


Memorandum



Date: February 18, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Changes in Leadership to Further Enhance Public Safety, Equity and Engagement

Since I was elected Mayor in November 2020, I have been constantly working to enhance our departments and improve our teams to provide the very best quality of services we can and to further ensure public safety in our communities. I believe a transparent government is one that listens to its constituents and takes concrete action when necessary. With that objective in mind, I am announcing the following changes to my leadership team, most of which are effective March 1, 2022:

- JD Patterson, Chief Public Safety Officer, will serve on special assignment to the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR). JD is the County’s first Chief Public Safety Officer, has over 30 years of experience in law enforcement, and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He previously served as Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) from 2013 to 2016 and as Assistant Police Chief for the City of Miami Gardens. JD’s extensive experience in public safety will ensure that anyone under Miami-Dade custody receives the proper services.
- Daniel Junior, Director of MDCR, will serve as the Assistant Director of Safety and Security Enforcement at the Seaport. Daniel has over 26 years of senior management experience at the County, and proven experience overseeing and managing civilian and sworn staff at a major County department. He will bring important leadership to the Port’s senior management team and help maintain a safe and secure environment as we continue to expand operations to respond to increased cargo growth and the resumption of cruising activities.
- Cassandra Jones, Deputy Director of MDCR, will serve as Interim Director of the Corrections Department. Cassandra has been with MDCR for approximately 30 years and has over 26 years of supervisory experience within a correctional organization. She has demonstrated dedication to the success of the Department and the professional development of its employees. This appointment is effective immediately.
- Alfredo Ramirez III, Director of MDPD, will serve as Interim Chief Public Safety Officer. Freddy has dedicated the past 25 years to the law enforcement profession, joining MDPD in 1995, and was promoted through all civil service ranks, attaining the position of Director in January 2020. During the last two years, Freddy has led the agency with excellent results on gun violence prevention and homicide reduction.
- George Perez, Assistant Director of MDPD, will serve as Interim Director of the Police Department. George has been a law enforcement officer for nearly 22 years and has served in a variety of sworn capacities. George has commanded the Town of Miami Lakes, Northside District, and the Professional Compliance Bureau. George is currently responsible for the command of Police Services, which is comprised of nearly 2,500 employees and includes three divisions: South Operations, North Operations, and the Strategic Response Division.

- Stephanie Daniels, Assistant Director of MDPD, will serve as Deputy Director of the Police Department, becoming the first woman in this high-ranking position within the agency. Daniels has devoted the past 30 years of her life in service to her community. She joined MDPD in 1992, after working for the State Attorney’s Office and the Miami Police Department. In 2016, she made history when she was appointed as the first Black woman to serve in this role.
- Rahel Weldeyesus, Senior Advisor for Innovation and Performance in my office, will serve as Senior Advisor for Public Safety on special assignment to MDPD to assist with the Sheriff transition, as well as a liaison on interdepartmental and special initiatives. As Senior Advisor for Innovation and Performance, she spearheaded the County’s Thrive305 initiative, the largest civic engagement effort in County government history. Rahel has over 15 years of experience in strategic planning, performance management, and public safety, working with government agencies, nonprofit and community organizations.
- Jason Smith, Director of Equity and Inclusion in my office, will serve as Interim Senior Advisor for Equity and Engagement. Jason is a public policy professional with nearly two decades of economic development and community engagement experience.

I am confident that these personnel moves will build on the successes and lessons learned during the first year of my administration to bring the necessary focus and change needed as we embark our second year. Should you have any questions, please contact me directly.

c: 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
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
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