

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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

DATE: October 21, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing the
Board's intent to recognize
and congratulate María
Corina Machado for winning
the Nobel Peace Prize;
condemning the Maduro
regime for its authoritarian
rule and narco-terrorism

Resolution No. R-1034-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



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. 14(A)(2)

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. 14(A)(2)
10-21-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-1034-25

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE BOARD'S INTENT TO
RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE MARÍA CORINA
MACHADO FOR WINNING THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE;
CONDEMNING THE MADURO REGIME FOR ITS
AUTHORITARIAN RULE AND NARCO-TERRORISM

WHEREAS, many of the Venezuelan-American residents of Miami-Dade County are refugees that fled the autocratic regime currently governing Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Nicolás Maduro, the current ruler of Venezuela, ascended to power in 2013, succeeding Hugo Chávez, who had previously ruled the county for 14 years in an increasingly antidemocratic and repressive manner; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has accused the Maduro of conspiring with gangs and drug cartels to flood the streets of the United States with deadly illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, Maduro was charged in a Southern District of New York federal indictment for narco-terrorism, conspiracy to import cocaine, possession of machine guns and destructive devices, and conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 960a and 963, and 18 U.S.C. § 924; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Nicolás Maduro and his predecessor, Venezuela has provided economic, political, and military support to foreign terrorist organizations such as the National Liberation Army (ELN); and

WHEREAS, additionally, Maduro has remained in power despite widely-reported election irregularities that suggest significant fraud in Venezuela's elections; and

WHEREAS, for several years, María Corina Machado has remained bravely steadfast in her vocal criticism of the Maduro regime; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Machado co-founded Súmate—a volunteer association dedicated to electoral transparency and citizen oversight of the ballot; and

WHEREAS, Machado later served as a Member of the National Assembly of Venezuela, representing the state of Miranda from 2011 until 2014, when she was removed from office by the regime; and

WHEREAS, Machado eventually rose to leadership of the Venezuelan political opposition; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime prohibited Machado from appearing on the ballot in the 2024 election, which was nonetheless marred by reported fraud and election irregularities on the government's behalf in order to keep Maduro in power; and

WHEREAS, amid protests following the fraudulent 2024 elections, the Venezuelan government arrested opposition leader María Corina Machado; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2025, María Corina Machado was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy, despite great risk to her safety; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to recognize and congratulate Machado for her brave work to fight for democracy in Venezuela, and to condemn the Maduro regime for its repressive rule and criminal actions,

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

Section 1. Hereby expresses its intent to recognize and congratulate María Corina Machado for winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Section 2. Condemns the Maduro regime for its authoritarian rule and narco-terrorism.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis. It was offered by Commissioner **Natalie Milian Orbis** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Juan Carlos Bermudez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye
	Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	absent
Marleine Bastien	absent	Juan Carlos Bermudez aye
Sen. René García	absent	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 black ink, appearing to read "CJF", is written over a horizontal line.

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes