I. Welcome & Introductions
   Alex Soto and/or Alfred Sanchez

II. Approval of Minutes
   Alex Soto and/or Alfred Sanchez

III. 2023 Legislative Session Overview
   Evelio Torres
   A. Session Dates
   B. Miami-Dade/Monroe Delegation list
   C. Legislative Visits
   D. Tallahassee Fly-In with GMCC
   E. Site Visits with Legislators

IV. Legislative Priorities
   Victor Caballero
   A. Updated 2023 Coalition Advocacy Priorities
   B. Miami-Dade County Resolution
   C. Updated 2023 GMCC State Legislative Priority List
   Alfred Sanchez

V. Proposed Budget Increases to Key Federal Early Learning Programs
   Pam Hollingsworth

VI. Public Comment
   Alex Soto

VII. Adjourn
   Alex Soto

Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children’s chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.
Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children’s chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

Legislative/Advocacy Committee
Committee Meeting
October 18, 2022; 1 P.M.
Meeting ID: 862 4486 4629
Passcode: 912881

MINUTES

Committee Attendees: Matthew Bruno
Committee Absentees: Alex Soto

Board members: Loreen Chant, Dr. Armstrong, Iris Strachan, Aaron Slavens

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Pam Hollingsworth, Sandra Gonzalez

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente

I. Welcome & Introductions
   Matthew Bruno
   A. M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
   B. Quorum was not established as there is only voting member present.

II. Approval of Minutes
    Matthew Bruno
    Minutes were not voted on as Quorum was not established.

III. Proposed Advocacy Priorities
     Victor Caballero
     Evelio Torres and Victor Caballero updated the committee on the latest Advocacy/Legislative Priorities.

IV. Public Comment
    Matthew Bruno

V. Adjourn
    Matthew Bruno
2023 Florida Legislative Session Dates:
March 7, 2023 - May 5, 2023
2022 – 2023 INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

December 2022 — Week of the 12th
January 2023 — Week of the 2nd *
January 2023 — Week of the 16th *
January 2023 — Week of the 23rd
February 2023 — Week of the 6th
February 2023 — Week of the 13th
February 2023 — Week of the 20th

* Meetings to begin on Tuesday due to Monday holidays

2023 REGULAR SESSION DATES

January 27, 2023  5:00 p.m., deadline for submitting requests for drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including requests for companion bills
March 3, 2023  5:00 p.m., deadline for approving final drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including companion bills
March 7, 2023  Regular Session convenes (Article III, section 3(b), State Constitution)
12:00 noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction (Senate Rule 3.7(1))
April 22, 2023  Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day (Senate Rule 6.4(4))
All bills are immediately certified (Senate Rule 6.8)
April 25, 2023  50th day – last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings (Senate Rule 2.9(2))
May 5, 2023  60th day – last day of Regular Session (Article III, section 3(d), State Constitution)
MIAMI-DADE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

SENATOR
MARCO RUBIO
STATE OF FLORIDA

CONGRESSWOMAN
FREDERICA WILSON
DISTRICT 24

CONGRESSMAN
MARIO DIAZ-BALART
DISTRICT 26

CONGRESSWOMAN
MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR
DISTRICT 27

CONGRESSMAN
CARLOS GIMENEZ
DISTRICT 28
MIAMI-DADE
STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

GOVERNOR
RON DESANTIS
STATE OF FLORIDA

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
JEANETTE NUÑEZ
STATE OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA SENATE PRESIDENT
KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
DISTRICT 28

FLORIDA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
PAUL RENNER
DISTRICT 19

