



ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ

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MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor	DATE:	January 9, 2026
FROM:	The Honorable Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners	SUBJECT:	Legislation to Create a Citizens Advisory Board for Miami International Airport (MIA)

Miami International Airport (MIA) is one of Miami-Dade County's most important economic engines and, as a global gateway, serves as both the first and last impression many travelers have of South Florida. Each year, millions of visitors, residents, and workers pass through MIA, making the airport not only a critical transportation hub, but also a reflection of our community, our values, and our commitment to excellence.

Since becoming Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), advancing major improvements at MIA has been one of my top priorities. Over the past year, working collaboratively with my colleagues, we have achieved significant milestones under MIA's \$9 billion Capital Improvement and Modernization Plan. These accomplishments represent meaningful progress toward modernizing infrastructure, strengthening operations, and improving the overall passenger experience.

Among the most notable achievements was the groundbreaking of the new Concourse K, which will add six new aircraft gates, a modern passenger lounge, and expanded concession offerings. In addition, multiple facility modernization projects have advanced, including renovations to public restrooms, the installation of new escalators and elevators, and upgrades to walkways and passenger mobility systems throughout the terminals. Most recently, we celebrated the opening of a new seven-story parking garage, adding 2,200 parking spaces, including 400 electric vehicle charging stations.

Together, these investments enhance customer convenience, accessibility, and sustainability, while positioning MIA to accommodate continued passenger growth. Passenger volumes continue to rise year over year, a trend that was proven more than ever during the most recent holiday travel season, when record activity placed increased demands on airport operations, facilities, and customer service functions. While these improvements mark important progress, our work is far from complete. Much remains to be done to ensure that MIA consistently delivers a high-quality, efficient, and welcoming experience for travelers, employees, and visitors alike.

Looking ahead, the urgency to act is even greater. As Miami-Dade County prepares to host global events such as the FIFA World Cup and other major international gatherings, Miami International Airport must be

fully prepared to meet heightened expectations, increased passenger volumes, and global scrutiny. These events present both an extraordinary opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that MIA reflects the very best of our community.

To that end, I will be presenting legislation to the BCC to establish a Citizens Advisory Board for Miami International Airport. This board will create a structured and transparent mechanism for community input focused on improving the overall airport experience. It will be convened expeditiously, with the clear objective of identifying actionable recommendations and achieving, measurable improvements at MIA ahead of the FIFA World Cup and G20 Summit.

The Citizens Advisory Board would serve in an advisory capacity to the Aviation Department and the BCC, providing monthly reports to the Chair of the Airport Committee and to the Board of County Commissioners. Its recommendations may include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- Customer service and passenger satisfaction
- Cleanliness and maintenance of airport facilities
- Wayfinding, signage, and accessibility
- Passenger flow, wait times, and overall ease of travel
- Baggage Claim Service
- Day-to-day concessionaire operational experiences affecting travelers and concession users
- General quality-of-life improvements within airport terminals and surrounding facilities

The board would be composed of community members, stakeholders, and individuals with relevant expertise who can offer practical, firsthand perspectives. Its role would be to identify concerns, highlight opportunities for improvement, and propose solutions that enhance MIA's reputation as a world-class airport.

I look forward to discussing this legislation with you and welcome your feedback as we work collaboratively to improve the experience at Miami International Airport for residents, visitors, and the global community we serve.

Cc: Honorable Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman, and Members, Board of County Commissioners
Honorable Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Basia Pruna, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Office of Agenda Coordination