



Agenda Cover Memo

26-126

Meeting: City Council - Jul 22 2026

Department Mayor and City Council	Sponsored By Councilman Reggie Leon
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Agenda Item Title

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE MIAMI GARDENS RESIDENTS FIRST POLICY; PROVIDING THE CITY'S POLICY FOR THE PLANNING COORDINATION AND NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS RELATING TO EVENTS HELD AT HARD ROCK STADIUM; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Strategic Pillar

STRATEGIC PILLAR I: LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Objectives

- LG-2 Enhance Effectiveness and Responsiveness
- LG-3 Prioritize Stewardship of Community

STRATEGIC PILLAR V: TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- TI-1 Prioritize Safety and Enforcement
- TI-5 Focus on Community and Connectivity

Staff Summary

The City of Miami Gardens is proud to host world-class sporting, entertainment, and special events that generate significant economic, cultural, and tourism benefits for our city and the broader South Florida region. Hard Rock Stadium, our premier venue, boasts a capacity of over 65,000 and serves as a global destination. Between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the stadium welcomed approximately 1.9 million guests through a diverse calendar featuring large-scale events such as the 2026 College Football Playoff National Championship, the Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix, the Miami Open, FIFA Club World Cup matches, professional football, and numerous high-profile concerts.

Based on observations from residents and his own experiences, Councilman Reggie Leon believes that the planning and management of large-scale events, as indicated above, should place greater emphasis on protecting the quality of life for Miami Gardens residents. He believes that, whenever practicable and consistent with applicable law, event planning should prioritize reasonable access to homes and neighborhoods, effective public safety services, and improved coordination among all agencies involved in event operations.

Accordingly, Councilman Leon proposes the Miami Gardens Residents First Policy to establish a policy framework to guide the City's negotiations of future Community Benefit Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Event Management Plans, Traffic Management Plans, Interlocal Agreements, License Agreements, Mutual Aid Agreements, and other agreements related to events held at Hard Rock Stadium.

The Policy establishes resident-focused guiding principles intended to support future coordination with Hard Rock Stadium, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, and other governmental and event partners while preserving the City's ability to successfully host world-class events, including, but not limited to:

- Prioritizing reasonable resident access to homes and neighborhoods before, during, and after major events.
- The City shall retain decision-making authority regarding the closure of City-owned roadways associated with large-scale special events, except where otherwise required by law.
- Promoting active participation by the City in interagency planning and operational meetings related to major events.
- Preserving public access to sidewalks, transit facilities, and other public infrastructure whenever practicable.
- Maintaining effective emergency response capabilities and public safety services for City residents during periods of increased event activity.
- Enhancing communication with residents regarding anticipated traffic impacts, roadway closures, and access procedures.
- Encouraging ongoing evaluation of event operations to identify opportunities for continuous improvement and enhanced neighborhood protections.

Implementation of the Policy will occur through future coordination among the City Manager, City departments, partner agencies, event organizers, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

Fiscal Impact/Business Impact Statement

N/A

Recommended Action

The City Council approves the Resolution. This Resolution advances LG-3 (Prioritize Stewardship of Community) by establishing policy direction that prioritizes resident access, public safety, and neighborhood quality of life during large-scale special events. The Resolution also supports LG-2 (Enhance Effectiveness and Responsiveness) and TI-1/TI-5 by improving intergovernmental coordination, traffic management, and community connectivity.

Attachments

[Resolution 2026 - Residents First Policy](#)
[Exhibit A - Miami Gardens Residents First Policy \(004\)](#)

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025____
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4 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
5 MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE MIAMI
6 GARDENS RESIDENTS FIRST POLICY; PROVIDING THE CITY'S
7 POLICY FOR THE PLANNING COORDINATION AND
8 NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS RELATING TO EVENTS
9 HELD AT HARD ROCK STADIUM; PROVIDING FOR
10 INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR
11 THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN
12 EFFECTIVE DATE.
13
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15 WHEREAS, Hard Rock Stadium, located within the City of Miami Gardens, hosts
16 numerous professional sporting events, concerts, international competitions, and other
17 large-scale special events that contribute significantly to the City's economy, tourism,
18 and regional prominence, and

19 WHEREAS, Hard Rock Stadium, a premier sports and entertainment venue
20 located within the City of Miami Gardens, has the capacity to accommodate more than
21 65,000 attendees for major sporting events and regularly hosts large-scale gatherings,
22 including professional sporting events, concerts, international competitions, and
23 community events that bring tens of thousands of visitors into the City; and

24 WHEREAS, during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, Hard Rock
25 Stadium welcomed approximately 1.9 million visitors through major events, including the
26 Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix, the Miami Open, the 2026 College Football
27 Playoff National Championship, FIFA Club World Cup 2025 matches, Miami Dolphins
28 home games, University of Miami Hurricanes football games, concerts, and numerous
29 other large-scale events; and

