 119 Street from NW 2 Ave to NW 6 Ave: ***SUPPORT*** the commitment of funding for milling and resurfacing the roadway network within the area bounded by NW 115 St to NW 119 Street from NW 2 Ave to NW 6 Ave. The scope of the work includes milling, resurfacing, reconstruction of areas where required, adjustment of valve boxes and manholes, upgrading or construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps and connectors, as well as pavement markings and signage and all necessary incidental work to extend the structural integrity of these features. The project will improve driving

conditions and provide increased reliability, safety, and traffic flow as well as mitigate recurring pavement maintenance costs.

Resurfacing Roadways that Service the Agricultural Areas in South Miami-Dade: ***SUPPORT*** the commitment of funding for milling and resurfacing the roadway network within the South Miami-Dade agricultural area. Road improvements in this area are critical to the agricultural economy and will improve reliability, safety, and traffic flow.

Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

Funding of Aviation Capital Projects: ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding for airport development that is equal to or above what FDOT has programed in its tentative Work Plan for FY 2026. MDAD has several capital projects included in the FY 2026 tentative work program and is scheduled to receive \$29,564,733 in state grant funds.

PortMiami (PORT)

North Bulkhead Improvement Project: ***SUPPORT*** for the provision of funding for the North Bulkhead Improvement Project. This project will create a fully operable 7,200-foot bulkhead to accommodate a range of cruise ships within 6 berths. With a cost as high as \$700M, the project is about \$250 million over the Port's \$459 million budget. If these berths are not replaced, jobs and economic benefits could be lost as cruise activity relocates outside of Florida due to the state's lack of remaining cruise berths.

Off-Dock Intermodal Logistics Yard: ***SUPPORT*** for the provision of funding for the Off-Dock Intermodal Logistics Yard project in Miami-Dade County. This project will provide additional land for PortMiami's island-constrained, growing international cargo container activity. The 200-acre project will provide temporary storage for in-transit cargo. The project includes a security gate, standard infrastructure for a cargo yard, road improvements, and environmental mitigation for low quality wetlands. PortMiami is requesting funding for a portion of development costs. The Port, one of the County's largest economic engines, contributes \$61 billion annually to the economy and supports 340,078 jobs.

Policy Area: Environment and Resilience

Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)

Shopping Cart Removal Fees, Fines, and Costs: *AMEND* Fla. Stat. § 506.5131 by imposing an administrative fee to cover the cost of collection and storage of shopping carts removed from the public right-of-way.

County Generated Power: *SUPPORT* legislation, regulations, and policies that allow the County to consume power it produces when the production and consumption of the electricity are located at distinct sites or meters and to obtain economically favorable terms for the sale of electricity into the grid. (DSWM and Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Enhanced Collection of Illegal Dumping Civil Penalties: *AMEND* Fla. Stat. § 403.413 – Florida Litter Law – to include a section that allows for the denial of vehicle registration, tag renewal, or decal issuance for those who fail to pay civil penalties for violating the law. Stronger penalties and improved fine collection are needed to address illegal dumping effectively. In FY 24-25, Miami-Dade County received 6,917 illegal dumping complaints and issued 494 citations, with 280 directly related to illegal dumping.

Local Government Compensate Displaced Private Waste Companies: *REPEAL* SB 694 (2021) that requires local governments to compensate private waste companies for displacement.

Population-Based Solid Waste Programs Grant Funding: *SUPPORT* the adoption of legislation that would require equitable allocation of solid waste grants, utilizing a population-based methodology, for programs such as litter control and prevention and electronics recycling that are funded through the waste tire fee and administered through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

HB 7135 (2008) and HB 7243 (2010) - The 75 Percent Recycling Rule: *MONITOR* Fla. Stat. § 403.7032 and Fla. Stat. § 366.91, which pertain to municipal solid waste utilized for the production of renewable energy counting towards the long-term recycling goal and ensure that Waste-to-Energy facilities continue to receive renewable credits. *OPPOSE* any efforts to change the aforementioned legislation that would diminish a county's ability to count the production of renewable energy toward the achievement of the long-term recycling goal.

Fully Electric Day Cab Truck Tractor with Charging Station: *SUPPORT* funding for a fully electric day cab truck-tractor to allow the department to test the capabilities of this rapidly improving technology which generates zero emissions, reduces operating noise,

results in zero fuel costs, less maintenance, and the elimination of fuel/oil leaks during transport.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS)

Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Connecting Two National Parks, Segment D Construction: ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding for the construction of the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway, Segment D, a 2.5-mile segment of the greenway between SW 117th Ave. and SW 137th Ave. along the Mowry Canal and SW 320th St. in southern Miami-Dade County, east of Homestead. The Biscayne-Everglades Greenway will be the first non-motorized trail in the country to connect two National Parks and would have an immediate economic impact to Homestead and the surrounding communities in southern Miami-Dade County. Long-distance trails like the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway can help conserve and protect our environment and native biodiversity by linking residents to a network of conserved and protected lands. This priority aligns with the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Preferred Corridor Plan (2008), the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Master Plan (2008), the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the PROS Greenways and Trails Prioritization Plan (2017).

Greynolds Park Raptor Center's Septic-to-Sewer Project: ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding for septic-to-sewer conversion at the Museum of Science's Raptor Rehabilitation Center at Greynolds Park. Despite securing major grants from the Batchelor Foundation and the State of Florida's Cultural Facilities Program for the building's renovation, there is still insufficient funding to complete the required septic-to-sewer conversion. This conversion is critical to meet environmental standards and will enhance both the Museum and the County's environmental education offerings by providing programming for children and adults. The Center's operations will align with the Department's strategic conservation goals and will support the community's understanding and appreciation of local wildlife. It will also offer environmental education programming in collaboration with the Department's existing nature-based conservation initiatives. This priority aligns with Board adopted Resolution No. R-1118-22.

