



# **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES Public Health Trust Nominating Council**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

Stephen P. Clark Government Center  
2nd Floor Conference Room  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Miami, Florida 33128

September 18, 2006  
As Advertised

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**PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST NOMINATING COUNCIL  
CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

The Public Health Trust Nominating Council convened in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commission Conference Room of the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, on September 18, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. There being present Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Council Members Senator Javier Souto, State Representative Rene Garcia, and Public Health Trust Chairman Larry Handfield, Esq. (Commissioner Bruno Barreiro was late); staff members Assistant County Manager Mae D. Bryant, Assistant to the County Manager Irene Taylor-Wooten; Assistant County Attorney Eugene Shy; Jeanette Nunez, Vice-President Government Relations, JMH; Daniel Ricker, Publisher, Watchdog Report; Commission staff Roly Marante; and Deputy Clerk Jill Thornton.

**Welcome**

Chairwoman Sosa called the meeting to order at 8:51 a.m. She welcomed everyone in attendance and noted the purpose of today's meeting was to interview twelve candidates selected to serve on the Public Health Board of Trustees (PHT). She asked if background checks were conducted on all candidates and whether today's interviews included any incumbents.

Assistant County Manager Mae Bryant noted background checks were conducted on all candidates and she disclosed specific information regarding candidates Rolando Sanchez-Medina Jr. and Marisol Tamarazzo.

Assistant County Attorney Eugene Shy noted incumbents were John Copeland, Ernesto De La Fe and Georgena Ford and that John Copeland and Ernesto De La Fe would be interviewed for the third time.

Chairwoman Sosa noted that Georgena Ford was recently interviewed by this council and appointed for a brief time and that her interview was still fresh in the minds of council members. It was moved by Chairwoman Sosa that Georgena Ford not be re-interviewed but be re-appointed to the PHT. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Souto. There being no objections, the Nominating Council re-appointed Ms. Georgena Ford to serve on the PHT, pending the approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

Responding to Chairwoman Sosa's question concerning the number of vacancies that needed to be filled on the PHT, Assistant County Attorney Eugene Shy noted five vacancies were advertised, but pursuant to the new rules, the Council needed to submit a slate of seven names.

State Representative Rene Garcia questioned what procedure would be used for conducting today's interviews.

Chairwoman Sosa explained that council members were free to ask any questions they wished but she proposed limiting the main questions to why the candidate felt he/she should be selected to serve on the PHT, what the candidate offered to the PHT and what opinion he/she had regarding the behavior of the PHT.

Hearing no further questions or comments, the Council proceeded with today's interviews of the final candidates.

### **Finalist Interviews**

1. Reuben Almaguer
2. Martha C. Adams
3. John Copeland
4. Ernesto De La Fe
5. Marie Etienne
6. Ariana Fajardo
7. Armando Gutierrez, Jr.
8. Marcos Lapciuc
9. Chief James B. Wright
10. Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr.
11. Marisol Tamarazzo

Chairwoman Sosa questioned how long Mr. Copeland and Mr. De La Fe had served on the PHT.

Assistant County Attorney Eugene Shy noted Mr. Copeland was appointed in the middle of a term and served approximately one or two years. He noted if re-appointed, Mr. Copeland would begin a second three-year term in October. He further noted that Mr. De La Fe would begin his third, three-year term in October, if he was re-appointed.

Commissioner Souto requested Assistant County Attorney Eugene Shy to advise him on the bylaws of the PHT regarding meeting attendance.

Assistant County Attorney Shy noted the PHT bylaws provided that three consecutive, unexcused absences constituted an automatic removal from the PHT, but there was a process for re-appointment of that person by a vote of the PHT to waive the removal.

In response to Chairwoman Sosa's request that she be advised of the current composition of the PHT, Assistant County Attorney Shy reviewed the present composition of the PHT, noting it consisted of eleven males, of which four were Anglo, five Hispanic and two Black; and four females, of which two were Anglo, one Black and one Hispanic.

Chairwoman Sosa noted the County Commission had asked this Council to balance the representation of PHT members based on the percentage composition of the population with race and gender to ensure it reflected the make-up of the community.

Mr. Daniel Ricker, Publisher, Watchdog Report, indicated that the current percentage composition of the population was approximately 61% Hispanic, 19% Afro-American and 17% Anglo.

Chairwoman Sosa stated that based on the Commission's charge, the Council needed to select more Hispanics and Females, if possible, to increase the representation of PHT members equal to the population percentage composition but also needed to consider candidates based on their qualifications while keeping in mind the Commission's charge.

Chairwoman Sosa noted she recalled that at last meeting, the Council agreed to interview all candidates listed as nominees except those that were specifically deleted, however, Mr. Joaquin Del Cueto, a retired Lieutenant of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, was excluded from the initial list. She asked whether the Council wished to close the interview process with today's candidates or continue the interview process to the next PHTNC meeting to allow Mr. Del Cueto to be interviewed.

It was moved by State Representative Rene Garcia that an interview of Mr. Joaquin Del Cueto be reconsidered. This motion was seconded by Chairwoman Sosa, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

It was moved by Commissioner Barreiro that the interview be conducted at the beginning of the next PHTNC meeting. This motion was seconded by State Representative Rene Garcia, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

Chairwoman Sosa noted that staff would work with Assistant County Manager Mae Bryant to determine the next PHTNC meeting date.

It was moved by Mr. Handfield that the July 20, 2006 PHTNC Meeting minutes be approved. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Souto and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

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Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa