

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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

DATE: October 21, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the County Mayor to determine the feasibility of direct passenger or cargo flights between Miami International Airport and the cities of Tokyo, Asuncion, Riyadh, and Singapore and, if feasible, to undertake all appropriate efforts to solicit such flights from the appropriate carriers; directing the County Mayor to provide a report to this Board on a quarterly basis regarding such feasibility or efforts; directing the County's International Trade Consortium to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare sister cities agreements with Tokyo, Riyadh, and Singapore, and transmit any such agreement to the County Mayor for execution; authorizing and directing the County Mayor to execute any such agreement upon receipt from the International Trade Consortium; and directing the International Trade Consortium to monitor performance of any such agreement and provide a report to this Board within 60 days

Resolution No. R-1036-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks

MDC001



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 21, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

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)(3)
10-21-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1036-25

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF DIRECT PASSENGER OR CARGO FLIGHTS BETWEEN MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE CITIES OF TOKYO, ASUNCION, RIYADH, AND SINGAPORE AND, IF FEASIBLE, TO UNDERTAKE ALL APPROPRIATE EFFORTS TO SOLICIT SUCH FLIGHTS FROM THE APPROPRIATE CARRIERS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO THIS BOARD ON A QUARTERLY BASIS REGARDING SUCH FEASIBILITY OR EFFORTS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO NEGOTIATE AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, PREPARE SISTER CITIES AGREEMENTS WITH TOKYO, RIYADH, AND SINGAPORE, AND TRANSMIT ANY SUCH AGREEMENT TO THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE FOR EXECUTION; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY SUCH AGREEMENT UPON RECEIPT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM; AND DIRECTING THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO MONITOR PERFORMANCE OF ANY SUCH AGREEMENT AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THIS BOARD WITHIN 60 DAYS

WHEREAS, Miami International Airport ("MIA") is the gateway from the United States to the world, ranking second in international cargo and third in international passengers among U.S. airports; and

WHEREAS, MIA's status as a hub for international travel and trade directly benefits the local community through tourism and international trade; and

WHEREAS, international connections also offer indirect benefits, making it easier for international firms to operate in Miami, and providing Miami businesses with easier access to cities that are financial centers of the world and international opportunities; and

WHEREAS, modern aircraft technology allows direct service from MIA to virtually all major international cities without the need for refueling; and

WHEREAS, although MIA is world-renowned as the Gateway of the Americas, MIA lacks direct passenger service to Asuncion, the capital and largest city of Paraguay, which has been one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America throughout the last decade; and

WHEREAS, the Middle East is an emerging business and technology hub; and

WHEREAS, although MIA currently has direct service with Dubai, and Doha, it lacks direct passenger service to Riyadh, which, along with the Middle East generally, is rapidly transforming into a leading global economic hub; and

WHEREAS, although MIA currently receives direct cargo flights from Asia, it currently does not have direct passenger service to Tokyo or Singapore; and

WHEREAS, Tokyo is the capital and most populous city of Japan, and is one of the world's leading economies; and

WHEREAS, Singapore is an island country and city-state in Southeast Asia and is also one of the world's leading economies; and

WHEREAS, direct passenger flights to Tokyo and Singapore would provide direct connections between Miami and Asia for tourism and business travelers; and

WHEREAS, continued expansion of service is critical to preserving MIA's competitive standing among U.S. airports; and

WHEREAS, for the foregoing reasons, the Board would like to direct the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to determine the feasibility of direct passenger or cargo service between MIA and the cities of Singapore, Tokyo, Riyadh, and Asuncion and, if feasible, to undertake all appropriate efforts to solicit such flights from the appropriate carriers to achieve such efforts; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the establishment of direct flight operations, it is also economically and culturally beneficial to establish affiliations between the County and other cities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, a sister cities relationship is a long-term cooperative relationship between two cities in different countries through which cultural, art, educational, business, and technical exchanges are fostered; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is an international nonprofit organization created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for prosperity and peace by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Sister Cities International has worked to create global relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, which has resulted in participants developing lifelong friendships that enable communities to better tackle the world's most pressing issues at the local level, through person-to-person "citizen diplomacy"; and

WHEREAS, business and trade exchanges are a fundamental component of Sister Cities programs, and they help create connections between international municipal officials, institutions, and businesses that build trust, access, and expertise and help local businesses find new opportunities and resources, including access to new markets, assistance navigating import and export regulations, and introductions to new business partners; and

WHEREAS, the Sister Cities Program has developed innovative projects, furthered international cooperation and understanding between the County and its respective sister cities, and helped to promote the County's position as the Gateway to the Americas; and

WHEREAS, despite the global economic and cultural significance of Tokyo, Riyadh, and Singapore, the County currently does not have a Sister Cities relationship with any of these cities; and

WHEREAS, under section 2-1501 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (the “Code”), the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium of Miami-Dade County (the “ITC”), an advisory board of this Board, is charged with, among other things, cultivating relations with the County’s Sister Cities and administering the Sister Cities Program; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the great benefits in trade, tourism, cooperation, and understanding brought by Sister Cities agreements, this Board would like to direct the ITC to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare Sister Cities Agreements for execution by the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee with the cities of Tokyo, Riyadh and Singapore,

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

Section 1. Approves the foregoing recitals and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to determine the feasibility of direct passenger or cargo service between MIA and Singapore, Tokyo, Riyadh, and Asuncion and, if feasible, to undertake all appropriate efforts to solicit such flights from the appropriate carriers, which efforts may include partnering with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau and the Beacon Council.

Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to, on a quarterly basis, provide a report to the Board, which report shall be subject to committee review, regarding such feasibility or efforts and any changes in feasibility. As part of such report, the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee may also include information regarding other markets to which direct flights are being pursued.

Section 3. Directs the ITC to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare Sister Cities Agreements with Tokyo, Riyadh, and Singapore, in substantially the form of the agreements attached hereto, and transmit any such agreement (the “Agreement”) to the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee for execution.

Section 4. Authorizes and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to execute any such Agreement upon receipt from the ITC.

Section 5. Directs the ITC to monitor the performance of any such executed Agreement in connection with its powers and duties under sections 2-1501 through 2-1503 of the Code.

Section 6. Directs the ITC to provide a report to this Board within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution regarding the status of the negotiation and execution of any such Agreement and place the completed report on an agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to Rule 5.06(j) of the Board’s Rules of Procedure.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins. It was offered by **Marleine Bastien** , 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 21st 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized letters, positioned above a horizontal line.

Ryan C. Zagare

**SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND TOKYO, JAPAN**

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida and Tokyo, Japan (collectively, the “Parties”), desire to enter into a Sister Cities Agreement as more specifically described below:

WHEREAS, it is economically and culturally beneficial for cities throughout the world to establish affiliations with each other; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is an international nonprofit organization created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for prosperity and peace by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, business and trade exchanges are a fundamental component of Sister Cities programs, and they help create connections between international municipal officials, institutions, and businesses that build trust, access, and expertise and help local businesses find new opportunities and resources, including access to new markets, assistance navigating import and export regulations, and introductions to new business partners; and

WHEREAS, the parties seek to strengthen their trade relationship with one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND TOKYO, JAPAN, THAT THE PARTIES MUTUALLY AGREE TO:

1. Establish a Sister Cities Agreement with each other.
2. Explore programs, arrangements, activities, transactions, agreements and other ways to enhance trade and business opportunities for the citizens of both Parties, mutually benefit economic development and growth and tourism for both Parties, and enhance prosperity for the citizens of both Parties.
3. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
4. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
5. Make periodic reports and recommendations to their respective governing bodies regarding the foregoing objectives.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, WE HAVE AFFIXED OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS SISTER
CITIES AGREEMENT ON THIS DATE OF _____.

Miami-Dade County, Florida

By: _____

Title: _____

Tokyo, Japan

By: _____

Title: _____

**SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA**

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (collectively, the “Parties”), desire to enter into a Sister Cities Agreement as more specifically described below:

WHEREAS, it is economically and culturally beneficial for cities throughout the world to establish affiliations with each other; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is an international nonprofit organization created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for prosperity and peace by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, business and trade exchanges are a fundamental component of Sister Cities programs, and they help create connections between international municipal officials, institutions, and businesses that build trust, access, and expertise and help local businesses find new opportunities and resources, including access to new markets, assistance navigating import and export regulations, and introductions to new business partners; and

WHEREAS, the parties seek to strengthen their trade relationship with one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, THAT THE PARTIES MUTUALLY AGREE TO:

1. Establish a Sister Cities Agreement with each other.
2. Explore programs, arrangements, activities, transactions, agreements and other ways to enhance trade and business opportunities for the citizens of both Parties, mutually benefit economic development and growth and tourism for both Parties, and enhance prosperity for the citizens of both Parties.
3. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
4. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
5. Make periodic reports and recommendations to their respective governing bodies regarding the foregoing objectives.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, WE HAVE AFFIXED OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS SISTER
CITIES AGREEMENT ON THIS DATE OF _____.

Miami-Dade County, Florida

By: _____

Title: _____

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

By: _____

Title: _____

SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND SINGAPORE

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida and Singapore (collectively, the “Parties”), desire to enter into a Sister Cities Agreement as more specifically described below:

WHEREAS, it is economically and culturally beneficial for cities throughout the world to establish affiliations with each other; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is an international nonprofit organization created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for prosperity and peace by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, business and trade exchanges are a fundamental component of Sister Cities programs, and they help create connections between international municipal officials, institutions, and businesses that build trust, access, and expertise and help local businesses find new opportunities and resources, including access to new markets, assistance navigating import and export regulations, and introductions to new business partners; and

WHEREAS, the parties seek to strengthen their trade relationship with one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND SINGAPORE, THAT THE PARTIES MUTUALLY AGREE TO:

1. Establish a Sister Cities Agreement with each other.
2. Explore programs, arrangements, activities, transactions, agreements and other ways to enhance trade and business opportunities for the citizens of both Parties, mutually benefit economic development and growth and tourism for both Parties, and enhance prosperity for the citizens of both Parties.
3. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
4. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
5. Make periodic reports and recommendations to their respective governing bodies regarding the foregoing objectives.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, WE HAVE AFFIXED OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS SISTER
CITIES AGREEMENT ON THIS DATE OF _____.

Miami-Dade County, Florida

By: _____

Title: _____

Singapore

By: _____

Title: _____