Boater Safety Education Program: ***SUPPORT*** the provision of funding to enhance the Miami-Dade Boater Safety Education Program. PROS focuses on improving public safety for waterfront users countywide, addressing the urgent demand for better safety measures. Miami-Dade holds the unfortunate distinction of being second in boating accidents in Florida. In response, proposed initiatives include a countywide Vision Zero Boater Education campaign. The goal of this initiative is to minimize accidents, improve user experiences, and create safer recreational areas, benefiting residents, visitors, and the environment through education. This priority aligns with the PROS Waterfront

Recreation Access Plan (2023), PROS Marinas Business Plan (2024), and Board adopted Resolution Nos. R-820-24, R-1189-21, and R-921-16.

Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)

"Wind-Borne Debris" Definition: **MONITOR** legislation affecting the Business and Professional Regulation (Fla. Stat. § 455) and Building Construction Standards (Fla. Stat. § 553). It is anticipated that Fla. Stat. § 455 or Fla. Stat. § 553 may be amended to establish a new definition for "wind-borne debris", which is currently defined in the Florida Building Code and stems from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7-22 standard. **OPPOSE** any legislation imposing a new definition for "wind-borne debris," which differs from the ASCE 7-22 definition for use in Florida. (Building)

Local Licensing: **MONITOR** any additional changes made to local licensing in Fla. Stat. § 489.117 modifying the ability to issue local specialty licenses or modifying the implemented preemptions under SB 1142 (2024), HB 1383 (2023), and HB 735 (2021). **SUPPORT** any action limiting or removing these preemptions and **OPPOSE** any action expanding these preemptions to the remaining local licensing that remain under local authority. **SUPPORT** efforts to allow local jurisdictions to continue issuing local specialty licenses in categories of work associated with construction for compliance with the Florida Building Code or requiring a permit in Florida. These changes align with the Board adopted State Critical Priorities in Resolution No. R-700-24.

Continuing Education Requirements: **SUPPORT** any changes proposed to the Building Code Administrators and Inspectors laws found in Fla. Stat. § 455.2124 and Fla. Stat. § 468 Part XII that eliminate the exemption of continuing education requirements and **OPPOSE** keeping them in their current state, regardless of tenure. (Building)

Live Local Act Revisions: **SUPPORT** revisions to Fla. Stat. § 125.01055(7) (Live Local Act) to provide for greater local control of zoning, ensure community input and provide for affordable housing based on the local housing market and income levels. Given the distinctiveness of each community in Florida, local governments should be allowed to make adjustments to the Live Local Act. Similar to the Comprehensive Planning process, state law should set general parameters and allow local governments to submit a plan demonstrating compliance. Dependent on data and analysis specific to each local government, adjustments should be allowed to affordability, density, building height and other development regulations. This priority aligns with the Board adopted State Critical Priorities in Resolution No. R-700-24. (Zoning)

Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project SW 127 Avenue to SW 132 Avenue from SW 42 Terrace to SW 53 Street: **SUPPORT** the provision of funding for installation and retrofitting of drainage structures on SW 127 Avenue to SW 132 Avenue from SW 42 Terrace to SW 53 Street (Royal Green), including construction of a

stormwater drainage infrastructure with the installation of 6,750 linear feet of exfiltration trenches, solid drainage pipes, manholes, and 225 drainage inlets in the public right-of-way, implementing new technologies for filtering and screening of stormwater as applicable. This project aims to mitigate flooding and improve water quality in the Royal Green Canal, Bird Drive Extension, and the Snapper Creek Canal C-2 watershed in Miami-Dade County.

Biscayne Gardens Pump Station Retrofit & Improvement Project at NE 150 Street and N. Spur Drive: **SUPPORT** the provision of funding for hardening drainage infrastructure, electrical units, and mechanical components to include installation of conveyance pipe and drainage structures. The project consists of the retrofit of the existing pump station to increase capacity to the system and mitigate flooding within the serviced area. This project impacts water quality in the Biscayne Canal C-8 watershed basin in Miami-Dade County.

Changes to Fla. Stat. § 553 - Building Safety: **MONITOR** any new proposal made to the requirements for existing building safety inspections for condominiums, co-ops and any others, and any legislation to amend such inspection requirements in Fla. Stat. § 553.899. **MONITOR** any legislation affecting Building Permits – Fla. Stat. § 553 and Product Approval – Fla. Stat. § 553.842. **MONITOR** any legislation affecting the provisions for Alternative Plan Review and Inspection (Private Provider) in Fla. Stat. § 553.791. **OPPOSE** any further reduction in plan review timeframes for both standard plan review and private provider permit applications. (Building)

South Dade Mangrove Forests Restoration through Thin Layer Placement: **SUPPORT** the provision of funding for the South Dade Mangrove Forests Restoration through Thin Layer Placement pilot project. This is a pilot project to demonstrate regional adaptation considerations for Everglades restoration. Mangrove forests have suffered from stresses related to increased inundation through king tides and other stochastic events. This has triggered mangrove forest die-offs, dwarf mangroves and conversion into so-called white zones. In 2019, the County surveyed mangrove die-off areas around Biscayne Bay and, through inter-agency coordination with state and federal agencies, identified management actions that can restore the coastline. This technique was used in 2008 by the County to enhance and restore a mangrove forest within Coral Gables. Loss of function in our mangrove forests triggers erosion of land into open ocean and prevents recharge of aquifers upstream by increasing salinity in historically fresh wetlands. Once constructed, this project will serve as a model for the entire flood plain. This priority aligns with Board adopted Resolution No. R-68-22 as well as the Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Tentatively Selected Plan (BBSEER TSP). (Environmental Resources Management)

Condominium Law Reform: **SUPPORT** the enactment of legislation that would reform the current condominium laws delineated in Fla. Stat. §§ 718.112 and 553.899 to promote both affordability and safety. There is a need to address the financial burden many

condominium owners face due to the new regulations such as the “structural integrity reserve study” (Fla. Stat. § 553.899). Although these new regulations are beneficial in the long term to ensure building safety and structural integrity, the financial impact it will have on unit owners must be considered as well as the potential intensification of the affordability issues facing South Florida. This is especially true for those associations that oversee buildings with mostly elderly and fixed-income residents. This priority aligns with Board adopted Resolution No. R-780-24. (Code Compliance)

