

**Miami-Dade County Charter Review Task Force Agenda**  
**Official Version**  
**Monday, November 17, 2025**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Commission Chambers**

- I. Roll Call
  
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
  
- III. Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to be Heard
  
- IV. Continuation of Discussion on the Structure of County Government
  - A. Motions for Consideration
    - i. Item A: Kerbel – Digital Publication
    - ii. Item B: Kerbel – Virtual Meetings
    - iii. Item C: Kerbel – Reciting Titles on the Record
  
- V. New Topic: Introductory Discussion on Land Use/ Resilience
  
- VI. Comments/Discussion by Task Force members
  - A. Clerk’s Meeting Minutes
  
  - B. Initial Task Force Report
  
  - C. Other Discussion Items
  
- VII. Adjournment

Attachments:

- (1) Attachment A: Motions for Consideration
- (2) Attachment B: Clerk’s Summary of Minutes 10.10.2025

**ATTACHMENT A:  
MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item A: Kerbel – Digital Publication**

**SECTION 1.02. - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES.**

- A. The Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure and shall decide which actions of the Board shall be by ordinance or resolution, except as otherwise provided in this Charter and except that any action of the Board which provides for raising revenue, appropriating funds, or incurring indebtedness (other than refunding indebtedness), or which provides a penalty or establishes a rule or regulation for the violation of which a penalty is imposed shall be by ordinance.
- B. Every ordinance shall be introduced in writing and shall contain a brief title. The enacting clause shall be "Be it Ordained by the Board." After passage on first reading, a short summary of the ordinance shall be published ~~[[in a daily newspaper of general circulation]]~~ >>in any manner authorized by state law for publication of legally required advertisements and public notices<< at least once together with a notice of the time when and place where it will be given a public hearing and be considered for final passage. The first such publication shall be at least one week prior to the time advertised for hearing. No ordinance shall be declared invalid by reason of any defect in publication or title if the published summary gives reasonable notice of its intent.
- C. At the time and place so advertised, or at any time and place to which such public hearing may from time to time be adjourned, the ordinance shall be read by title and a public hearing shall be held. After the hearing, the Board may pass the ordinance with or without amendment. No provision herein shall prohibit a committee of the commission from conducting such public hearing, as provided by Section 1.08.
- D. The Board may adopt in whole or in part any published code by reference as an ordinance in the manner provided by law.
- E. The effective date of any ordinance shall be prescribed therein, but the effective date shall not be earlier than ten days after its enactment.
- F. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or public safety the Board by two-thirds vote of the members of the Board may adopt an emergency ordinance at the meeting at which it is introduced, and may make it effective immediately, except that no such ordinance may be used to levy taxes, grant or extend a franchise, or authorize the borrowing of money. After the adoption of an emergency ordinance, the Board shall have it published in full within ten days in ~~[[a daily newspaper of general circulation]]~~ >>any manner authorized by state law for publication of legally required advertisements and public notices<<.
- G. Each ordinance and resolution after adoption shall be given a serial number and shall be entered by the clerk in a properly indexed record kept for that purpose.
- H. Within two years after adoption of this Charter the Board shall have prepared a general codification of all county ordinances and resolutions having the effect of law. The general codification thus prepared shall be adopted by the Board in a single ordinance. After adoption the Board shall have the codification printed immediately in an appropriate manner together with the Charter and such rules and regulations as the Board may direct. Additions or amendments to the code shall be prepared, adopted, and printed at least every two years.

**ATTACHMENT A:  
MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item B: Kerbel – Virtual Meetings**

**SECTION 1.08. - ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION AND COMMISSION COMMITTEES.**

The Mayor shall not be a member of the Commission. The Commission shall select the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Commission. The Chairperson shall preside over commission meetings and perform such other duties set forth in the charter and ordinances of Miami-Dade County. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson. Any member may be selected by the Commission to preside over commission meetings in the event of the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

The Commission may organize itself into standing committees, special committees, and ad hoc committees. Upon formation of any such committees, the Commission may appoint its members or authorize the Chairperson to appoint committee members. Commission committees may conduct public hearings, as authorized by ordinance of the Commission. The Clerk of the Circuit Court or a deputy shall serve as clerk of the Commission. No action of the Commission shall be taken except by a majority vote of those present at a meeting at which a majority of the Commissioners then in office is present. All meetings shall be public. >>Nothing herein shall prohibit members of the Commission from establishing their presence for purposes of quorum, or otherwise participating in meetings, by electronic means to the extent consistent with state law.<<