SENATOR
SHEVRIN JONES
DISTRICT 34

SENATOR
LAUREN BOOK
DISTRICT 35

SENATOR
ILEANA GARCIA
DISTRICT 36

SENATOR
JASON PIZZO
DISTRICT 37

SENATOR
ALEXIS CALATAYUD
DISTRICT 38

SENATOR
BRYAN AVILA
DISTRICT 39

SENATOR
ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ
DISTRICT 40
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayor</th>
<th>City/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enid Weisman</td>
<td>City of Aventura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriel Groisman</td>
<td>Village of Bal Harbour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Fuller</td>
<td>City of Bay Harbor Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia O’Halpin</td>
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<td>Vince Lago</td>
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<td>Tim Meerbott</td>
<td>Town of Cutler Bay</td>
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<td>Otis Wallace</td>
<td>Florida City</td>
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<td>Omarr Nickerson</td>
<td>Village of El Portal</td>
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<td>Glenn Singer</td>
<td>City of Golden Beach</td>
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<td>Esteban Bovo</td>
<td>City of Hialeah</td>
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<td>Yioset De la Cruz</td>
<td>City of Hialeah Gardens</td>
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<td>Steven Losner</td>
<td>City of Homestead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard Klepach</td>
<td>Indian Creek Village</td>
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<td>Joe Rasco</td>
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<td>Roberto Martell</td>
<td>Town of Medley</td>
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<td>Philippe Bien-Aime</td>
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<td>Francis Suarez</td>
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<td>Dan Gelber</td>
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<td>Rodney Harris</td>
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<td>Manny Cid</td>
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<td>Sandra Harris</td>
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<td>Marny Xymon</td>
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<td>Anthony Defilippo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erik Diaz-Padron</td>
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<td>Karyn Cunningham</td>
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<td>Javier Fernandez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shlomo Danzinger</td>
<td>Town of Surfside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orlando Lopez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Spencer Deno</td>
<td>Village of Virginia Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Diaz-Padron</td>
<td>City of West Miami</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**UPDATE**

**COMMITTEE FOR A GREATER MIAMI PAC**

The *Committee for a Greater Miami PAC (CGMP)* was established by The Chamber to support a pro-business agenda at the state and local levels. During the 2022 General Election, CGMP supported the efforts of the following candidates and political committees. All fifteen races selected by the CGMP board for contributions were successful in gaining office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant Governor</td>
<td>Jeanette Nuñez</td>
<td>State of Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Senate President</td>
<td>Kathleen Passidomo</td>
<td>District 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Speaker of the House</td>
<td>Paul Renner</td>
<td>District 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker-Elect</td>
<td>Daniel Perez</td>
<td>District 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator</td>
<td>Lauren Book</td>
<td>District 35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator</td>
<td>Ileana Garcia</td>
<td>District 36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator</td>
<td>Jason Pizzo</td>
<td>District 37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator</td>
<td>Alexis Calatayud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator</td>
<td>Alina Garcia</td>
<td>District 115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Juan Fernandez-Barquin</td>
<td>District 118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Juan Porras</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Jim Mooney</td>
<td>District 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Oliver Gilbert</td>
<td>District 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**COMMITTEE FOR A GREATER MIAMI PAC BOARD MEMBERS**

We congratulate all winners of the 2022 General Election, and we look forward to working with you to promote a thriving business environment throughout Greater Miami and Florida.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony Arviz</td>
<td>PAC Chair, BDO USA LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Beasley</td>
<td>CAREERSOURCE SOUTH FLORIDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myles Pistorius</td>
<td>MIAMI DOLPHINS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manny Reyes</td>
<td>PAC Vice-Chair, PEREIRA REYES CONSULTING, INC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javier Correoso</td>
<td>Uber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freddy Balsera</td>
<td>BALSERA COMMUNICATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberto Munoz</td>
<td>THE ELITE FAMILY OFFICE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2023 Advocacy Priorities

High-quality early care and education that focuses on children’s social, emotional, cognitive and physical development provides the foundation that children need to enter school ready to learn. Access to high-quality, affordable early learning and school-age care allows parents to work while children learn. The academic success of Florida’s students depends on a strong foundation in the early years.

**Childcare access and affordability is the #1 barrier for parents returning to the workforce.**

**Priorities**

- **Amend the School Readiness program eligibility criteria for low income working families to align with Florida’s growing economy by adopting income requirements based on the State Median Income instead of the Federal Poverty Level.** In response to inflation and the workforce shortage, employers have increased wages which has resulted in many low-income working families no longer qualifying for the School Readiness program. The current eligibility policies create affordability challenges and benefit cliffs that act as barriers to family economic self-sufficiency. The School Readiness program provides a subsidy to help low-income working families pay for the high cost of childcare. Florida will be well served by providing access to affordable childcare so low-income working families can continue to enter and remain in the workforce.

