

**PROMISES  
KEPT AND  
PROGRESS  
MADE**

# TO BLACK MIAMI-DADE

**February 2024**



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA**

From Florida City to Richmond Heights to the City of Miami Gardens – the Black community in Miami-Dade County is a testament to our County’s resilience. Mayor Levine Cava is committed to ensuring that all families have the support they need to thrive and be future ready. To that end, she has prioritized the equitable investment of County resources to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

In the fiscal year 2023-24 she committed more than \$380 million for capital projects in majority Black communities in Miami-Dade County. As part of a significant investment in community outreach we added \$12 million to support our predominantly Black, Caribbean and Haitian communities. These investments coupled with the services provided by our County departments will ensure the continued success of Miami-Dade County’s Black community.



## **Assisting Homeowners and Expanding Housing Options**

- Passed a historic tax cut for the second year in a row, continuing to offer much-needed relief to residents.
- Invested an additional \$18 million in the Save our Seniors Program to provide additional support to our older adults. Qualifying senior homeowners received \$617 checks to address support their basic needs.
- Assisted homeowners through the Mortgage Relief Program which provides homeowners experiencing hardship up to \$3,500 for their mortgage or utility bills.
- Secured nearly \$10 million in additional federal funding to assist low-income residents pay their water and sewer utility bills.
- Secured a 35% discount on flood insurance for homeowners and business owners in unincorporated Miami-Dade County by securing a Class 3 rating from the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS). The new rating will result in an estimated \$12 million savings on flood insurance premiums.
- Awarded a \$40 million federal grant to redevelop Cutler Manor Apartments in Goulds with the support of community-based partners such as POAH. The grant will help build new mixed-income housing communities, improve economic development opportunities, and support wide-scale community revitalization efforts in South Dade.
- Reduced the monthly energy burden on low-income homeowners through increased funding of the Weatherization Assistance Program.
- Opened of the 2024 Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program Waitlist, marking a significant step towards accessible housing in our community.
- Increased funding and support to the Office of Housing Advocacy to support residents facing evictions and those in need of housing services.



## Supporting Families and Youth

- Launched the Future Ready Miami-Dade Scholarship, a groundbreaking initiative that will provide residents the opportunity to complete an Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) degree at MDC with zero cost.
- Created the free Financial Literacy Pilot Program for families at three public libraries – Arcola Lakes Library, South Dade Regional Library, and North Dade Regional Library.
- Continued the successful Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in coordination with organizations throughout Miami-Dade County to provide safe and free nutritious meals to youth 18 years of age and under.
- Created new media and music opportunities for youth by opening a new recording studio at the NFL Youth Education Town at Gwen Cherry Park.
- Connected families affected by substance and domestic violence to resources through innovative programming.
- Provided jobs and internships to youth through the nationally recognized Fit2Lead Jobs program and Miami-Dade County Internship program.



## Strengthening Trust & Public Safety

- Appointed Stephanie Daniels to serve as director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, making her the first Black woman director of the largest police department in the Southeast and the eighth largest in the nation.
- Cracked down on dangerous and illegal drag racing activities throughout Miami-Dade County.
- Reduced violent crimes in Miami-Dade County through increased community policing and community partnerships.
- Continued the successful Peace and Prosperity Plan which provides strategic prevention, intervention, and re-entry services.
- Continued the successful Safe in the 305 grant program, which encourages residents and community stakeholders to develop and lead initiatives to enhance safety in their neighborhoods.
- Continued support of the Miami-Dade Independent Civilian Panel to provide citizen participation in public safety.



## Connecting Communities Through Transportation

- Launched the Better Bus Network to improve frequency and reliability of the bus network.
- Expanded MetroConnect service and partnered with Uber to provide transportation vouchers for residents.
- Coordinated with municipalities to improve transit connectivity through trolley services.
- Continued construction on the South Dade Bus Rapid Transit Corridor to improve connectivity and reduce pollution in South Dade.
- Moved necessary studies and approvals forward towards completion of NE and North train corridors, and extension of TriRail to downtown Miami.



## Securing Tech and Environmental Equity for the Black Community

- Launched a new Broadband and Digital Equity Plan which outlines a six-point approach to close our digital divide and ensure all Miami-Dade County residents have equal access to high-speed internet.
- Installed the County's first solar array at North Dade Regional Library in Miami Gardens. This is the first of three large-scale solar pilot projects in Miami-Dade County. The next will be completed in late 2024 at the South Dade Regional Library.
- Established Miami-Dade County as one of 31 National Tech Hubs to unlock access to tens of millions of dollars in potential funding.
- Partnered with faith leaders to expand the tree canopy in Miami-Dade County by planting trees on the campuses of churches in the County.
- Installed energy efficient air conditioning units in all public housing units.



## Improving Infrastructure in the Black Community

- Invested \$19 million in the Connect2Protect Program which is the County's largest septic-to-sewer conversion initiative. Currently, there are approximately 11,000 parcels in various stages of development as part of the program.
- Budgeted for FY 2023-2024 more than \$380 million for capital projects in majority Black communities in Miami-Dade County to create affordable housing, upgrade parks and trails, improve roads and more.



## Supporting Black Businesses and Black Institutions

- Increased budget for the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust to expand its work to address issues of equity in the Black community, and added funding to expand programming for Black Owned Business Month (August).
- Partnered with Black Owned Media Alliance and Haitian media owners to increase awareness of County services in minority communities.
- Continued investments in successful programs including Strive305, the Larcenia Bullard Plaza Innovation Center in Richmond Heights, and the BizUp program which provides grants of \$50,000 to \$100,000 to emerging local businesses.
- Established the Procurement Vendor Academy which provides free training to businesses seeking to obtain County contracts.
- Continued the successful Purpose Driven Procurement program which has increased the number of County contracts set-aside for local and small businesses.
- Awarded more than \$2 million to the Historic Hampton House since taking office.

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