



Florida Action Committee, Inc.
6615 W Boynton Beach Blvd #414
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

www.floridaactioncommittee.org
info@floridaactioncommittee.org
833-273-7325

July 29, 2026

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 27-310
Miami, FL 33128

SENT VIA EMAIL AND
VIA US MAIL
homelesstrustmtg@miamidade.gov

Dear Members of the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust:

I am writing on behalf of the Florida Action Committee, Inc. (FAC) regarding the growing crisis of homelessness among individuals required to register as sexual offenders or predators in Miami-Dade County.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Miami-Dade has long been the epicenter of this problem. The housing shortage for registrants became internationally known during the Julia Tuttle Causeway encampment nearly two decades ago, when over 100 individuals were forced to live beneath a bridge because there was virtually nowhere in the county where they could legally reside. While that encampment was eventually dismantled, the underlying problem was never solved. It has only worsened.

The State's own Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) has documented the extent of the crisis. According to its most recent report (2024), approximately 31% of all registrants in Miami-Dade County are homeless. That represents one of the highest documented rates of homelessness among any identifiable population in Florida and demonstrates that the county's existing restrictions continue to leave hundreds of people without lawful housing or shelter options.

Despite these well-documented government facts, The City of Miami has recently adopted policies (Ordinance 14486) that make it easier to arrest homeless individuals for sleeping outdoors, even while many registrants remain legally barred from obtaining housing or shelter because of residency restrictions or shelter eligibility requirements. The new ordinance expressly permits arrest when a person is ineligible for shelter placement.

This raises serious questions about whether Miami-Dade is facilitating the criminalization of a condition that it has created. We believe this condition arises to the level of an 8th Amendment violation.

The Homeless Trust has long served as Miami-Dade County's lead agency for addressing homelessness. Accordingly, we respectfully request information regarding the Trust's efforts to address the unique housing barriers faced by persons required to register.

Specifically:

1. What programs or initiatives has the Homeless Trust undertaken to identify shelter or permanent housing opportunities for registrants experiencing homelessness?
2. How many registrants have been successfully placed into emergency shelters, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing during the past five years?
3. Has the Trust evaluated whether Miami-Dade's residency restriction ordinance has contributed to homelessness among this population?
4. Has the Trust made recommendations to the County Commission regarding policy changes that would reduce homelessness among registrants?
5. If shelters receiving Homeless Trust funding refuse admission to registrants, what alternative housing options does the Trust provide for these individuals?

FAC has consistently maintained that homelessness is neither a public safety strategy nor a solution. Stable housing is one of the strongest predictors of successful reintegration and reduced recidivism. Policies that leave individuals with no lawful place to live, only to arrest them for being homeless, undermine public safety, human dignity and our Constitution.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Homeless Trust to discuss these issues and explore practical solutions. We also respectfully request a written response describing the Trust's efforts to address this longstanding problem.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

/s/

Teresa Bond, Information Liaison
Florida Action Committee, Inc.
teresa@floridaactioncommittee.org