  **A solid investment for Floridians: families work while children learn.**

- **Replace nonrecurring transition funds with recurring funds for the School Readiness Program.** In the 2022 General Appropriations Act, nonrecurring transition funds were provided to the DOE Division of Early Learning to assist early learning coalitions’ transition to the new School Readiness Program allocation distribution (funding formula), which reallocated funds statewide. If the transition funds do not become recurring, it will result in the disenrollment of children of low-income working families in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties from the School Readiness Program. In addition, these funds are used to improve the quality of our early learning programs and to support high priority activities required by the legislature, which include classroom and child assessments, developmental screenings that help identify children with special needs, professional development and supports for teachers, curriculum and classroom material acquisition.

  **SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM**

  Provides financial assistance to low-income working families. Families remain self-sufficient while their children learn and become successful in school and in life.

  **VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN (VPK)**

  Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer free prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds regardless of family income. VPK prepares early learners for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Questions regarding these advocacy priorities should be directed to

**Evelio Torres, President and CEO**
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
etorres@elcmdm.org

**Early Education. Lifelong Success.**

www.elcmdm.org
Supporting Today’s Workforce

The early learning and school-age care industry is essential to Florida’s growing economy. The School Readiness program provides partial scholarships to working families in need of child-care for young children, ages birth to 12 years old. Access to high-quality, affordable care and education helps to build a vibrant workforce for today and prepare the next generation of leaders. The academic success of Florida’s students depends on a strong foundation in the early years.

40,000 Children Served
(School Readiness, Voluntary Prekindergarten and Early Head Start)

21,040 Parents in the Workforce

6,699 Parents Preparing to Enter the Workforce

1,279 Early Care and Education Small Businesses Supported

A benefit to employers and employees
Serving a wide-ranging workforce:

Affordable high-quality early education is essential for Florida’s growing economy and workforce.

MEMORANDUM

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

DATE: December 6, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to (1) amend the School Readiness Program eligibility criteria to increase access for children in need of early childhood education and alleviate the existing burden on supplemental resources used to assist low-income families created by the current program’s eligibility criteria; and (2) increase child care provider reimbursement rates statewide to offset higher operational costs incurred by the providers while ensuring that counties receive at least as much funding as received in the previous fiscal year

Resolution No. R-1175-22

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins and Co-Sponsor Senator René García.

GBK/gh
MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: December 6, 2022

FROM: Del Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(8)

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 _____, 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) _____, or 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
RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO (1) AMEND THE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO INCREASE ACCESS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ALLEVIATE THE EXISTING BURDEN ON SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES USED TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME FAMILIES CREATED BY THE CURRENT PROGRAM’S ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA; AND (2) INCREASE CHILD CARE PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT RATES STATEWIDE TO OFFSET HIGHER OPERATIONAL COSTS INCURRED BY THE PROVIDERS WHILE ENSURING THAT COUNTIES RECEIVE AT LEAST AS MUCH FUNDING AS RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS, Florida’s School Readiness Program provides subsidies for child care services and early childhood education for children who are (1) from low-income families; (2) in protective services and victims or at risk of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or homelessness; (3) foster children; and (4) children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the program not only helps young children prepare for school, but also provides child care so a parent can work or attend a training or education program; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Education’s Division of Early Learning administers the program at the state level and early learning coalitions administer the program at the county and regional levels; and

WHEREAS, the program’s two main goals are to help families become financially self-sufficient and to help each child from a qualifying family develop school readiness skills; and

WHEREAS, many working parents across Miami-Dade County—in retail, hospitality, restaurants, and “essential” jobs—are beneficiaries of Florida’s School Readiness Program; and
WHEREAS, under section 1002.87(1), Florida Statutes, children eligible for the program include children of a certain age who are from “economically disadvantaged” working families; and

WHEREAS, under section 1002.81(6), Florida Statutes, “economically disadvantaged” is defined as “having a family income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level and includes being a child of a working migratory family as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer during the course of a year, and whose income varies according to weather conditions and market stability”; and