**ATTACHMENT A:  
MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item C: Kerbel – Reciting Titles on Record**

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- C. At the time and place so advertised, or at any time and place to which such public hearing may from time to time be adjourned, the ordinance shall be read by title >>or other identifying information, such as a unique legislative number,<< and a public hearing shall be held. After the hearing, the Board may pass the ordinance with or without amendment. No provision herein shall prohibit a committee of the commission from conducting such public hearing, as provided by Section 1.08.
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**CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE  
OCTOBER 10, 2025**

The Miami-Dade Charter Review Task Force (CRTF/Task Force) convened its meeting at the Stephen P. Clark Center, Commission Chambers: 111 NW 1st Street, Miami, FL 33130, on October 10, 2025 at 10:33 a.m.

**I – ROLL CALL**

Prior to the Roll Call, Deputy Clerk Bryce Stephenson-Pickett announced that Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Mayor Joshua Dieguez, Mr. Robert Fernandez, Mayor Steven Losner, Ms. Rebecca Wakefield, and Vice Chairman Michael Redondo were excused from today's meeting.

The following Task Force members were present at roll call:

- Senator Alexis Calatayud;
- Ms. Iris Escarra;
- Mr. Eric Eikenberg;
- Mr. Rafael E. Granado;
- Mr. Jose Jimenez;
- Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis Moss;
- Former City of North Miami Mayor Andre D. Pierre;
- Former City of Miami Shores Mayor Crystal Wagar; and
- Chairman Dennis Kerbel.

In addition to the Task Force members, the following staff members were present:

- Assistant County Attorney (ACA) Michael Valdes;
- Mr. Jorge Damian de la Paz, Director of Policy, Office of the Mayor;
- Ms. Demetria Henderson, Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Mayor;
- Mr. Luis Montaldo, COCC General Counsel;
- Ms. Barbara Galvez, COCC Chief Admin Officer;
- Mr. Carlos Maxwell, Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); and
- Bryce Stephenson-Pickett, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Board.

**II – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Granado led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III – REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Chairman Dennis Kerbel opened the reasonable opportunity to be heard, seeing no one come forward to speak, Chairman Kerbel closed the reasonable opportunity to be heard.

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**IV – CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE STRUCTURE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**A. MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Chairman Kerbel called the meeting to order and continued the Task Force's discussion on the County's governmental structure. He explained that he had requested staff to distribute information regarding the Meek v. Metro Dade case to provide members with historical context about the current election voting process for County Commissioners. This request followed comments from Mayor Losner during the previous meeting. The Chairman also noted that the County Attorney's Office had prepared draft versions of potential motions based on commentary from the prior meeting for Task Force members to review.

Chairman Kerbel recapped the discussion from the previous meeting, noting that the Task Force had determined that including both salary and term limit questions on the ballot might not be well-received by voters. He suggested that Task Force members work toward reaching an agreement on the substance of term limits and base salary recommendations, and then present specific technical changes for the Board of County Commissioners (Board) to review and prioritize. Chairman Kerbel emphasized that this approach would allow the Board to consider the Task Force's recommendations while retaining full discretion to make additional revisions or suggestions for their own draft ballot language.

Regarding ballot question formatting, Chairman Kerbel explained that the Task Force had previously reviewed sample ballot questions when finalizing earlier rounds of amendments, specifically for the constitutional officer amendments and technical changes. He noted that such detailed review had been necessary to address concerns about ballot fatigue and to ensure proper packaging of multiple items. However, for individual items currently under consideration, he indicated that presenting actual ballot question language to the Task Force would not be necessary. Instead, the Task Force would focus on making recommendations regarding charter policy and charter language to the Board. This approach would ensure that no Commissioner would be excluded from developing alternative formulations when the matters reached the full Board for consideration.

**I. ITEM A: KERBEL – COMMISSIONER SALARIES**

The Task Force engaged in extensive deliberation regarding commissioner compensation, beginning with Mayor Pierre's inquiry about why Miami-Dade County had opted out of the State salary system.

ACA Valdes clarified that the County had not opted out of the State system and explained that the Home Rule Amendment to the Florida Constitution specifically granted the Miami-Dade County Charter authority to establish its own method of compensation for County Commissioners. He noted this unique provision allowed the County to set salary rates that could

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only be revised through Charter amendment. ACA Valdes explained that the current \$6,000 annual salary had been established in 1957 when the original Charter was adopted and had never been updated.