30 WHEREAS, large-scale events require extensive coordination among City
31 departments, law enforcement agencies, transportation partners, event operators, and
32 other stakeholders to implement traffic management plans, roadway restrictions, public

safety operations, and emergency response measures designed to protect residents, visitors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, during major events, residents in surrounding neighborhoods may experience temporary impacts including increased congestion, modified traffic patterns, roadway closures, longer travel times, and changes to normal access routes, emphasizing the need for proactive planning and resident-focused event management strategies; and

WHEREAS, Councilman Reggie Leon believes that the planning and management of large-scale events should place greater emphasis on protecting the quality of life for Miami Gardens residents, and

WHEREAS, Councilman Leon recommends the establishment of the Miami Gardens Residents First Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and

WHEREAS, this Policy will establish a policy framework to guide the City's negotiations of future Community Benefit Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Event Management Plans, Traffic Management Plans, Interlocal Agreements, License Agreements, Mutual Aid Agreements, and other agreements related to large-scale events at Hard Rock Stadium,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2: AUTHORIZATION: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby establishes the Miami Gardens Residents First Policy as the City's policy

framework for protecting resident accessibility, mobility, public safety, and quality of life during the planning and management of large-scale special events, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 3: DIRECTION TO THE CITY MANAGER: The City Manager is hereby directed to use the policies established by the Miami Gardens Residents First Policy to guide the City's negotiation of future agreements relating to large-scale special events.

Section 3: EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

(PASSED, ADOPTED, DEFERRED, WITHDRAWN OR FAILED) BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON _____, 2026.

RODNEY HARRIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIO BATAILLE, CITY CLERK

REVIEWED BY: SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN REGGIE LEON

Moved by: _____

VOTE: _____

Mayor Rodney Harris	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Vice Mayor Robert Stephens, III	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Councilwoman Katrina L. Baskin	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)

93	Councilman Reggie Leon	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
94	Councilwoman Michelle C. Powell	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
95	Councilwoman Linda Julien	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
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CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS

MIAMI GARDENS RESIDENTS FIRST POLICY

Section 1. Purpose

The City of Miami Gardens is proud to host world-class sporting, entertainment, and special events that generate significant economic, cultural, and tourism benefits for our city and the broader South Florida region. Hard Rock Stadium, our premier venue, boasts a capacity of over 65,000 and serves as a global destination. Between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the stadium welcomed approximately 1.9 million guests through a diverse calendar featuring large-scale events such as the 2026 College Football Playoff National Championship, the Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix, the Miami Open, FIFA Club World Cup matches, professional football, and numerous high-profile concerts.

While these events elevate our city's profile, they simultaneously subject our community to an overwhelming recurring influx of visitors. Bringing an unprecedented volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic into the heart of our community. This massive surge creates profound inconveniences for our residents and local businesses, often bringing the everyday commute to a standstill and disrupting the rhythm of daily life. The sheer density of people traveling to and from these events create profound challenges for our residents and local businesses. When the stadium is operational for events, the resulting gridlock, recurring roadway closures, and restricted neighborhood accessibility often bring the everyday commute to a standstill. These disruptions significantly diminish the quality of life for our citizens, who frequently find themselves unable to navigate their own neighborhoods, while local businesses face substantial operational hurdles due to the restricted flow of residents and patrons.

Looking ahead, this intensity of activity is not expected to diminish; rather, the frequency and scale of these major events are anticipated to increase over the years. As the stadium continues to solidify its reputation as a world-class venue, the cumulative pressure on our city's infrastructure including public safety resources, and residential streets will only grow. The City recognizes that we are reaching a critical threshold where the current level of disruption is no longer sustainable without more robust, proactive management that prioritizes the lived experience of our community.

Accordingly, the Miami Gardens Residents First Policy is established to affirm our unwavering commitment to placing the interests of Miami Gardens residents at the forefront of all future event planning and intergovernmental coordination. This Policy establishes the City's policy priorities and negotiating principles to ensure that the economic benefits of hosting these events are strictly balanced against the imperative to protect our residents' daily mobility, neighborhood accessibility, and overall quality of life. By formalizing these principles, the City ensures that the well-being of our citizens remains the primary consideration in every agreement moving forward.

The City Manager is directed to utilize the policies and guiding principles established in this Policy when negotiating or recommending future agreements relating to large-scale special events and shall, whenever practicable and consistent with applicable law, seek to incorporate these policies into such agreements to ensure that the interests of Miami Gardens residents remain a primary consideration.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to limit the City Manager's administrative authority to negotiate the terms of such agreements or to respond to operational, legal, or public safety considerations as may be necessary. Rather, this Policy establishes the policy direction of the Mayor and City Council to guide those negotiations and related operational planning.