Streamline Plat Review Process: *SUPPORT* the enactment of legislation which includes language that allows for digital final plats and e-signature on final plats, including a one-to-two-year transition period from hard copies to digital, to streamline plat reviews, provide for more efficient processing and reduce the overall timeline. (Zoning)

Wildfire Mitigation and Risk Reduction: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for comprehensive wildfire mitigation and risk reduction implementation projects for all fire-dependent habitats managed by the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. This initiative is critical for community safety, directly addressing the heightened wildfire risk posed by invasive grasses. (Environmental Resources Management)

Tree Planting at School Sites and Forests: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for tree planting at school sites countywide and forests in the southern part of Miami-Dade County. This project matches a one-time disbursement of tree planting funds from Miami-Dade County to public agencies for tree plantings that enhance public land, beautification, urban cooling, and water management. Specifically, tree plantings will occur in environmental preserves, schools and government facilities. Examples include Camp Matecumbe, Fuch's Hammock Preserve, Airbase K-8 Center, and more. Demonstration projects can be seen at Bowman Ashe/Doolin K-8 Academy and Nixon-Smiley Pineland Preserve. If funded, an additional 6,000 trees and understory plants will be able to be planted. (Environmental Resources Management)

Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for Grand Avenue from Brooker Street to Jefferson Street: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the installation and retrofitting of drainage structures for Grand Ave from Brooker Street to Jefferson Street, including construction of stormwater drainage infrastructure with the installation of 700 linear feet of exfiltration trenches, solid drainage pipes, manholes, and 15 drainage inlets in the public right-of-way, implementing new technologies for filtering and screening of stormwater as applicable. This project aims to mitigate flooding and improve water quality in the adjacent Coral Gables Canal and the Tamiami Canal C-4 watershed in Miami-Dade County.

Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for NE 15 Street between Biscayne Boulevard and Bayshore Drive: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the installation and retrofitting of drainage structures for NE 15 Street between Biscayne

Blvd and Bayshore Drive, including construction of stormwater drainage infrastructure with the installation of 950 linear feet of exfiltration trenches, solid drainage pipes, manholes, and 20 drainage inlets in the public right-of-way, implementing new technologies for filtering and screening of stormwater as applicable. This project aims to mitigate flooding and improve water quality in the adjacent Biscayne Bay and the Miami River C-6 watershed in Miami-Dade County.

Agricultural Land Uses: *OPPOSE* the enactment of legislation which includes language promoting the conversion of agricultural land for urban uses or restricting local government review of such applications. Bills filed in recent legislative sessions (i.e., S.B. 1244 (2015)) would have facilitated the conversion of “constrained agricultural parcels” to urban-type land uses. The RER-Planning Division has strong concerns about the effect of similar legislation on the County’s efforts to preserve viable agricultural land. Encouraging agriculture as a viable economic use of suitable lands is a long-standing concept embodied in the County’s Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP). (Planning)

Comprehensive Plan Amendments: *OPPOSE* the enactment of legislation which includes language that would require Miami-Dade County or municipalities within to recognize pre-existing zoning approvals in the local government’s comprehensive plan. Fla. Stat. § 163.3167(3) requires newly incorporated municipal comprehensive plans to incorporate pre-existing development orders into the comprehensive plan and further states that the policies may not impair the completion of a development in accordance with such existing development order and must vest the density and intensity approved by such development order. RER-Planning has strong concerns about the effect of similar legislation that may seek to expand this requirement to other municipalities or the County. Consistent with established state law, Section 2-114 of the County’s Code provides, “[T]he mere existence of zoning contrary to the Comprehensive Development Master Plan shall not be determined to vest rights”. The application of this standard has been particularly important outside of the County’s Urban Development Boundary (UDB), where many properties have historical zoning approvals that predate the County’s comprehensive plan and have existed without further development action over the decades. (Planning)

Amend Senate Bill (SB) 180 (2025): *ADVOCATE* for the amendment of SB 180 (2025) due to its broad and retroactive requirements as well as its constraints on home rule, particularly its limitations on the County’s authority to adopt reasonable local planning and land-use decisions in the aftermath of a hurricane. ***SUPPORT*** amendments to SB 180 (2025) that ensure that localities can responsibly manage flooding, development, and ensure public safety in good faith under its home rule authority:

- **Amend for Safer Buildings and Development: *ADVOCATE*** for any changes made to the restrictions on County or municipal regulations after a hurricane as outlined in Fla. Stat. § 252.422. The current provisions, added by SB 180 (2025), indicate that for one (1) year after a hurricane makes landfall, localities within 100

miles of the track of the storm are restricted from making any modifications to their review, approval, or issuance of development permit or development orders. Due to the annual frequency of hurricanes making landfall in Florida, the current trigger and timeframe requirements of the law constitutes a continuous pause on a jurisdiction's ability to adopt local technical code amendments to the Florida Building Code following the provisions in Fla. Stat. § 553.73(4)(b), which already limit adoption of these changes to no more frequent than six (6) months. (Building)