Mayor Pierre presented findings from an informal survey he conducted with 50 registered voters in North Miami. He reported all respondents expressed that the \$6,000 salary was unfair given the full-time nature of the position and the significant policy responsibilities involved. Mayor Pierre noted however, when informed that commissioners had voted three years earlier to increase their car allowances, expense accounts, and retirement benefits from \$60,000 to \$138,000, approximately ninety percent of respondents believed commissioners did not need a salary increase, reasoning that most employees must cover such expenses from their own salaries. Mayor Pierre suggested removing the Charter provision entirely and reverting to the State salary system, which would provide cost-of-living adjustments and pay grade escalation with greater transparency.

Mr. Eikenberg questioned whether Mayor Pierre's survey had addressed commissioners' ability to maintain outside employment while serving.

Mayor Pierre confirmed his survey had been limited to two questions and did not cover this issue.

Mr. Eikenberg noted that while salaries were authorized by the Charter, commissioners could maintain outside employment, which was confirmed by Chairman Kerbel and ACA Valdes..

Ms. Henderson provided additional information requested by the Task Force regarding School Board member salaries, reporting that the nine elected School Board members earned \$56,587 annually.

Chairman Kerbel inquired whether the Public School System covered other allowances and expenses similar to County practices.

Ms. Henderson explained that this information had not been included in the public records response. She then referenced Attachment 2, which provided a compensation breakdown for Florida chartered counties prepared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Mr. Maxwell explained that the compensation data in Attachment 2 came from filings submitted to the Florida Office of Ethics, showing income earned from their employer. He clarified that the data represented total compensation and taxable income without distinguishing between salary and benefits.

Chairman Kerbel summarized his proposal, designated as Agenda Item A, which offered structured options for commissioner compensation: maintaining the current \$6,000 system with outside employment permitted, or eliminating outside employment and adopting the state salary formula of approximately \$123,000.

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Commissioner Moss proposed creating an Independent Salary Commission composed of five individuals who would gather relevant data and establish acceptable commissioner salaries. He explained that this commission would convene annually to set salary levels for the next fiscal cycle, with their decisions being binding. Commissioner Moss identified respected officials within the County who he believed would engage public trust as commission members.

Mr. Jimenez expressed concerns about the broad language regarding outside employment in Item A, questioning when the State salary system would apply if a commissioner lost outside employment. He supported Commissioner Moss's proposal and recommended adding a cap to ensure the commission's determination could not exceed the salary for non-chartered counties.

Commissioner Moss accepted this amendment.

Mr. Granado supported Agenda Item C and the commission concept, suggesting that various County-covered expenses should be considered within the commission's final compensation decision to maintain transparency.

Mr. Jimenez emphasized that the commission should consider all transparent totals and increases. Commissioner Moss accepted this additional amendment.

Mr. Eikenberg expressed support for Item A, noting that information from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research indicated the State salary would be \$123,000. He explained that commissioners wanting to maintain outside employment should remain under the current pay system, while those devoting full time to County service should receive the State salary. Regarding potential job loss during a term, Mr. Eikenberg noted there would be a transition process to move from the current salary system to the State system.

Ms. Escarra inquired whether the Task Force had considered establishing a base salary and then implementing the State formula with a salary cap.

Commissioner Moss indicated he wanted to receive feedback from the entire Task Force before advancing the motion. He summarized his proposal, emphasizing the respected officials who could serve on the commission and the information that would inform compensation determinations. Commissioner Moss inquired whether commissioners in other Florida counties governed by State salary systems were prohibited from outside employment.

ACA Valdes stated that such a provision was not known to exist, and Mr. Maxwell confirmed that nothing in the State system prevented outside employment.

Mayor Pierre requested that Commissioner Moss restate his motion for clarity.

Commissioner Moss detailed his motion to establish an Independent Salary Commission that would convene annually to review and determine commissioner compensation. Additionally, the commission would consider factors including cost of living, benefits, and other compensation elements when making binding decisions for each fiscal cycle. He advised, under this proposal,

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commissioner salaries would be set with a floor of \$6,000 and a ceiling not to exceed the State salary system.

Mayor Pierre asked whether car allowances, phone allowances, and other compensation would be included. Moss confirmed these items would be considered by the commission. Mayor Pierre sought clarification on whether commissioners would lose the ability to change their own salaries and expense increases.

Commissioner Moss clarified that commissioners would not be able to change their base salary or pay level under this proposal. He emphasized that serving as a county commissioner was a full-time job deserving full-time compensation. He reviewed the salary history since the home rule charter's inception, noting that while the \$6,000 base salary was appropriate in the 1950s for a part-time position, it was no longer adequate in 2025.

