



GMHA

Greater Miami Housing Alliance

2023-24 Miami-Dade County Public Budget Hearing Toolkit



MIAMI HOMES
FOR ALL
SINCE 1985

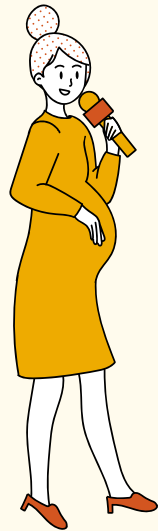
Hi there!

The Greater Miami Housing Alliance is a broad coalition of advocates, tenant groups, developers, and more working together to ensure every resident lives in dignity and has access to safe, affordable housing. This toolkit was made just for you! Miami Homes For All built this so you know what to do before you make your public comment (related to housing and homelessness) and some sample talking points. If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Aradanas at audrey@miamihomesforall.org.

BUDGET MEETINGS

- Final Budget Conversation with Mayor Levine Cava on Thursday, September 14, at 6 PM, at the Westchester Cultural Arts Center (7930 SW 40th Street, Miami, FL 33155).
- 1st Public Hearing is on Thursday, September 7, from 5 to 11 PM at Government Center
- 2nd Public Hearing is on Thursday, September 21, from 5 to 11 PM at Government Center





TIPS BEFORE YOU GO!

- If you haven't attended any of the budget town halls or budget conversations, we recommend you attend either of the final two budget conversations with Mayor Levine Cava. This is your opportunity to ask questions or comment before the budget is discussed with the Board of County Commissioners during public hearings.
- Plan to arrive at the Government Center at 4 PM on September 7 or 21. You do not need to go to both. Don't forget your ID! You will need it to check-in.
- There is free parking around the Government Center for the budget hearings. There is also public transit that takes you directly to the Center. You can also watch the meetings online at <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/webcasting/home.page>.
- Go to security in the lobby to check in with your ID. They will give you a yellow sticker. Put that in a visible location and do not remove it until after you leave the Government Center.
- After checking in, register for public comment. For registration, you'll write down your name and address. They will give you a number. Don't lose it!
- You will then go through the metal detectors to the 2nd-floor chambers. You will not be able to bring in food. But you can bring water.
- Families with minor children have priority to make public comments. There will likely be many people in the chambers. When your number is called, you can share your comments.
- You will only have two minutes to make your comment!

SAMPLE TALKING POINTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Hello, Chairman Gilbert, esteemed commissioners, and Madam Mayor. My name is X. I'm here today as a Greater Miami Housing Alliance member. My address is X. I live in District X.

See your Commission District here: <https://bit.ly/3PmG767>

- As you know, we are still in a housing crisis. Half of all Miami-Dade households pay more than they can afford on housing costs. According to the University of Florida, Miami-Dade has a shortage of over 90,000 rental units affordable to households earning less than about \$75,000 per year.
- I support this budget and proposed millage rate because it aligns with most of this year's priorities of the Housing Alliance, which include:
 - Eviction diversion and homelessness prevention
 - Preservation of affordable homeownership
 - Funding for small-scale affordable housing
 - Investing to cover inflation costs to ensure shovel-ready projects are completed
 - Community engagement related to affordable developments
 - Permanent supportive housing
- The Mayor's budget covers a lot of these priorities and makes great progress on them. But there are three critically important things we ask of the County:
- Invest an additional \$1.5 million into preventing evictions and homelessness through rental assistance. Eviction filings now exceed pre-pandemic levels, with an average of 5,000 evictions filed per quarter in 2022.
- Invest an additional \$10 million in the Homeless Trust to support the development of new permanent supportive housing. Permanent Supportive Housing is for vulnerable individuals and families exiting homelessness – survivors of domestic violence or human trafficking, persons with disabilities, and the aging with limited incomes. In 2022, 16% of people experiencing homelessness in Miami-Dade were families with minor children; 38% were 55 and older. 602 were young people under age 24.
- Community engagement related to housing. We applaud the Mayor and her team for consistently engaging residents. We would love to see investment in stronger community engagement strategies related to housing, particularly regarding the redevelopment of public housing and residents transitioning to vouchers.
- Thank you for your time and consideration. Good night.