- **Amend to Protect Planning Efforts and Property: *ADVOCATE*** for an amendment to Fla. Stat. § 553.902 to allow the County to prepare a comprehensive Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). SB 180 (2025) prohibits the County from preparing an effective EAR as directed by State law within the mandated deadlines. Under State law, the County is required to propose and submit amendments to the CDMP identified as necessary due to the EAR. The next report is due December 1, 2026, and the updated CDMP is due December 1, 2027, however, the County received a disaster declaration resulting from Hurricane Milton on November 4, 2024 (FEMA-4834-DR), which constrains the County from adopting "more restrictive or burdensome" amendments to its comprehensive plan or land development regulations before October 1, 2027 as per Section 28 of SB 180 (2025). This vague and broad provision along with the overbroad trigger and deadline requirements restricts the County's ability to prepare a comprehensive EAR within the mandated timeframe. (Planning)
- **Amend to Protect Stormwater Management: *ADVOCATE*** for an amendment to Fla. Stat. § 252.422(2)(b) and (c) to remove the prohibition on local governments implementing new regulations concerning land use for one (1) year for localities either in a federal disaster declaration or partially within 100 miles of the track of the hurricane and to further remove the retroactivity of the bill, which restricts implementation of local regulations dating back to August 2024. As a result of SB 180 (2025), the stormwater requirements and standards included in the Board adopted Impervious Surfaces Ordinance (Ordinance No. 24-92), implemented as of March 31, 2025, can no longer be required which constrains critical comprehensive stormwater management processes that prevent flooding, contamination, and pollution. In general, properties in Florida that succumb to storm emergencies do so because they are not built to proper windspeed and flood mitigation standards. To allow properties to be rebuilt to lesser standards puts residents at risk during future storms and exposes businesses and government to additional losses. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Amend to Protect Neighborhoods and Communities: *ADVOCATE*** for amendments to SB 180 (2025) that would have the effect of allowing the County to retain authority to evaluate whether redevelopment projects are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods and retain the ability to enact regulations where necessary to protect that compatibility, including discretion over building height, setbacks, parking, traffic impacts, and architectural design. SB 180 (2025) delays the County's ability to adopt critical planning and zoning regulations for up to

three (3) years after a hurricane. Broad provisions on “more restrictive or burdensome” amendments or procedures creates legal uncertainty and constrains disaster planning and recovery. **ADVOCATE** for amendments to Fla. Stat. § 163.31795(1) to restore the County’s ability to adopt or enforce an ordinance for substantial improvements or repairs to a structure which include a cumulative substantial improvement period. **ADVOCATE** for the restoration of discretion so that localities may continue using cumulative improvement history to regulate floodplain development responsibly. (Planning)

- **Amend to Keep Flood Insurance Premiums Low: ADVOCATE** to repeal Fla. Stat. § 163.31795(2). The implemented provisions from section 2 of SB 180 (2025) removed a localities ability to include in their flood ordinance a cumulative clause regarding substantial improvements or repairs to the structure. This ability should be restored to help maintain a high Community Rating System (CRS) rating under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). (Building)

Preemption of Local Impact Fee Regulations: OPPOSE any legislation that would repeal or preempt local government authority to impose and regulate impact fees, as proposed in SB 1080 (2025). Impact fees are a critical tool that allow local governments to ensure new development pays its fair share for the infrastructure and services it demands including roads, parks, water and sewer systems, schools, and emergency services. Preemption of local control in this area would constrain Miami-Dade’s ability to respond to the unique needs of its communities and ensure development does not outpace the infrastructure needed to support it. The County urges the preservation of local discretion over impact fees and avoiding mandates that challenge home rule authority. The ability to manage growth locally is essential to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of residents, ensuring financial sustainability, and avoiding the burden of subsidizing development with general taxpayer funds. (Zoning)

NE 26 Avenue Pump Station Retrofit & Improvement Project: SUPPORT the provision of funding for the hardening of drainage infrastructure, and electrical and mechanical components to include installation of conveyance pipe and drainage structures for the NE 26 Avenue Pump Station Retrofit & Improvement Project, located at NE 26 Avenue, between NE 204 Terrace and NE 205 Street. The project consists of the retrofit of the existing pump station to increase capacity to the system and mitigate flooding within the serviced area. This project impacts water quality in the Oleta River and the Snake Creek Canal C-9 watershed basin in Miami-Dade County.

Biscayne Shores Pump Stations #3 Retrofit & Improvement Project: SUPPORT the provision of funding for the hardening of drainage infrastructure, and electrical and mechanical components to include installation of conveyance pipe and drainage structures Biscayne Shores Pump Stations #3 Retrofit & Improvement Project, located at NE 14 Avenue & NE 116 Street. The project consists of the retrofit of the existing pump station to increase capacity to the system and mitigate flooding within the serviced area. This project impacts water quality in the Biscayne Bay and the Biscayne Canal C-

8 watershed basin in Miami-Dade County. This priority aligns with Board adopted Resolution No. R-859-23.

Lake Belmar Pump Station Retrofit & Improvement Project: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the hardening of drainage infrastructure, and electrical and mechanical components to include installation of conveyance pipe and drainage structures of Lake Belmar Pump Station Retrofit & Improvement Project, located at NE 88 Street, and N. Bayshore Drive. The project consists of the retrofit of the existing pump station to increase capacity to the system and mitigate flooding within the serviced area. This project impacts water quality in the Biscayne Bay and the Little River Canal C-7 watershed basin in Miami-Dade County.

Biscayne Shores Pump Stations #1 & #2 Retrofit & Improvement Project: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the hardening of drainage infrastructure, and electrical and mechanical components to include installation of conveyance pipe and drainage structures at the Biscayne Shores Pump Stations #1 & #2 Retrofit & Improvement Project Pump Station #1 located at NE 109 Street & N Bayshore Drive and Pump Station #2 located at NE 110 Street & N Bayshore Drive. The project consists of the retrofit of the existing pump station to increase capacity to the system and mitigate flooding within the serviced area. This project impacts water quality in the Biscayne Bay and the Biscayne Canal C-8 watershed basin in Miami-Dade County.

Biscayne Shores Pump Stations #3 Retrofit & Improvement Project: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for the hardening of drainage infrastructure, and electrical and mechanical components to include installation of conveyance pipe and drainage structures at Biscayne Shores Pump Stations #3 Retrofit & Improvement Project, located at NE 14 Avenue & NE 116 Street. The project consists of the retrofit of the existing pump station to increase capacity to the system and mitigate flooding within the serviced area. This project impacts water quality in the Biscayne Bay and the Biscayne Canal C-8 watershed basin in Miami-Dade County.