Chairman Kerbel asked whether the salary commission would have authority to limit salaries if commissioners had been too generous with expense increases.

Commissioner Moss confirmed the commission would possess that authority.

Mr. Eikenberg expressed concern that Section E of Agenda Item C appeared to transfer power from voters to an independent commission. He questioned why the salary floor was not set at \$123,000 with provisions to deduct County-covered expenses and allowances from this total. Mr. Eikenberg reiterated his concerns about removing voters' ability to determine salaries.

Commissioner Moss clarified that the proposal did not remove voter power, noting that the ceiling was the state level and the base was \$6,000.

Chairman Kerbel acknowledged that his motion represented an increase if the commissioner lacked outside employment but believed the Task Force sought a more transparent process.

Mr. Jimenez stated he was comfortable with the public not directly determining salary amounts but had greater confidence in Commissioner Moss's proposal. He believed the increase language from the alternative motion would be rejected by residents.

Ms. Escarra supported Commissioner Moss's proposal as a fair approach, noting that fixed numbers could skew public perception. She explained that outside employment was independent of commissioners' County work and represented a personal choice.

Mayor Pierre asked whether the public had previously been asked to make this decision.

ACA Valdes responded that all previous ballot questions regarding commissioner compensation had failed, including six ballot questions from 2002 through 2012 that proposed transitioning to the State salary system.

Chairman Kerbel asked whether default language could be added by referendum.

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Commissioner Moss recommended this new approach, suggesting it could provide sufficient transparency for voter approval.

Mayor Wagar observed that voters' previous perception may have been that commissioners could increase their salaries without accountability. She believed Commissioner Moss's proposal could help build public trust and maintain necessary checks and balances. She cautioned that while the nominated participants were credible, there should be greater diversity on the panel beyond elected officials.

Mr. Granado clarified that the proposal removed power from the commission rather than from voters.

Mr. Jimenez noted that if they proceeded with Agenda Item A, voters would have no voice in salary determination. He suggested the commission could utilize public input and reiterated Mayor Wagar's concerns about membership diversity. Mr. Jimenez supported five members but suggested expanding to seven for greater diversity and inclusion.

Ms. Escarra inquired whether non-government individuals could be appointed to the commission, such as college presidents or charitable community leaders.

Mayor Wagar expressed concern about potential pushback if a particular institution's president was selected. Mayor Pierre noted there should be no campaigning for salary compensation.

ACA Valdes addressed prohibitions on County fund allocation, referencing Florida Statute 106.113. He clarified that while public funds could not be used for campaigning, individuals could exercise their First Amendment rights.

Mr. Eikenberg concurred with previous concerns and recommended that voters might have greater trust if the commission comprised more substantially of private sector leaders.

Chairman Kerbel expressed concern about incorporating private sector leaders into legislative language, noting the uncertainty of organizational longevity. He suggested the five nominated personnel could select two additional representatives from specific types of organizations to achieve diversity goals.

Commissioner Moss stated he would consider Chairman Kerbel's suggestion and explained that the nominated individuals would be trusted community leaders without alternative motives who could serve as the voice of the people.

ACA Valdes suggested that Agenda Item C be amended to specify that vacancies would be filled in the same manner of appointment.

Mr. Eikenberg recommended deferring the motions to allow absent Task Force members to provide input.

Chairman Kerbel advised that he would keep his item on the agenda, although he was leaning toward supporting Commissioner Moss's proposal. He suggested the commission could also

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include non-profit organization leaders, college representatives, and American Bar Association members.

Commissioner Moss proposed deferring Agenda Item C to the next Task Force meeting scheduled for October 27, 2025, to allow additional time for determining appropriate commissioner term limits. Mayor Pierre seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed 8-0 (Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Mayor Joshua Dieguez, Mr. Robert Fernandez, Mayor Steven Losner, and Ms. Rebecca Wakefield were excused, and Vice Chairman Michael Redondo was absent).

**II. ITEM B – COMMISSIONER TERM LIMITS**

Mr. Jimenez questioned whether current commissioners subject to two-term limits should be allowed to run for a third term if voters approved extending term limits to three consecutive terms.

Chairman Kerbel explained that his proposal excluded current commissioners based on political considerations, believing voters would be hesitant to approve the measure if they perceived it would benefit those who placed the question on the ballot.

Ms. Escarra agreed with Mr. Jimenez, stating that if voters approved three-term limits, they should be allowed to decide whether to re-elect current commissioners, noting there was no guarantee of re-election.

