

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

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 the Casablanca-Settat Region of Morocco 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

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



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

MDC001



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

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
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) 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)(1)
10-9-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY’S INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO NEGOTIATE AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, PREPARE A SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT WITH THE CASABLANCA-SETTAT REGION OF MOROCCO 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, Africa has become home to many of the world's fastest growing economies, and trade between the United States and Africa has grown exponentially over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Morocco is one of Africa's largest economies; and

WHEREAS, Morocco is divided into twelve Administrative Regions, each governed by a directly elected regional council; and

WHEREAS, the Casablanca-Settat Region is the most populous Administrative Region of Morocco, and is home to Casablanca, which is Morocco's largest city, principal port, and economic capital; 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 Jay Malina International Trade Consortium of Miami-Dade County (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 the Casablanca-Settat Region of Morocco, 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 the Casablanca-Settat Region of Morocco, 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 _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman

Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman

Marleine Bastien

Sen. René García

Roberto J. Gonzalez

Danielle Cohen Higgins

Natalie Milian Orbis

Micky Steinberg

Juan Carlos Bermudez

Oliver G. Gilbert, III

Keon Hardemon

Eileen Higgins

Raquel A. Regalado

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 9th day of October, 2025. 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

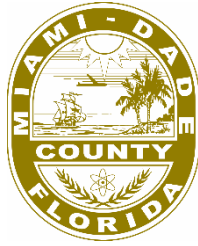
JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Ryan C. Zagare



Sister Cities Agreement between Miami-Dade County and Casablanca-Settat Region

- WHEREAS,** the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners has expressed a desire to establish a cooperative relationship between their community and that of the Casablanca-Settat Region; and
- WHEREAS,** the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and the President of the Casablanca-Settat Region have expressed a desire to enter into a sister cities agreement; and
- WHEREAS,** both Miami-Dade County and the Casablanca-Settat Region want to cooperate in order to further expand trade, tourism, cultural, and economic opportunities among the cities; and
- WHEREAS,** both communities share common goals, and meet the guidelines established by Miami-Dade County and the Casablanca-Settat Region to enter into a sister cities agreement; and
- WHEREAS,** the Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Commissioner, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and Chairman, Board of International Trade Consortium (ITC), and The Honorable Chafika El Habti, Consul General, Consulate General of the Kingdom of Morocco in Miami have worked diligently to develop and strengthen the ties between the two communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida, United States of America, and the President of the Casablanca-Settat Region, Kingdom of Morocco hereby mutually agree to:

- A) Establish a sister cities agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Casablanca-Settat Region.
- B) Undertake programs that expand trade, tourism, cultural, economic, and educational opportunities, and promote sustainable development.
- C) Engage in an exchange program of best practices between the two Governments.
- D) Undertake and support trade missions to each region.

IN WITNESS THEREOF we have affixed our signatures to this Sister Cities Agreement on this date of October XXXX 2025.

**Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor
Miami-Dade County**

**Abdellatif Mâzouz
President
Casablanca-Settat Region**

**Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Commissioner
Miami-Dade County Board of County
Commissioners
& ITC Chair**

**Hassane Berkani
President
Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services
of Casablanca-Settat**