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

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(7)

TO:	Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez and Members, Board of County Commissioners	**DATE:**	October 20, 2026
FROM:	Geri Bonzon-Keenan County Attorney	**SUBJECT:**	Resolution directing the County's International Trade Consortium to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare a Sister Cities Agreement with Sint Maarten and transmit such agreement to the County Mayor for execution; authorizing and directing the County Mayor to execute such agreement upon receipt from the International Trade Consortium; and directing the International Trade Consortium to monitor performance of such agreement and provide a report to this Board

Resolution No. R-902-26

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III.

For
Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 20, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(7)

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. 14(A)(7)
10-20-26

RESOLUTION NO. R-902-26

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO NEGOTIATE AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, PREPARE A SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT WITH SINT MAARTEN AND TRANSMIT 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 SUCH AGREEMENT UPON RECEIPT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM; AND DIRECTING THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO MONITOR PERFORMANCE OF SUCH AGREEMENT AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THIS BOARD

WHEREAS, it is economically and culturally beneficial to establish affiliations between Miami-Dade County, Florida (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, according to statistics maintained by the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium of Miami-Dade County (the "ITC"), Sint Maarten offers opportunities for cross-border economic, governmental, and cultural collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Sint Maarten, a Dutch constituent country, occupies the southern portion of the Caribbean island of Saint Martin, and together with the northern French territory of Saint-Martin, forms a unique binational island economy with an open internal border and longstanding economic, cultural, and social ties; and

WHEREAS, Sint Maarten serves as a significant regional center for tourism, commerce, and transportation, with an economy driven by tourism and hospitality, retail and commerce, aviation and transportation services, maritime industries, and construction and real estate, generating an estimated gross domestic product of approximately $1,800,000,000.00 in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Princess Juliana International Airport serves as the primary international gateway for the island and provides air connectivity to the Caribbean, North America, Europe, and other international markets, while Miami International Airport serves as a key connection between Sint Maarten and the United States, creating opportunities for tourism, business travel, government exchanges, educational partnerships, and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, Sint Maarten's strategic position as a Caribbean tourism and maritime center offers Miami-Dade County a strategically aligned Sister Cities partner with strong aviation and maritime connections, a globally recognized tourism economy, and meaningful opportunities to expand trade, cultural exchange, education, and economic cooperation throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the County is the Gateway to the Americas; and

WHEREAS, under section 2-1501 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (the "Code"), 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 a Sister Cities Agreement with Sint Maarten for execution by the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee,

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 ITC to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare a Sister Cities Agreement with Sint Maarten, in substantially the form of the agreement attached hereto, and transmit such agreement (the "Agreement") to the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee for execution.

Section 2. Authorizes and directs the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to execute such Agreement upon receipt from the ITC.

Section 3. Directs the ITC to monitor the performance of such executed Agreement in connection with its powers and duties under sections 2-1501 through 2-1503 of the Code.

Section 4. 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 the 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 Oliver G. Gilbert, III. It was offered by Commissioner **Vicki L. Lopez**, 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	**absent**		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	**absent**		
Marleine Bastien	**aye**	Juan Carlos Bermudez	**aye**
Sen. René García	**absent**	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	**aye**
Roberto J. Gonzalez	**absent**	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 20th day of October, 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.

Narinah P. Jean-Baptiste
Ryan C. Zagare

SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND SINT MAARTEN

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

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

WHEREAS, these affiliations foster cultural, business and trade exchanges between two entities and engender trust as well as create pathways to access, expertise, and business growth, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF SINT MAARTEN, HEREBY MUTUALLY AGREE TO:

1. Establish a Sister Cities Agreement between both Parties.

2. Explore programs, arrangements, activities, transactions, projects, initiatives and other ideas to enhance trade and business opportunities for the citizens of both Parties, which 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 the Parties.

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	Sint Maarten
By: _____	By: _____
Title:_____	Title: _____