

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 3483

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY ("UDB") AS IT CURRENTLY EXISTS TO PROTECT DOWNSTREAM WATER RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE BISCAYNE AQUIFER, REGIONAL GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES, AND CONNECTED COASTAL WATERS, AS WELL AS THE EVERGLADES, WETLANDS, AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS; URGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO UPHOLD COUNTY MAYOR DANIELA LEVINE CAVA'S VETO OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE THE UDB; URGING THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD WEAKEN THE UDB IN THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CHARTER; ENCOURAGING ADVANCEMENT OF ATTAINABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING WITHIN THE UDB TO ADDRESS HOUSING AFFORDABILITY WITHOUT EXPANDING DEVELOPMENT INTO ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS; DESIGNATING THE PRESERVATION OF THE UDB AS A STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR, EACH MEMBER OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, THE MIAMI-DADE STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, ALL OTHER MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE'S STATE LEGISLATIVE LOBBYISTS.

WHEREAS, the Urban Development Boundary ("UDB") in Miami-Dade County was established as a core growth-management tool to limit urban sprawl, protect environmentally sensitive lands, preserve agricultural areas, and safeguard natural systems critical to regional water supply and flood resilience; and

WHEREAS, lands located outside the current UDB include wetlands, agricultural soils, and open spaces that play a vital role in protecting downstream water resources, including the Biscayne Aquifer, regional groundwater supplies, and connected coastal waters, upon which the Town of Surfside and other coastal communities depend for drinking water, environmental health, and resilience to flooding and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, wetlands and prairies west of the UDB function as natural filtration and storage systems that support groundwater recharge, reduce pollutant loads, and maintain hydrologic connections between inland ecosystems, the Everglades, and downstream coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, the UDB also serves to protect South Dade agricultural lands by maintaining contiguous farming areas, preserving permeable soils, supporting food production, and preventing land-speculation pressures that arise when urban development expands into rural areas; and

WHEREAS, in January 2026, the Miami-Dade County Commission approved amendments to the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan to allow development of a large heavy-equipment facility on hundreds of acres of predominantly protected wetlands outside the existing UDB, raising significant concerns regarding impacts to wetlands, water resources, flood control, and long-standing growth-management policies; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2026, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava vetoed the proposed development, citing the County's obligation to protect environmentally sensitive lands, uphold the integrity of the UDB, and ensure that development outside the boundary occurs only when there is a demonstrated and compelling public need consistent with long-range planning principles; and

WHEREAS, weakening or bypassing the UDB through legislative or administrative action risks accelerating sprawl into wetlands and agricultural lands, undermining Everglades restoration efforts, and increasing long-term public costs associated with infrastructure expansion, flood mitigation, and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission of the Town of Surfside recognizes that addressing housing affordability is a critical public-policy goal, and acknowledges that developers have argued for expanding the UDB westward to accommodate industrial and commercial projects as a means to preserve sufficient land within the UDB for affordable and workforce housing; however, the Town Commission firmly believes that such housing objectives are best achieved through strategies within the existing UDB, including infill development, redevelopment, zoning reforms, and infrastructure-efficient growth, rather than by encroaching upon environmentally sensitive lands; and

WHEREAS, protecting upstream lands and water systems is directly tied to the long-term environmental, economic, and public-health interests of the Town of Surfside as a downstream coastal town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Urging The Florida State Legislature To Oppose Any Legislation That Would Weaken The UDB In The Miami-Dade County Charter. That the Mayor and the Town Commission of the Town of Surfside hereby affirm their support for the preservation of the Miami-Dade Urban Development Boundary as it currently exists to protect downstream water resources, including the Biscayne Aquifer, regional groundwater supplies, and connected coastal waters, as well as the Everglades, wetlands, and agricultural lands; urge the Miami-Dade County Board of County

Commissioners to uphold County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's veto of the proposed development outside the UDB; urge the Florida State Legislature to oppose any legislation that would weaken the UDB in the Miami-Dade County Charter; encourage the advancement of attainable and workforce housing within the UDB to address housing affordability without expanding development into environmentally sensitive lands; and designate the preservation of the UDB as a State legislative priority for the Town of Surfside.

Section 2: Transmittal of Resolution. The Town Commission directs the Town Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Miami-Dade County Mayor, each member of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the President of the Florida Senate, the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, all other municipalities within Miami-Dade County, and the Town of Surfside's state legislative lobbyists.

Section 3: Effective Date: This resolution will become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 10th day of February, 2026.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Paul

Second By: Commissioner Coto

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Ruben A. Coto	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velasquez	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Charles W. Burkett	<u>Yes</u>

Attest:



Sandra N. McGready, MMC
Town Clerk



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thais Hernandez", is written over a horizontal line.

Thais Hernandez, Town Attorney