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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
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DISTRICT 8
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Board of County Commissioners Passes Employee Protection Ordinance, Promotes Government Transparency and Accountability

Today, the Board of County Commissioners passed the Employee Protection Ordinance. Sponsored by Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, the ordinance seeks to promote disclosure of fraud, waste and abuse. The update of the ordinance brings our county code into line with state law, encouraging employee responsibility and emphasizing confidentiality and outreach from the Inspector General's Office, as well as the role of the Commission on Ethics.

"The purpose of the ordinance is to empower employees to take responsibility for an efficient and effective government and to open avenues to safely and securely disclose fraud, waste and abuse. Through outreach and protection from retaliation, we hope to encourage and facilitate county employees' important role in keeping our government accountable and protecting taxpayer dollars," said Commissioner Levine Cava.

In order to effectively implement the ordinance, the Office of the Inspector General will conduct outreach programs to current and incoming employees to ensure that public servants are informed on how to report wrongdoing. Outreach initiatives include training new employees at hiring orientations, signage throughout county offices and disseminating information through various outlets to existing Miami-Dade employees.

"It takes moral courage for an employee to come forward and provide information about misconduct. When an employee comes forward, we need to listen, thoroughly investigate and protect them from retaliation. The amendments to the ordinance passed today ensure that employees can come forward confidentially," explained Miami-Dade Inspector General Mary Cagle.

The ordinance passed in conjunction with the Employee Honor Code, sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and co-sponsored by Commissioner Levine Cava.

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