In accordance with the state constitutional amendment restoring the constitutional Office of the Sheriff (Sheriff) in Miami-Dade County, an elected sheriff will assume the Sheriff’s responsibilities as defined by state statute, currently performed by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), beginning in January 2025. As Mayor, public safety is one of my highest priorities. Since the beginning of my tenure, my administration, in partnership with the Board of County Commissioners (Board), has invested significant resources into improving the safety of Miami-Dade residents, and this commitment continues during the transition and after the creation of this new constitutional office. My administration has been proactive in planning for the transition of the Sheriff’s responsibilities and is dedicated to maintaining public safety and quality of life during this significant reorganization of County government.

While state statute broadly outlines the responsibilities of the Sheriff, it is now up to the Board to set policy on how to implement the Office of the Sheriff, and what public safety functions will continue within the County. The Board of County Commissioners may propose that additional duties either performed by MDPD or other County departments be transferred to the Sheriff. The transfer of these additional duties and responsibilities must be accepted by the Sheriff and will require Board legislation to effectuate the transfer of these functions from the purview of the Board and the Mayor to the Sheriff.

This framework outlines my policy recommendations to the Board on how to define the role of the Sheriff in a manner that retains critical operational and administrative functions under Miami-Dade County jurisdiction to ensure continuity services and to maintain continued operational efficiencies. Other guiding elements to this framework include the importance of retaining public safety expertise within Miami-Dade County and safeguarding the professionalism and trust established in the community over many years.

**Miami-Dade County’s Role and Responsibility for Countywide Public Safety**

MDPD is currently funded from countywide and Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) revenues. The countywide budget funds those services provided regionally, while the UMSA budget funds local patrol services in UMSA. Additionally, the State of Florida recognizes UMSA as a municipality for revenue sharing purposes. The County has the responsibility to provide local patrol and investigative services for the 1.2 million residents of UMSA. By taking the following
steps we can ensure that our residents and visitors continue to receive the standard of public safety services they have come to expect.

- MDPD should continue to provide patrol services in UMSA.
- MDPD should continue to provide patrol services for County-owned assets such as County airports, Port Miami, the Miami-Dade Transit System, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and all government centers, including the Stephen P. Clark Center, South Dade Government Center, and the North Dade Government Center.
- MDPD, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Emergency Management, and Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation should continue as County departments.
- Internal County support departments such as Internal Services, Information Technology, Human Resources should continue to provide back office support services to the new Sheriff’s Office.
- Miami-Dade County should continue to provide 911 dispatch services for UMSA.
- MDPD should retain existing patrol responsibilities, specialized, and investigative services to include:
  - Police Districts, Airport, and Seaport
  - Homicide investigations
  - Robbery investigations
  - Special victims investigations
  - Homeland security investigations
  - Air and Marine Patrol
  - Special Response Teams
  - Economic/Organized Crimes investigations
  - Public Corruption Investigations
  - Professional Compliance Bureau
  - Bomb Disposal
  - K-9
  - Crime Lab and Forensic Services
  - Property and Evidence
  - Training Institute
  - Fusion Center
  - Real Time Crime Center

**Sheriff Functions to Transfer**

- Functions currently performed by MDPD Court Services Bureau, which encompasses the following statutory duties:
  - Serve as the executive officer of the Circuit Court of the county. F.S. § 26.49
  - Execute all process of the Florida Supreme Court, circuit courts, county courts, and Board. F.S. § 30.15
  - Attend all sessions of the circuit court and county court held in the county. F.S. § 30.15
- **Functions currently performed by the MDPD Warrants Bureau**, which encompasses the following statutory duties:
  - Be conservators of the peace in the County. F.S. § 30.15
Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners  
Page 4

- Apprehend, without warrant, any person disturbing the peace, and carry that person before the proper judicial officer. F.S. § 30.15
- Serve and execute all civil and criminal processes of county court, and perform all duties in and about said court, which are required to be performed by an executive officer. F.S. § 34.07
- When issued, a writ of habeas corpus shall be served by the sheriff of the county in which the petitioner is alleged to be detained on the officer or other person against whom it is issued, or in his or her absence from the place where the prisoner is confined, on the person having the immediate custody of the prisoner. F.S. § 79.03
- Enter writs of bodily attachment into the FCIC telecommunications system to make the information available to other law enforcement agencies within the state. F.S. § 61.11

**Conclusion**
The recommendations above have been formulated in consultation with our residents and stakeholders who depend on the services of our County’s law enforcement professionals every day. As the Board considers its options for implementing the Office of the Sheriff, my administration remains committed to a smooth transition of the Sheriff’s statutory duties. I look forward to working with the Board to craft legislation that builds upon MDPD’s relationships in the community and promotes operational continuity and efficiency.

c: Geri-Bonzon Keenan, County Attorney  
Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney  
Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney  
Office of Mayor Senior Staff  
George A. Perez, Interim Director, Miami-Dade County Police Department  
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs  
Adeyinka Majekodunmi, CPA, Commission Auditor  
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board