

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

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

DATE: May 19, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to enact legislation
that would designate the
American flamingo as the official
Florida state bird

Resolution No. 438-26

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: May 19, 2026

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(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
- ☐ Requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 2/3 members present but not less than 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 9 votes (2/3 membership) ____) 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)(2)
5-19-26

RESOLUTION NO. R-438-26

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD DESIGNATE THE
AMERICAN FLAMINGO AS THE OFFICIAL FLORIDA STATE
BIRD

WHEREAS, the American flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), also called the Caribbean flamingo, is one of the largest flamingo species in the world and stands approximately five feet tall; and

WHEREAS, the American flamingo, with its luminous pink plumage and characteristic tall, graceful poise, is iconic in its association with the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, in the 1800s, large flocks of American flamingos foraged in the Florida Keys and Florida Bay, with some observed by famed ornithologist John James Audubon; and

WHEREAS, American flamingos are historical residents of Florida, but overhunting around the turn of the 20th century resulted in their disappearance from the state; and

WHEREAS, by 1925, captive breeding in South Florida had reintroduced them to the state and there is evidence that some flamingos migrated to Florida on their own throughout the 1900s; and

WHEREAS, today, American flamingos can be observed along much of the Florida coast, although they are most commonly seen in Hialeah, the Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, despite the American flamingo's cultural and historical association with the state of Florida, the Florida Legislature designated the northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) as the official state bird in 1927, and this designation remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, Florida is one of five states that has designated the northern mockingbird as the official state bird; and

WHEREAS, members of the Florida Legislature have, on numerous occasions, introduced and considered legislation to replace the northern mockingbird with the American flamingo as the official state bird; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, this Board wishes to support legislation that would designate the American flamingo as the official Florida state bird,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would designate the American flamingo as the official Florida state bird.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation described in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2027 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis. It was offered by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III** , 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	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez aye
Sen. René García	aye	Oliver G. Gilbert, III aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	absent	Keon Hardemon absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Vicki L. Lopez aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	absent	Raquel A. Regalado aye
Micky Steinberg	absent	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of May, 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.

Cristina M. Rabionet