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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	February 18, 2026
FROM:	Geri Bonzon-Keenan County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution urging the City of Miami to codesignate that portion of Northwest 11th Street between Northwest 7th Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard as "Harlem Square Street"; and approving such codesignation

Resolution No. R-119-26

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Keon Hardemon.

for

Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: February 18, 2026

FROM: Geri 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)
2-18-26

RESOLUTION NO. R-119-26

RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY OF MIAMI TO CODESIGNATE THAT PORTION OF NORTHWEST 11TH STREET BETWEEN NORTHWEST 7TH AVENUE AND BISCAYNE BOULEVARD AS "HARLEM SQUARE STREET"; AND APPROVING SUCH CODESIGNATION

WHEREAS, beginning over a century ago, the neighborhood of Overtown has long stood as an artistic, cultural, economic, and social locus of black life and community in Miami and South Florida; and

WHEREAS, in light of racial segregation during the Jim Crow era, Overtown came to be a key destination for the overnight accommodation needed by visiting Black artists and celebrities who were prohibited from staying in the same places where they performed for largely white audiences in Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, turning the exclusion on its head, the ingenuity and resilience of African-Americans, Bahamians, and other Caribbean immigrants fueled the growth of Overtown into a thriving epicenter for hospitality and beyond to entertainment, culture, and other businesses, and into a destination unto itself attracting greater interest from black Miamians and black tourists alike; and

WHEREAS, in particular, a number of music halls and other performance venues emerged along the 2nd Avenue Corridor in Overtown during the 20th century and consequently became known as Miami's "Little Broadway," home to arts, culture, entertainment, and nightlife for black residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, by the mid-century, the Harlem Square Club flourished as one such notable venue in Little Broadway; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1963, the Harlem Square Club was the site of the live performance and recording of a pivotal album before a packed crowd – *Live at the Harlem Square Club, 1963* – by the legendary singer-songwriter Sam Cooke, who earned the moniker the "King of Soul" and is credited with pioneering said genre; and

WHEREAS, *Live at the Harlem Square Club, 1963* was shelved by label executives who perceived it to be incompatible with Sam Cooke's image as a gospel artist, and consequently receded into the label's archives for two decades before it was later unearthed; and

WHEREAS, the album was finally released in 1985, and shot to prominence as one of the greatest live albums of its time and to date; and

WHEREAS, the success of *Live at the Harlem Square Club, 1963* marked the crossover appeal of Sam Cooke's artistry and represented the broader reach, array, and impact of black music beyond the strictures that others had imposed; and

WHEREAS, the album's rediscovery and critical acclaim renewed and further cemented the legacy of the artist and the noteworthiness of the period of its recording, as well as the historic value of the Harlem Square Club – as the host of Sam Cooke's performance and its recording – to the memory of Little Broadway and its significance to Overtown, Miami, Miami-Dade County and the country more broadly; and

WHEREAS, to honor the legacies of the Harlem Square Club and the namesake album *Live at the Harlem Square Club, 1963* and their resonance with the community, this Board desires to urge the City of Miami (the "City") to codesignate that portion of Northwest 11th Street between Northwest 7th Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard as "Harlem Square Street"; and

WHEREAS, that portion of Northwest 11th Street between Northwest 7th Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard would be a fitting location for such an honorary designation to the meaning of Harlem Square in Miami as it runs through historic Little Broadway and is near the former site of the Harlem Square Club; and

WHEREAS, that portion of Northwest 11th Street between Northwest 7th Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard is a City-maintained road located within the City and within County Commission District 3,

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

Section 1. Urges the City of Miami to codesignate that portion of Northwest 11th Street between Northwest 7th Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard as "Harlem Square Street".

Section 2. Approves such codesignation.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to send certified copies of this resolution to the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami, the United States Postal Service, the Traffic Signals and Signs Division of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Development Services Division of the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department, the City of Miami Police Department, and the City of Miami Department of Fire-Rescue.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Keon Hardemon. It was offered by Commissioner **Micky Steinberg**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Vicki L. Lopez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	**aye**		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	**aye**		
Marleine Bastien	**absent**	Juan Carlos Bermudez	**aye**
Sen. René García	**aye**	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	**aye**
Roberto J. Gonzalez	**aye**	Keon Hardemon	**aye**
Danielle Cohen Higgins	**aye**	Vicki L. Lopez	**aye**
Natalie Milian Orbis	**aye**	Raquel A. Regalado	**aye**
Micky Steinberg	**aye**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of February, 2026. 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.

Chiyel R. A. Hayles
Michael J. Mastrucci