Increased Viability of Local Agricultural Industry: *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to aid legislation, programs and/or funding to mitigate the effects of invasive pests, disease, freezes, flooding, windstorms as well as other potential damage to Miami-Dade County's agricultural industry and the viability of local farmers, should the need arise. The ability to respond quickly and work with State agencies and other groups to mitigate and assist with current and potential unpredictable impacts is imperative. Damage and losses from pests, disease and disasters can occur rapidly in the agricultural industry, and the ability to act quickly is essential. (Economic Development)

Resilient Land Use and Planning: *SUPPORT* legislation, regulations, and policy to adopt land use, zoning, and planning measures that protect people and property from

repetitive flood loss and facilitate adaptation to compound flooding and sea level rise. (Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Nature-Based Solutions for Resilience: *SUPPORT* legislation that facilitates greater use of natural and nature-based features in private and public development, including through State grant funding and capital project prioritization evaluation criteria, to protect against compound flooding, water quality impacts, storm surge, sea level rise, and extreme heat. (Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Funding for Green Space: *SUPPORT* legislation that promotes land acquisition for parks, green space, and resilient flood mitigation, including funding through the Environmental Land & Water Management Act of 1972, Land Conservation Act, Florida Forever and similar state programs. *OPPOSE* legislation that would cut funding for land acquisition and conservation programs. (Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Property Elevation Program: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding to assist property owners and renters with hazard mitigation assistance, including structural elevations in areas vulnerable to chronic flooding and storm surge in order to reduce safety and health risks from flood events and repetitive property damage. (Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Risk Mitigation Data, Property & Casualty, and Privately Held Flood Insurance: *SUPPORT* legislation, regulations, and policy that promotes information sharing between insurers and local and state government, including data aggregation and data sharing with respect to implemented wind and flood mitigation measures. (Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Biscayne Bay Water Quality Grant Program, Water Quality Improvement Grant Program, and Other Funding for Water Quality: *SUPPORT*, *MONITOR*, and *ADVOCATE* efforts for sustained and increased funds through these grant programs to address water quality challenges. Projects may include stormwater management, wastewater and other projects. (Environmental Risk & Resilience and WASD)

Net Metering: *SUPPORT* efforts to maintain existing net metering policies and *OPPOSE* any actions or policies to weaken net metering policies or practices and associated rates. (Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: *SUPPORT* legislation, policies, regulations, and funding that advance fuel and energy efficiency; renewable fuels; grid resilience; electrical vehicle charging infrastructure expansion; reduced energy cost burden for Miami-Dade County residents, and fair pricing for Miami-Dade County in connection with utility tariffs and standard offer contracts. *OPPOSE* any actions or policies to repeal or cut funding for existing energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. (Environmental Risk & Resilience)

Water and Sewer Department (WASD)

Special Designation of Sewer and Water Lines: ***SUPPORT***, ***MONITOR***, and ***ADVOCATE*** for legislation which seeks to reduce incidents during excavation work by providing a special designation to sewer and water lines, similar to the one already afforded to pipelines transporting petroleum and highly volatile liquids (Fla. Stat. § 556.116) and provide added procedures for excavation work done within 15-feet of County-owned or operated sewer or water lines. Incidents causing property damage to public sewer and water lines during excavation work require the County to re-route crews for emergency repairs that are not only extensive and expensive, but also often completely preventable if excavation crews exercised higher precaution. Damage to lines often results in prolonged service interruption and may pose significant environmental and public health hazards when the damage results in waterway and soil contamination.

Prohibit Surcharges on Debit Card Payments: ***SUPPORT*** and ***MONITOR*** any efforts of the Legislature to prohibit third-party vendors from charging additional fees or surcharges when using debit cards to pay for essential county services such as water and sewer bills. Debit card payments are directly linked to checking accounts and offer greater security and less risk than credit card transactions. Allowing vendors to impose fees on these transactions creates an unfair burden on residents and discourages safe, modern payment practices.

Support Funding for Biosolids Processing and Bioenergy Facilities: ***SUPPORT*** and ***MONITOR*** any efforts of the Legislature to create or expand funding opportunities for local utilities to partner with private entities or independently establish biosolids processing facilities. This includes support for infrastructure, equipment, or land acquisition necessary to transform biosolids into renewable bioenergy products. Such facilities would significantly reduce the carbon footprint associated with wastewater treatment and disposal, aligning with statewide climate and sustainability goals.

Homeowner Assistance to Connect Sanitary Sewers: ***SUPPORT***, ***MONITOR***, and ***ADVOCATE*** for funding to help homeowners with the private property cost of constructing and connecting to sanitary sewer laterals.

Septic Systems: ***SUPPORT***, ***MONITOR***, and ***ADVOCATE*** for sustained funding to address failing septic systems and convert compromised septic systems to centralized sewer infrastructure to protect public health and water quality.

Policy Area: Community Services

Animal Services Department (ASD)

Spay and Neuter Initiative: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to expand affordable and free spay and neuter access across Miami-Dade County, particularly in underserved areas. With a population of 2.8 million residents, the demand for pet healthcare is immense. Increasing the availability of low-cost/free surgeries through contracted high-volume veterinarians will reduce pet overpopulation, leading to fewer stray animals, reduced shelter intake, and enhanced public safety. Proven programs, such as “Spay It Forward!” and partnerships with local nonprofits, have successfully increased community outreach.

Satellite and Pop-Up Adoption Initiatives: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to establish satellite and pop-up adoption centers throughout Miami-Dade County, enhancing community accessibility and boosting adoption outcomes. The impact on Miami-Dade County through this initiative will accelerate and shorten the shelter length of stay, uplift public engagement, and strengthen the animal network. With multiple off-site partner store locations at Petco and PetSmart, as well as weekend pop-ups and mobile adoption events (HOPE), these initiatives bring adoptable pets directly into neighborhoods increasing the visibility of adoptable pets.