Mr. Eikenberg raised a concern about parity, referencing Paragraph D of Agenda Item B which limited the Mayor to two consecutive four-year terms. He suggested that if commissioners were being considered for three terms, the Mayor should also receive a third-term option.

Chairman Kerbel explained that the proposal treated the Mayor as an executive position, similar to the federal model where executives and legislators face different term limits.

Mr. Eikenberg indicated he would draft an amendment proposing a third term for the Mayor for consideration at the next meeting.

Senator Calatayud provided information on State-level term limits, clarifying that legislators were limited to eight years total, two terms in the Senate and four terms in the House.

Chairman Kerbel acknowledged this created parity with the Governor's two four-year term limit and stated the items would be revisited at the next meeting.

Ms. Escarra requested that staff identify other Charter provisions that may require clarification or adjustment based on practical experience or legal issues.

Chairman Kerbel agreed and directed staff to prepare such recommendations for future meetings.

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**V. COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

**A. MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chairman Kerbel reminded the Task Force that the resolution required regional meetings in the community. He proposed holding a regional meeting at the North Dade Regional Library on October 27th and solicited member input on timing and location preferences.

Ms. Henderson advised that the North Dade Regional Library was available from both 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on that date. She noted that the West Kendall and Westchester Regional Libraries were also available.

Commissioner Moss recommended scheduling the meeting in the evening to allow working residents greater opportunity to attend.

Ms. Escarra asked whether the meeting would have a set agenda with approved motions and solidified ideas.

ACA Valdes explained that the Code allowed for listening sessions without action, but if official action was required, proper notice must be provided. He clarified that previous listening sessions had been held primarily due to quorum concerns.

Mr. Jimenez expressed that a listening session alone would not be a good use of time and suggested allowing time for follow-up public comments after substantive discussions.

Chairman Kerbel agreed and proposed adding follow-up public comment periods to the agenda.

Mr. Eikenberg suggested that the Commission Chambers would better accommodate participants than a library facility.

Mayor Pierre indicated that North Miami would provide adequate space if needed.

Ms. Henderson clarified that the North Dade Regional Library lacked audio-visual transmission capability for live streaming, noting only the Downtown Regional Library possessed this technology. Meetings at other regional libraries would need to be recorded and posted later to the website.

Chairman Kerbel stated he was less concerned about live streaming capability, emphasizing that community meetings were intended for direct in-person engagement. The meeting could be recorded for later posting.

The Task Force agreed to schedule the October 27th meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the North Dade Regional Library as a properly noticed Sunshine meeting that would allow for official action if quorum was achieved, or serve as a listening session if not.

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Mayor Pierre requested improved notice throughout municipalities to maximize public engagement.

Mr. De La Paz confirmed that all meetings would be properly noticed and that the administration would utilize the Mayor's Office of Equity and Engagement for local outreach, posting information on the County's website. He noted that the Mayor's Office Intergovernmental team would conduct outreach to municipal partners and community organizations.

Commissioner Moss inquired about future meeting topics.

Ms. Henderson advised that upcoming topics included annexation and incorporation, land use and sea level rise, and budget processes.

Chairman Kerbel proposed scheduling two November meetings: November 6th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and November 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Following discussion, the Task Force selected November 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. based on member availability.

Mr. Jimenez suggested holding the annexation discussion at a west side regional meeting since that area would be most heavily impacted.

Chairman Kerbel agreed to address annexation in January, potentially scheduling a combined regional and action meeting in the western part of the County. He indicated that the November 17th meeting would likely continue government structure discussions or potentially begin land use topics, with additional meetings in December if needed.

ACA Valdes noted that the initial report was due no later than fourteen days prior to the Board of County Commissioners' last meeting in November, making the October 27th meeting the deadline for finalizing the interim report.

Staff indicated they were working on a preliminary draft.

Chairman Kerbel confirmed the report would be targeted for the Board's November 18th meeting.

Ms. Escarra requested that staff inform Task Force members if their presence would be needed at the Board meeting to present recommendations.

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**C. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Eikenberg moved to approve the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 CRTF minutes, with the correction to Mayor Losner’s title as Mayor of Homestead. This motion was seconded by Ms. Escarra and upon being put to a vote passed by a vote of 8-0 (Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Mayor Joshua Dieguez, Mr. Robert Fernandez, Mayor Steven Losner, and Ms. Rebecca Wakefield were excused, and Vice Chairman Michael Redondo was absent).

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Charter Review Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.