WHEREAS, given the impact of inflation in this community, the rising cost of living, and an increasing minimum wage across the state, many children previously eligible for the program no longer qualify as their family income now exceeds 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, this phenomenon has created a “benefits cliff” where low-income families find themselves with an income just above 150 percent of the federal poverty level and unable to afford child care while attempting to shift to self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, early learning coalitions administering the program at the county and regional levels are unable, on their own, to provide subsidies for families falling off the benefits cliff, and an unnecessary strain is being placed on supplemental resources that exist to assist children of families with incomes just above 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, for example, the Children’s Trust in Miami-Dade County has a child care scholarship initiative as part of its Thrive by 5 early learning quality improvement system for families that earn between 150 and 300 percent of the federal poverty level, and there are currently more than 1,300 children on the waiting list; and
WHEREAS, determining income eligibility based on a percentage of the state median income instead of the federal poverty level would increase access to the School Readiness Program by creating a more flexible eligibility requirement that (1) ensures the program works as intended by allowing low-income families to work while their children are learning; (2) allows the County to use designated funds for more children; and (3) alleviates the burden placed on other supplemental resources used to assist low-income families; and

WHEREAS, to address the above issues, this Board wishes to urge the Florida Legislature to increase access to the School Readiness Program by amending the eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, funding for the School Readiness Program is comprised primarily of federal block grant funding and allocated annually through a funding formula, which the Florida Legislature is currently reviewing; and

WHEREAS, due to the increased operational costs of child care services, challenges with recruitment and retention of qualified instructional staff, and additional program requirements, the Division of Early Learning and early learning coalitions would greatly benefit from increases to child care provider reimbursement rates statewide in order to continue to provide adequate services to children; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Florida Legislature, in the State’s General Appropriations Act, passed language which ensured that certain counties, including Miami-Dade County, received at least as much funding as the previous year to serve the children in the community; and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to urge the Florida Legislature to, in addition to amending the eligibility criteria for the School Readiness Program, raise the program’s provider reimbursement rates statewide and ensure that funding levels for early learning coalitions remain equitable statewide, all of which would help guarantee that early learning coalitions can continue to successfully administer the School Readiness Program,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to amend the School Readiness Program eligibility criteria to increase access for children in need of early childhood education and alleviate the existing burden on supplemental resources used to assist low-income families created by the current program’s eligibility criteria.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to increase child care provider reimbursement rates statewide, which would offset higher operational costs incurred by those providers, while ensuring that counties receive at least as much funding as received in the previous fiscal year.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation described in sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2023 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, and the Co-Sponsor is Senator René García. It was offered by Commissioner Eileen Higgins, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:
The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of December, 2022. 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

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

Jose I. Ortega
2023 State Legislative Agenda

Transportation
- Support policies and funding that expand transit and mobility options for South Florida residents through the County’s SMART Program.
- Support policies and funding for the PortMiami NetZero: Cargo Mobility Optimization and Resiliency Project. Advocate for inland port expansion.
- Seek additional project funding through increased flexibility of FDOT District funding programs and expanding eligibility to Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds.

Workforce Housing
- Support legislation which will tie financial incentives to development of workforce housing. Strengthening the state’s ability to recruit and retain a solid workforce.

Workforce Development & Education
- Ensure the Miami-Dade County Public School System, which has received students from storm impacted areas, is provided FTE funding necessary to support all student services for existing and newly arrived student transfers.
- BENEFITS CLIFF ABATEMENT: Address eligibility to Florida’s School Readiness program while positively affecting income stability and avoiding a benefits cliff for Florida families. Advocate that income eligibility should be based on a percentage of the state median income (SMI) rather than the current threshold which is based on federal poverty level (FPL)

Resiliency
- Advocate for continued property insurance legislation reforms which entice additional private providers to write policies in Florida.

Economic Development
- Support the “Invest Local” bill championed by Florida Commissioner Russell Weigel, Office of Financial Regulation (OFR). The bill aims to foster the growth and expansion of small businesses in Florida. The proposed bill amends Florida’s securities statutes, administered by the OFR, to improve the capacity for Florida-based companies to raise money and to increase local investment opportunities for Floridians.
- APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Secure funding for the GMCC Senior Executive Orientation (SEO) program. A program which creates experiences to orient newly-relocated or recently promoted senior-level executives in South Florida and provides them with a rapid understanding and successful transition into the community.
- APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Secure funding for the GMCC Unites program. A program designed to increase minority membership and committee representation in the GMCC organization.

* Legislative bills will be attached to each priority as they develop. (Version: 12/01/2022)