Pawsitive Break Beyond the Kennel 305 Initiative: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to alleviate kennel stress and boost adoption success. By offering regular outings and boarding stays outside the shelter, long-stay dogs gain valuable time in real-world settings that enhances their social skills and improves their quality of life. Providing outings or temporary boarding stays increases a dog’s chances of finding a permanent home. This initiative will enhance Miami-Dade County’s animal welfare community, as demonstrated by measurable outcomes, including an increase in “happy tails,” shorter shelter stays, and a stronger community bond.

Project PawGround Initiative: ***SUPPORT*** the “Project PawGround” additional shelter initiative, a comprehensive plan that includes new construction, facility upgrades, and expansion inclusive of furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The initiative would provide a safe and comfortable environment for at least 350 animals in need of housing, alleviating the current overcapacity issue the existing animal shelter is facing, which is expected to worsen. This initiative is a long-term solution that will deliver significant community health benefits to Miami-Dade County.

Tiny Paws, Big Love Initiative: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to expand neonatal and long-stay dog foster care through contracted service providers. Overcrowding creates immense pressure on shelters, causing demand for foster homes to skyrocket. While volunteers and active foster homes offer compassion, contracting trained providers ensures reliable, round-the-clock care, dramatically improving neonatal survival and helping long-stay dogs find forever homes. Support for this vital program aligns with Miami-Dade

County's commitment to animal welfare by improving animal health outcomes and increasing adoption rates.

Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD)

State Match Funding for Head Start and Early Head Start Programming: ***SUPPORT*** legislation and efforts which seek to have the State of Florida provide match funding to increase the overall quality and capacity of early childhood learning across the County.

Enhancing the Provision of Services to Veterans: ***SUPPORT*** efforts to fund the County's Veteran Services Program which assists veterans and their families with applying for veteran benefits, claims, and appeals to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. ***ADVOCATE*** for revisions to the requirements set forth in the Florida Statutes pertaining to who can perform these services to allow for more flexibility in hiring and volunteering to meet the growing needs of the County's veterans and their families.

Transitional and Long-Term Housing for Participants Completing Treatment: ***SUPPORT*** and ***ADVOCATE*** for legislation that expands access to transitional and long-term supportive housing for individuals completing treatment. There is a lack of transitional and permanent housing for individuals exiting residential or outpatient treatment who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Transitional housing options are limited, especially for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Local shelters may not be recovery-oriented or conducive to maintaining sobriety, increasing risk of relapse.

Educational and Workforce Readiness Partnership: ***SUPPORT*** and ***ADVOCATE*** for legislation that establishes on-site educational services at rehabilitative treatment facilities. This includes securing funding for the provision of educational testing, materials and developing incentives for participation in education or job readiness programs as part of treatment plans. Many participants in treatment programs lack a high school diploma or vocational skills, significantly hindering their long-term recovery and self-sufficiency. Currently, there is no structured partnership or dedicated pathway with Miami-Dade County Public Schools or other adult education providers for participants to access GED preparation, ESL, or job training programs.

Medicaid Billing Process for New Direction: ***SUPPORT*** and ***ADVOCATE*** for legislation that allows County-operated treatment facilities, like Miami-Dade County's New Direction facility, to enroll as Medicaid providers and submit claims for eligible services. As a County-operated treatment facility, New Direction currently lacks a formalized Medicaid billing structure to recover eligible costs for services rendered to Medicaid beneficiaries. This missed opportunity for federal and state reimbursement of treatment services places a greater burden on general revenue and restricts expansion potential.

Cultural Affairs (CUA)

State Funding, Cost Shifts and Unfunded Mandates: *SUPPORT* the provision of full funding for competitive cultural affairs grants recommended through the Florida Department of State Division of Arts and Culture (DCA). In FY 2025-26, the Legislature appropriated \$21,210,797 by partially funding two of the four State arts grants programs (including \$3,269,881 for Miami-Dade-based organizations), which were approved in the budget. By not funding two of the four competitive grants programs, six Miami-Dade-based organizations recommended for Cultural Facilities grants did not receive \$2,452,556.00 in funding (Adrienne Arsht Center, City of Homestead, Casa Cuba at FIU, Coral Gables Museum, Miami Design and Preservation League, and the South Florida Art Center) and two Miami-Dade-based organizations recommended for Cultural Endowment grants did not receive \$7,680,000 in funding (Actors' Playhouse and the South Florida Arts Center). In FY 2024-25, the Legislature appropriated \$32,047,838 for the State arts grants programs, which were vetoed by the Governor. The FY 2026-27 grant recommendations from the DCA are scheduled to be announced in Fall 2025.

Fire Rescue Department (MDFR)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue All-Hazards Emergency Support Trailer: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$625,000 to purchase and outfit an All-Hazards Emergency Support Trailer to enhance response capabilities at the local, regional, and state levels during natural and man-made disasters. This mobile asset will be a critical resource, enabling interagency interoperability and technical support during large-scale incidents.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Regional Training Towers: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$600,000 for MDRF to purchase two mobile prefabricated fire training towers to expand and enhance the department's capacity to train fire rescue personnel and support regional emergency preparedness to address a wide range of complex threats across local, regional, and state jurisdictions including hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, structural collapses, terrorist threats, and public health emergencies. These mobile training towers will be a regional asset, providing a realistic, controlled environment to conduct critical firefighting exercises including live fire drills, tactical operations, search and rescue, hose advancement, roof operations, forcible entry, and ladder deployment. MDRF's current training capacity is limited by space and scheduling constraints, thus reducing the availability of training opportunities. Acquiring the training towers will alleviate these limitations by enabling concurrent training sessions and accommodating larger class sizes, including the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, neighboring fire and law enforcement agencies, Special Response Teams, and the United States Coast Guard. The multi-agency use of this facility will foster enhanced collaboration and interoperability among regional emergency service providers, ensuring a unified and

effective response during large-scale incidents that require coordinated interagency mitigation efforts.

Homeless Trust (HT)

Acquisition and Renovation of Housing for Disabled Adults and Seniors: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding to acquire and convert existing properties in Miami-Dade County to serve as rental housing for vulnerable households experiencing homelessness, with a prioritization for the disabled and/or elderly.

