



## ***Honored Guests***

### ***Welcome to Miami-Dade County***

**The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava  
Miami-Dade County Mayor**

**The Honorable José “Pepe” Díaz (invited)  
Chair, Miami-Dade County Commission**



Daniella Levine Cava was elected Miami-Dade County’s first-ever woman Mayor in November 2020. She enters the Mayor’s office following a nearly 40-year career as a relentless advocate for South Florida families in public service and elected leadership.

As Miami-Dade County’s Mayor, she oversees a metropolitan government with more than 28,000 employees serving nearly 3 million residents, managing an annual budget of approximately \$9 billion.

A social worker, lawyer, and community activist, she was first elected in 2014, and re-elected in August 2018, to serve as the Miami-Dade County Commissioner representing District 8.

As Commissioner, she invested in Miami-Dade small businesses and expanded economic opportunity, protected the environment and our water, increased the County police force for underserved areas, advocated for an expanded, reliable public transportation system, worked to create affordable housing and revitalize neighborhoods, and helped make local government more accountable and transparent.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, she has advocated for a more effective public health response and worked to provide millions of federal CARES Act dollars in relief to struggling families and small businesses. As the new Mayor, she will begin working immediately with city leaders, the business community, and medical experts to create a unified pandemic response strategy that protects Miami-Dade's lives and livelihoods.

Mayor Levine Cava came to elected office after having served as an advocate for South Florida families for over 30 years. She served special needs children and immigrants at Legal Services of Greater Miami, and then represented children in the child welfare system as Associate and Legal Director for the Guardian Ad Litem Program.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, she was recruited to create a new intake system for child abuse cases with the Department for Children and Families. Her efforts were concentrated on the neighborhoods of District 8 where she helped restore the lives and homes of those devastated by the storm.

In 1996, Mayor Levine Cava founded Catalyst Miami to help low- and middle-income families through service, education, and advocacy. Catalyst helps approximately 5,000 people each year to become more self-sufficient and civically engaged.

She is the Immediate Past Chair of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) and served as an SFRPC Council Member from 2015 – 2020. She has served on the Florida Bar Committee on Legal Needs of Children; the boards of League of Women Voters, Orange Bowl Foundation, North Dade Medical Foundation, South Florida Health Information Initiative, and several national boards. She's won numerous awards from various organizations including: the Commission on Ethics, Red Cross, American Society for Public Administration, ACLU, National Council of Jewish Women, AAUW, among others.

Born in New York and raised partly in Latin America, Mayor Levine Cava received her bachelor's degree in psychology with honors from Yale University and graduate degrees in law and social work from Columbia University.

She came to South Florida in 1980 to join her husband, Dr. Robert Cava, a Miami native, who returned home to join his father in medical practice. Daniella and Robert raised two children, Eliza and Edward Cava, in Miami-Dade, supported by strong networks of friends, families, and co-workers.



## Chairman José "Pepe" Díaz

Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz serves as the Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and the Commissioner for District 12, which includes the cities of [Doral](#), [Hialeah](#), [Hialeah Gardens](#), [Medley](#), [Sweetwater](#), [Virginia Gardens](#), and a large portion of unincorporated Miami-Dade County. He was first elected as commissioner in September 2002 and was re-elected to a fifth term in 2018. He also served as the Vice-Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners from 2009-2010. On Nov. 19, 2020, he was unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman Diaz has served in various capacities on different committees of the County Commission and serves on the Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County Advisory Board, the Public Health Trust Nominating Council, the Public Health Trust/Miami-Dade County Annual Operating Agreement Committee, and the Jackson Health System's General Obligation Bond Citizen's Advisory Committee. Additionally, Chairman Diaz, who proudly served as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, was appointed as Miami-Dade County's Military Liaison and also serves as the Chairman of Miami-Dade County's Military Affairs Board. Until recently he represented Miami-Dade County as a member of the South Florida Regional Planning Council.

On the international level, Chairman Diaz is an advocate for trade and forging partnerships with other nations, and he currently serves as Chairman of the International Trade Consortium Board. In March 2010, Chairman Diaz was appointed by U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to serve on the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee on Trade (IGPAC) and proudly served until April 2018. In this capacity, Chairman Diaz advised, consulted with, and made recommendations to the U.S. Trade Representative from the perspective of local governments. He also serves as Chairman of the International Trade Consortium (ITC), where he has been instrumental in making profitable connections for businesses on behalf of Miami-Dade County with the Caribbean and Latin America. He toured several Asian cities in 2005 (Tianjin, Hong Kong and Shanghai), met with government officials and business organizations to promote trade partnerships, and participated in a ceremony to mark a joint venture between Florida International University and Tianjin University of Commerce. He and the Asian delegation also secured a cooperative agreement for the County with Tianjin's Municipal People's Government.

In addition to his County duties, Chairman Diaz serves on the Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County Advisory Board. He also served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the

Miami-Dade County Sports Commission, which is charged with attracting youth, adult amateur, and professional sporting events to the county and generating support for those events. Under his leadership, the Sports Commission created a local bid committee to support Miami as a future host city for the FIFA World Cup and also coordinated a massive block party on Brickell Avenue to support bringing the FIFA World Cup to the United States. Thanks to the Sports Commission, Miami-Dade County hosted its first WrestleMania in 2012, generating \$102.7 million in economic impact for Miami-Dade County.

Before joining the Commission, Chairman Diaz worked to resolve the ongoing flooding issues throughout Miami-Dade County as Mayor of Sweetwater. He spent countless hours lobbying in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., and acquired the funds necessary for a Comprehensive Street Drainage Project. Chairman Diaz continues to work with local and state emergency management teams to prevent future flooding. Former Governor Jeb Bush appointed him to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, where he continues to advise on proposed regulations that could adversely affect West Miami-Dade's water levels.

Chairman Diaz is a strong advocate for the elderly and the military. In 2006, he spearheaded the "Seniors Never Alone" program, which ensures that enrolled seniors receive a call at least twice a week. The program is operated by the Switchboard of Miami, Inc., and each reassurance specialist engages seniors in conversation, providing emergency assistance if necessary. Chairman Diaz also served on the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee. He strongly advocated for the USS Gridley, which became the first Navy warship to be commissioned in Miami on February 10, 2007. He also organized Miami-Dade's historic Golden Veterans Parade and 50th Anniversary Commemoration on Nov. 8, 2013 to give Vietnam veterans the long-overdue proper homecoming they deserved.

Chairman Diaz is married and has three daughters, Monique, Celine and Krystal; and two grandchildren, Marcus and Rey. He was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba and has lived in Sweetwater, Fla., for more than 30 years. In 1979, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in December 1984. In 1986, he began his career in public service as Chairman of the City of Sweetwater Police Retirement Trust Fund Board. For the next seven years, he served on the City of Sweetwater Commission and was elected Mayor of Sweetwater in May 1999.