

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)


TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 16, 2024

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 City of La Romana, Dominican Republic, 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 Co-Prime Sponsors Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera and Vice Chairman Anthony Rodríguez, and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp

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MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 16, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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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. 11(A)(2)
10-16-24

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM TO NEGOTIATE AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, PREPARE A SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 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 County has established Sister Cities relationships with numerous cities in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia; 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, the Dominican Republic is one of the County's most important trade partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, with total trade, including financial services, agriculture, textiles, machinery, electronics, flowers, and pharmaceuticals, amounting to more than \$8 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, the Dominican Republic has the largest economy in the Caribbean, and one of the fastest-growing economies in the world; and

WHEREAS, South Florida is a source of significant investment in the Dominican Republic, and numerous Dominican companies conduct business in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Dominican Republic is the top tourism destination in the Caribbean, with the County serving as a major gateway hub; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Romana is the capital of the province of La Romana, one of the Dominican Republic's first-level administrative subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the County has Sister City relationships with two of La Romana's neighboring cities, Santo Domingo and San Pedro de Macoris; and

WHEREAS, La Romana is a tourism and art hub in the Dominican Republic, and is home to La Romana International Airport; and

WHEREAS, American Airlines recently announced that it will soon begin direct air service between Miami International Airport and La Romana International Airport; 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 City of La Romana, Dominican Republic, 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. Directs the ITC to negotiate and, to the extent feasible, prepare a Sister Cities Agreement with City of La Romana, Dominican Republic, 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 Co-Prime Sponsors of the foregoing resolution are Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera and Vice Chairman Anthony Rodríguez, and the Co-Sponsor is Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez. 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:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman | |
| Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman | |
| Marleine Bastien | Juan Carlos Bermudez |
| Kevin Marino Cabrera | Sen. René García |
| Roberto J. Gonzalez | Keon Hardemon |
| Danielle Cohen Higgins | Eileen Higgins |
| Kionne L. McGhee | Raquel A. Regalado |
| Micky Steinberg | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of October, 2024. 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,
FLORIDA AND THE CITY OF LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The parties hereto, Miami-Dade County, Florida and the City of La Romana, Dominican Republic (collectively, the “Parties”), desire to enter into a Sister Cities Agreement as more specifically described below:

WHEREAS, it is economically and culturally beneficial for cities throughout the world to establish affiliations with each other; 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, 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 parties seek to strengthen their trade and cultural relationships with one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE CITY OF LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THAT THE PARTIES MUTUALLY AGREE TO:

1. Establish a Sister Cities Agreement with each other.
2. Explore programs, arrangements, activities, transactions, agreements and other ways to enhance trade and business opportunities for the citizens of both Parties, mutually benefit economic development and growth and tourism for both Parties, and enhance prosperity for the citizens of both Parties.
3. Engage in an exchange program of best practices for enhancing the economic and social well-being of the citizens of each Party.
4. Undertake business development, trade, arts, and cultural missions to each community.
5. Make periodic reports and recommendations to their respective governing bodies regarding the foregoing objectives.

[Signature Page to Follow]

IN WITNESS THEREOF, WE HAVE AFFIXED OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT ON THIS DATE OF _____.

Miami-Dade County, Florida

By: _____

Title: _____

La Romana, Dominican Republic

By: _____

Title: _____