Bridge Housing for Homeless Persons with Special Needs: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for bridge housing for homeless persons with special needs to include homeless persons with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders and those in need of medical respite care while recovering from an illness or injury. This program is for homeless persons in need of stabilization in a site-based setting. Housing this population reduces or eliminates frequent jail and hospital stays and provides a specialized housing solution for unsheltered single adults.

Project Lazarus Specialized Outreach: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for specialized outreach initiatives which seek to engage, assess, treat (medically and mentally) and secure supportive permanent housing placement for persons who are chronically homeless and mentally ill or have substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders, through coordinated street outreach activities. The project will target chronically homeless individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders, particularly those identified as the most service resistant.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: *SUPPORT* the allocation of unobligated funds and expand uses for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). A December 2024 US Government Accountability Office (GAO report) indicates that between 2020 and 2022, unspent TANF funds in Florida grew from \$50M in 2020 to \$221M in 2022 and to \$254M in 2023. The Homeless Trust is allocated \$31,574 in TANF, which is sub-granted to The Advocate Program. Funding can provide 4 months of rental assistance for vulnerable families with children, including those who are homeless and fleeing domestic violence or families who come to the attention of child protective services in part through the inadequacy of the housing supports that jeopardize health/safety of families. can also be used for housing navigation, landlord mediation, case management, service coordination, and counseling.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse: *SUPPORT* amendments to the Baker and Marchman Acts (Fla. Stat. §394, §397) to revise existing mental health and substance abuse laws and civil commitment standards. Specifically, the definition of “imminent danger to self or others” would benefit from the addition of criteria to address the need

for treatment to permit intervention before tragedy becomes imminent with the goal of balancing individual liberty and due process considerations to public health and safety.

Challenge Grant: *SUPPORT* maintaining Challenge Grant funding for continuum of care statewide at \$15 million or higher.

Staffing Grant: *SUPPORT* maintaining staffing grant funding for FY 2025-26. Funding supports local coalition operations and staffing costs to administer programs for persons experiencing homelessness. In Miami-Dade, the staffing grant is being used to support our HUD- and CoC-mandated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which provides client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of persons experiencing homelessness.

Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Affordable and Workforce Housing Funding: *SUPPORT* sustained and increased funding for affordable and workforce housing.

Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Surtax Program: *SUPPORT* an extension of the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Surtax Program, currently scheduled to sunset on October 1, 2031.

Public Library System (LIB)

Increased Funding for Public Library Construction Grants: *SUPPORT* funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program that provides funding to libraries throughout the state to construct and renovate public libraries. The Miami-Dade Public Library has an extensive list of funded and unfunded capital projects, with numerous renovations, improvement projects, and new or replacement branches in progress. Funding provided via the Public Library Construction Grant Program is critical for offsetting the local investment made in improving libraries throughout the State and will help ensure the successful completion of these projects. With a growing list of capital projects eligible for this program each year and statewide allocations unfunded in the last Legislative Session, there is a growing need to reinstate, if not enhance, the level at which this program was funded.

State Aid to Libraries: *SUPPORT* the provision of increased funding for State Aid to Libraries which is a significant source of operational revenue to the Miami-Dade Public Library System, as well as to libraries throughout the State of Florida. This funding provides mission-critical staffing and resources that enable libraries to fulfill their mission

and better serve their communities. The 2025 State Legislative Session statewide allocation of \$17,304,072 was flat compared to 2024. In 2000-01, State Aid to Libraries was funded at over \$33 million. Since then, Florida's population has grown by more than 40 percent while State Aid to Libraries funding has decreased by 48 percent.

Policy Area: Finance and Government Operations

Information Technology Department (ITD)

Emergency Communications for 2026 FIFA World Cup: ***SUPPORT*** and ***ADVOCATE*** for the provision of funding to enhance public safety and emergency response capabilities ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The County will invest in Rapid Deployment Communication Systems and fixed spectrum analyzers to support uninterrupted communication, detect rogue frequencies and unauthorized drones, and ensure real-time coordination across agencies. These upgrades are critical to managing mass gatherings, mitigating security threats, and protecting residents and international visitors during the event.

Cybersecurity Initiative: ***SUPPORT*** and ***ADVOCATE*** for the provision of funding for the Cybersecurity Shield Initiative to enhance cyber resilience, protect critical infrastructure, and secure sensitive resident data. This investment will strengthen emergency response, ensure compliance with federal standards, and safeguard digital public services from ransomware and emerging threats, benefiting residents and partner municipalities.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Educate Stakeholders on the Importance of Property Taxes: ***MONITOR*** and ***OPPOSE*** any measure that would adversely affect County revenues, including measures affecting or relating to property taxes. Property taxes are the backbone of Miami-Dade's budget funding the constitutional offices, public safety, state-mandated payments, library services, fire rescue, amongst other essential services to older adults and others. Any reduction or elimination of property tax revenues will force significant service cuts, undermine public safety, limit access to essential services, and jeopardize the County's ability to meet its bond obligations.

People and Internal Operations Department (PIOD)

Beach Access for All: ***ADVOCATE*** for the amendment of state environmental prohibitions against permanent pathways across beaches (west of the dunes to the

shoreline). Many advocates in the disability community believe that the prohibition of permanent pathways on beaches is discriminatory.

Disabled Parking Reform: *ADVOCATE* for amending statutory provisions to address the unlawful acquisition and use of disabled parking placards. Disabled parking placards allow for free parking and the misuse of such a beneficial program has led to an annual loss in parking revenue and a reduced quantity of disabled parking spaces for the legitimately disabled.

Strategic Procurement Department (SPD)

Promote Local Procurement: *MONITOR* any language that would preempt local governments from making their own sourcing decisions.

ADVOCATE for amending statutes, including section 255.0525, to authorize advertising of construction projects valued at more than \$200,000 on a website as opposed to in a newspaper of general circulation, resulting in a substantial cost savings.