Section 2. Residents First Policy Principles

A. Resident Access

The City shall seek to ensure that residents are afforded reasonable and timely access to their homes and neighborhoods before, during, and after large-scale special events.

Residents will be provided with a minimum of four (4) Miami Gardens Resident Year-Round Local Access Passes per eligible resident to facilitate resident and household access during 1 special events. If the closure of local access roadways serving residential neighborhoods is deemed necessary for event operations or public safety, residents shall be afforded a minimum of four (4) hours of unrestricted access to their neighborhoods before the roadway closure. This requirement may be modified only when an earlier closure is necessary due to an emergency, an unforeseen public safety threat, or other circumstances requiring immediate action to protect life and property.

Future agreements should provide that Miami Gardens Police Department personnel are assigned, whenever practicable, to resident access control points established on roadways serving residential neighborhoods. Such personnel shall facilitate access for residents displaying a valid Miami Gardens Resident Year-Round Local Access Pass or other City-approved resident identification, while maintaining the safety and security of event operations.

B. City Authority Over City-Owned Roadways

The City shall retain decision-making authority over the closure of City-owned roadways for large-scale special events, except where otherwise required by law.

Future agreements should recognize the City's authority regarding City-owned roadway closures and establish coordinated procedures among the City, event organizers, and partnering public safety agencies to minimize impacts on residents while maintaining public safety.

Road closure plans should be periodically evaluated to reduce both the duration and geographic extent of closures affecting residential neighborhoods whenever practicable.

C. Resident Access Checkpoints

Future agreements should include procedures that allow verified residents to access neighborhoods affected by roadway closures through designated local access points, using the City's resident access program or another approved resident identification system.

Traffic control measures should prioritize safe and efficient access for residents and their guests traveling to and from their homes.

D. City Participation in Event Planning

The City shall maintain an active leadership role in planning and coordinating large-scale special events.

Future agreements should provide appropriate command staff from the City of Miami Gardens with the authority to participate in pre-event planning, on-site event operations, and post-event operational reviews for all large-scale special events, ensuring the city's interests and the needs of its residents are effectively represented throughout all phases of event management.

E. Traffic Management

Future agreements should provide comprehensive traffic management plans that prioritize resident mobility while supporting safe event operations.

To the extent practicable, traffic management personnel assigned to ingress operations should remain deployed during post-event traffic dispersal until normal traffic conditions have substantially resumed in surrounding neighborhoods.

F. Neighborhood Public Safety

The City shall seek agreements that maintain effective public safety services for City residents during large-scale special events.

Future agreements should provide supplemental law enforcement and fire rescue resources, funded by the event organizer where appropriate, to minimize impacts on routine emergency response services for City residents.

Such agreements should include dedicated public safety personnel assigned to neighborhoods within a 1-mile radius of the event venue during and immediately after major events to maintain normal emergency service levels for at least 3 hours.

G. Public Infrastructure and Transit

Future agreements should preserve public access to sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle facilities, bus stops, and other public infrastructure whenever practicable.

Temporary barricades, fencing, or pedestrian routing should not unnecessarily obstruct public sidewalks or public transportation facilities, and any necessary relocations should be clearly identified and safely accommodated.

H. Resident Communication

Future agreements should include comprehensive public communication strategies that provide residents with timely information regarding:

- Event schedules;
- Anticipated traffic impacts;
- Roadway closures;
- Resident access procedures;
- Public transportation modifications;
- Emergency contact information; and
- Other information necessary to assist residents during large-scale events.

I. Intergovernmental Coordination

The City shall continue working collaboratively with Hard Rock Stadium, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, Florida highway Patrol, Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Transportation, and other governmental agencies to improve operational planning while protecting the interests of Miami Gardens residents. Nothing herein shall diminish the City's authority over its municipal roadways, public rights-of-way, public facilities, municipal services, and other matters within its jurisdiction, except as otherwise required by law.

J. Continuous Improvement

Following major events, the City should participate in operational reviews with partner agencies and event organizers to evaluate:

- Resident accessibility;
- Traffic operations;
- Roadway closures;
- Public safety performance;
- Emergency response capabilities;
- Public transportation impacts;
- Resident feedback; and
- Opportunities for future operational improvements.

Section 4. Implementation

The policies established by the Miami Gardens Residents First Policy are intended to guide the City's negotiation of future agreements relating to large-scale special events such as College Football Playoff National Championship, the Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix, the

Miami Open, FIFA Club World Cup matches, professional football, international sporting events and future high-capacity concerts/events.

The City Manager shall incorporate these policies into future Memoranda of Understanding, Event Management Plans, Traffic Management Plans, Interlocal Agreements, License Agreements, Mutual Aid Agreements, and similar agreements whenever practicable and consistent with applicable law.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to supersede applicable federal, state, county, or local law, nor to limit the lawful authority of governmental agencies acting within their respective jurisdictions.