

## Gotta go? Miami opens permanent public bathroom in downtown



The city of Miami introduced "The Portland Loo," the city's first permanent public restroom facility in downtown Miami.

By **Johnny Diaz** · Contact Reporter

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The city Wednesday unveiled what it's calling "the first permanent public restroom" in the downtown area.

The boxy stall will be open 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily at 101 W. Flagler St. or underneath the Metrorail station by the entrance of the Miami-Dade Main Public Library.

The sleek facility, which looks like an elongated kiosk or booth, includes a toilet, sink, a safe needle disposal area. There's also an attendant.

“A basic but important amenity for ALL pedestrians,” the city Tweeted out with a picture of the restroom which is called “The Portland Loo.”

The facility is modeled after Portland, Oregon's public stand-alone bathroom which the city developed with Madden Fabrication. That stall was installed 10 years ago as a response to the city's rising homeless population and to give denizens another choice than disturbing local businesses, according to the company's website. There are more than 20 such loos across the country and Canada.

Mayor Francis Suarez attended Wednesday's grand opening with a ribbon cutting along with Miami commissioner Ken Russell and Miami-Dade commissioner Eileen Higgins and other community members.

“This facility highlights our dedication to making vital services accessible to all,” Suarez shared on Twitter.

While it may be a new public restroom, it's not the only option if you've really got to go in downtown. The nearby library, courthouse, Government Center and **Miami Dade College** also have restrooms. And there's always commercial establishments such as Starbucks.