Policy Area: Public Safety

Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

Mobile Command Vehicle: *SUPPORT* the provision of funding for a Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV). The MCV is critical for enhancing response capabilities to natural, human-caused, technological disasters, and large-scale special events. The MCV will provide flexibility and mobility to manage emergencies effectively, regardless of location or conditions. During responses to large-scale events such as the Champlain Towers Collapse, major sporting events and concerts and the planning/coordination of the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup games, DEM faced challenges due to the lack of a deployable command vehicle.

Mobile Command-and-Control Facilities (FORTs): *SUPPORT* the provision of funding in the amount of \$500,000 in to acquire deployable mobile command-and-control facilities (FORT units), which are essential for enhancing operational readiness and response across a range of emergencies. The County remains highly vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding, and public health threats as the frequency and intensity of such events rise and require the growing demand for rapid, coordinated response capabilities. Mobile command facilities offer the flexibility to establish operational command centers quickly in any location, especially when permanent facilities are

inaccessible, compromised, or overwhelmed. In addition to disaster response, these facilities will significantly improve Miami-Dade's preparedness for large-scale events such as the Super Bowl, College Football National Championships, and the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup.

**Agenda Item: 5.c
Special Meeting Public Health Trust Board of Trustees
August 27, 2025**

RESOLUTION NO. PHT 08/2025 - 040

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST AND DIRECTING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SUBMIT THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, FOR INCLUSION IN THE COUNTY'S PROPOSED 2026 FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

(Carlos A. Migoya, Chief Executive Officer, Jackson Health System)

WHEREAS, the Public Health Trust (the "Trust") recognizes the need to establish its Federal and State legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption, the Trust is required to submit its Federal and State legislative priorities to Miami-Dade County, through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, for inclusion in the County's Proposed 2026 Federal and State Legislative Package; and

WHEREAS, the list of the Trust's Federal and State Legislative Priorities is attached hereto and made a part hereof and requires approval of the Public Health Trust; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer recommends approval of the attached priorities and of submission thereof to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby approves the Public Health Trust's 2026 Federal and State Legislative Priorities, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and declares it to be an official action of the Public Health Trust, and provided further that the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, is directed to submit the 2026 Federal and State Legislative Priorities to Miami-Dade County, through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, for inclusion in the County's Proposed 2026 Federal and State Legislative Package.

Agenda Item: 5.c
Special Meeting of Public Health Trust Board of Trustees
August 27, 2025

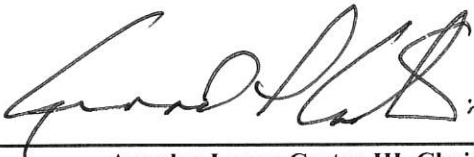
-Page 2-

The foregoing resolution was offered by Laurie Weiss Nuell and the motion was seconded by Senator Alexis Calatayud as follows:

Amadeo Lopez-Castro, III	Aye
Carmen M. Sabater	Excused
Antonio L. Argiz	Excused
Senator Alexis Calatayud	Aye
Laurie Weiss Nuell	Aye
Walter T. Richardson	Aye
Mojdeh L. Khaghan	Excused

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution as duly passed and adopted this 27th day of August 2025.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: ;
Amadeo Lopez-Castro III, Chairman

Approved by the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office as to form
And legal sufficiency 



TO: Amadeo Lopez-Castro III, Chairman
and Members, Public Health Trust Board of Trustees

FROM: Carlos A. Migoya
Chief Executive Officer, Jackson Health System

DATE: August 27, 2025

RE: 2026 Federal and State Legislative Priorities

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Public Health Trust Board of Trustees approve the 2026 federal and state legislative priorities.

Scope

The legislative priorities encompass the major issues likely to impact Jackson Health System during the 2026 session of the Florida Legislature, and during ongoing legislative and regulatory activity in Washington, D.C. The priorities will be incorporated into Miami-Dade County's proposed 2026 federal and state legislative package.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact to setting the Trust's legislative priorities. Policy and funding changes made by the Legislature in reflection of these priorities can have a significant impact on the health system.

Track Record/Monitor

Chief of Staff to the CEO and Vice President of Government Relations Esther Caravia will monitor the advancement of these priorities throughout the year.

Background

The 2026 federal and state legislative priorities are being presented to the Public Health Trust Board of Trustees for submittal to the Board of County Commissioners as described above.

The specific priorities recommended for 2026 are attached.

2026 Legislative Priorities

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **Protect the 340B Program:** Oppose any changes that restrict hospital or patient eligibility to ensure continued access to affordable medications for underserved populations.
- **Safeguard Federal Funding:** Work to ensure federal budget proposals protect all supplemental funding streams and align with hospital funding priorities to sustain high-quality care. Advocate for the extension of enhanced ACA subsidies set to expire at the end of 2025, which are critical to maintaining coverage for low-income individuals and reducing hospital uncompensated care.
- **Strengthen the Workforce:** Support initiatives that expand and stabilize the healthcare workforce.
- **Shape Federal Policy:** Track and influence federal rules and regulations that impact hospital operations and patient care.

STATE PRIORITIES

- **Prevent Funding Cuts:** Oppose reductions to state hospital funding to preserve essential services.
- **Maximize Federal Match:** Advocate for strategies that increase federal supplemental funding to support operations.
- **Secure Support for Jackson:** Seek additional state funding to sustain Jackson's mission in Miami-Dade.
- **Expand Mental Health Services:** Promote policies and funding that address the state's growing mental health needs.
- **Empowering Collaborative Healthcare Solutions:** Support policies that enable strategic partnerships to expand access, improve care, and advance the hospital's mission.
- **Preserve Legal Protections:** Defend existing tort reform and sovereign immunity laws to ensure stability.
- **Grow the Workforce:** Support recruitment and retention programs to build a robust healthcare workforce in Florida.
- **Monitor Trauma Standards:** Ensure any changes to trauma regulations enhance access and quality.
- **Protect Transplant Services:** Track organ transplant regulations to safeguard high-quality, equitable care.