



ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
Members of the Board of County Commissioners

From: Honorable Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman,
Board of County Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Rodriguez", is written over the "From:" line.

Date: August 11, 2025

Subject: Proposed Path for Partial Restoration of Budget Cuts - Framework for a Path Forward

As the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, my top priorities are clear: protecting the taxpayers of Miami-Dade County, keeping our finances in order, and making sure that our residents, especially the most vulnerable, have access to vital public services they need to thrive in our community.

Crafting a balanced budget in today's economy means making hard choices, thinking strategically, and a commitment to financial stewardship. I sincerely appreciate the hard work of our Administration in preparing the proposed FY2025-2026 budget. At the same time, I remain steadfast in my responsibility to lead with purpose and ensure that every public dollar is spent wisely and transparently.

After extensive negotiations and conversations with our Tax Collector, Dariel Fernandez, we successfully secured \$20 million in accelerated refund payments to the County, in addition to \$6 million in surplus funds from FY24-25. This total of \$26 million in available resources represents an opportunity to responsibly address key community concerns while preparing our County for long-term financial resilience.

Proposed Framework for Fiscal Allocation:

Category	Allocation	Amount
County Reserves - Building for the Future	31%	\$8,000,000
Partial Restoration - Cultural Arts Programming	24%	\$6,250,000
Partial Restoration - Community Organizations	24%	\$6,250,000
Partial Restoration - Parks Budget (includes eliminating new parking fees)	21%	\$5,500,000
Total		\$26,000,000

This balanced approach reflects my commitment to both fiscal prudence and community investment. Setting aside nearly one-third of these funds to build County reserves demonstrates long-term planning and discipline, an essential protection for taxpayers against future economic volatility. I further recommend that a healthy portion of all future revenue returned by the County's Tax Collector be allocated toward the continued strengthening of our reserves.

Equally important is the partial restoration of funding to community organizations, parks, and cultural programs. These services are not merely amenities; they are lifelines that uplift our neighborhoods, strengthen our community, and preserve the unique cultural fabric of Miami-Dade. I've also made it clear that I do not support any new parking fees at County parks; public spaces should remain accessible, welcoming, and free to all residents, regardless of income.

As a public servant, the foundations of my leadership are grounded in collaboration, accountability, and a deep respect for the people who entrust us with their tax dollars. I am encouraged by ongoing discussions with you and your team, and our continued partnership as we evaluate the next steps and refine budget priorities. I also look forward to hearing more from the administration about ongoing engagement with philanthropic and private-sector partners. Government has a vital role in supporting nonprofits, but we must also leverage public-private partnerships to promote long-term sustainability and reduce dependency on limited County funds.

By working together with transparency and purpose, we can deliver a budget that not only meets today's needs but also protects Miami-Dade's future.

CC: Honorable Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman, and Members,
Board of County Commissioners
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board