


Memorandum



Date: August 19, 2025

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Update on FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget & Reductions in Proposed Cuts

As I continue working towards a balanced, accountable and forward-looking budget for Fiscal Year 25-26, my Administration has been working diligently to navigate the financial challenges we face while seeking all opportunities to mitigate the impacts of proposed budget cuts. After a thorough review of available resources, including updated revenue projections and departmental efficiencies stemming from the hard work our administration has done to improve governmental operations, I am pleased to announce that we have identified additional funding for FY2025-26.

In response to the feedback received during the budget development process — including input from the Board, community stakeholders, and most importantly, our residents — my amended proposed budget will use the additional funding to restore critical programs and services. As I recognize that the new revenue noted below is not sufficient to meet all of the community needs, it is a start towards building back important services for which the community has advocated.

Constitutional Offices Unspent Funds FY 2024-25	\$33,200,000
Departmental Adjustments	\$6,615,000
Total	\$39,815,00

The above is in addition to the already announced **\$26 million** in funding now available through the Tax Collector's office from FY2024-25 excess revenue and the accelerated return of FY2025-26 funds.

The new combined total is \$65,815,000 and funding allocations will be proposed in my first change memo with the recommendations outlined below. The numbers below also include the recommendations outlined in the Chairman's memo distributed last week.

County Reserves	\$12,500,000
Public Safety Investments	\$7,500,000
Reduction of the Proposed Gas Tax Increase by 50%	\$5,000,000
Near Complete Restoration of Cultural Arts Programming Grants	\$11,535,000
Partial Restoration of Cuts to Community Organizations & Necessary Grant Management Support	\$18,401,000

Parks Department Programming & New Proposed Parking Fees Eliminated; Bike305 Program Adjustments	\$5,575,000
Reduction of the Proposed Increase for Special Transportation Services (STS) Fares from \$0.75 to \$0.25	\$500,000
Neighborhood Road Repairs and Neighborhood Enhancements	\$4,400,000
Senior Centers & Senior Health Services	\$404,000
Total	\$65,815,000

Strong Fiscal Stewardship by Increasing County Reserves: As we continue to balance the budget with strong fiscal responsibility and a commitment to providing critical services for our residents, I am committed to increasing County reserves by allocating \$12.5 million of the additional revenue to cover unforeseen FY26 expenses. In addition, the amended proposed budget will cut the proposed gas tax increase in half as we are in a better position today than we were several months ago. **In order to continue our positive trend, I recommend any additional unspent funds received in the coming weeks from Constitutional Officers for FY 24-25 be programmed to continue bolstering County reserves.** Given budgetary forecasts in upcoming years, as well as uncertainty around state and federal funding programs, strengthening County reserves will be vital to protecting the financial health of our County for the future.

Return of Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Unspent Funds from FY 2024-25: The Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) has confirmed with the Office of Management and Budget that they will be returning \$10.3 million in unspent funds from FY 2024-25. Over my administration, the Miami-Dade Police Department has received year over year increases averaging 8%. In May of this year, I proposed, and the Board adopted, an additional \$38 million allocation to MDSO in the mid-year budget amendment. For FY 2025-26, I have proposed an additional 7% increase over the FY 2024-25 amended budget. Given the importance of public safety to this community, I am proposing that \$7.5 million of the \$10.3 million returning to the County in unspent funds from FY 2024-25 be allocated to MDSO as they continue their 3-year transition as provided by Florida Statute F.S. 125.01015.

Maintaining Arts & Culture Department and Near Complete Restoration of Arts & Cultural Programming Grants: In recent weeks we have received overwhelming feedback from our arts and cultural community regarding proposed changes in the budget. As an avid champion of our cultural institutions and community organizations, I am pleased to announce that we will be maintaining an independent Department of Cultural Affairs. My administration is working closely with philanthropic partners on a potential funding grant through private dollars to help support the department. I am deeply grateful to the philanthropic and private sector partners helping ensure we continue funding these important programs. In building on the Chair's memo, I will be recommending through the first change memo that we restore nearly all the funding for one-time grants for cultural arts programming with \$11.5 million in funding. This funding will be allocated on a pro-rated basis based on last year's funding amounts. It's important to note this funding is

non-recurring and we will share this update with the organizations with an understanding that these allocations are not guaranteed in future budget years.

Community Organizations & Senior Centers: I have immense appreciation for the community organizations which play a vital role in strengthening our neighborhoods by delivering important services to residents and families. Therefore, I am recommending a near 50-percent restoration of funding through \$18.4 million in **one-time grants** for community organizations to provide continued support to these local organizations. It's important to note this funding is non-recurring. Again, we will share this update with the organizations with an understanding that this funding is not guaranteed in future budget years. This funding will be allocated on a pro-rated basis based on last year's funding amounts. We will also be maintaining operations at the West Little River Senior Center and allocating additional one-time funding to support the efforts of the Center to continue providing essential services for older adults in our community. It will be imperative that the Board and administration encourage the community to identify alternative funding sources for future years.

Restoring All Programming at Community Parks and Zero Changes to Operational Hours at Parks: Through the efforts of my senior leadership team, Chiefs have worked diligently with department directors to achieve even greater savings by identifying additional streamlining of operations and strengthening budget accountability. In the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, we will be able to apply those savings and eliminate all previously proposed cuts to community parks programming, and there will be zero changes to operational hours so the public can continue to fully enjoy our parks and open spaces. In addition, I am recommending the elimination of the previously proposed new parking fees at County parks.

Reducing STS's Proposed Fare Increase: Understanding that our special needs and vulnerable communities depend on STS transit services, I am pleased to share that I will be recommending in the first change memo a reduction in the proposed STS fare increase to only \$0.25. The voices of our community were heard loud and clear, and I am pleased that this change will enable us to continue these services while we continue to streamline operations and do everything in our power to try to manage the rising costs.

Neighborhood Road Repairs and Neighborhood Enhancements: To ensure that County infrastructure and rights-of-way do not become blights to their communities, I am proposing \$4.4 million in funds to be allocated towards infrastructure repairs such as potholes and broken sidewalks, as well as restoring mowing cycles on swales and roadways.

Despite the unprecedented budget challenges we face, I am confident that with a commitment to fiscal stewardship and continued collaboration, we will achieve a balanced, fiscally sound budget— while continuing to deliver vital services. And I am proud that our continued efforts to balance the budget and streamline operations will enable us to restore some essential programming and services, as we continue working with this Board and our residents to finalize a responsible, accountable budget that protects our long-term financial health while responding to our community's needs.

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c: Honorable Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Clerk and Comptroller, Circuit and County Courts
 Honorable Dariel Fernandez, Tax Collector
 Honorable Rosie Cordero-Stutz, Sheriff
 Honorable Tomas Regalado, Property Appraiser
 Honorable Alina Garcia, Supervisor of Elections
 Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
 Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
 Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
 Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
 Department Directors
 Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
 Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
 Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator