



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board**

Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp.
8000 NW 21 Street
Miami, FL 33122

July 10, 2013
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Division Chief
Clerk of the Board Division

Alan Eisenberg, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-2510



CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MEETING AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
July 10, 2013

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on July 10, 2013 at 6:03 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp., 8000 NW 21 Street, Miami, FL 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Anthony Atwood; Mark Blumstein; Lt. Col. Antonio Colmenares; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Donna Masson for Diana Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Joseph Martory; Christopher Miller; and Keith Whitbeck.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr.; Colonel Morris Hatcher; Elise Van Pool for "Paul Russo"; Ed Haynes for "U.S. Congresswoman Frederica Wilson"; and Ms. Glorianne Amor for U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart

The following voting Board members were absent: Mario Alvarez; David Blake; Raydel Cornelio; Thomas Davis; Kevin Humes; Charles Johnson; Jorge Sibila; and Don Slesnick II.

The following non-voting Board members were absent: Captain Mark Jackson; Chief Mater Sergeant Cameron Kirksey; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; and Joanna Sandstrom,

The following staff members were present: Jeve Clayton, MAB Interim Director; Gus Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Gloria Garces, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz' Office; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

The following guests were also present: Sergeant Major Eric Geressy; Luis Fernandez; Colonel Antonio Perez; Guillermo Cuadra; Thomas Hastings, Joseph Lynne, and David Conley.

1. Welcome

Chairman Diaz welcomed Board members and guests to tonight's (7/10) Military Affairs Board (MAB) meeting.

2. Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Diaz asked Lt. Col. Antonio Colmenares to lead the Military Affairs Board (MAB) in a moment of prayer; this was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Joseph Martory.

Chairman Diaz requested that future MAB Agendas reflect a Moment of Prayer rather than a Moment of Silence.

3. Board Member Roundtable

Chairman Diaz asked Military Affairs Board (MAB) members to introduce themselves and to share pertinent information about their organizations and current programs of interest.

Mr. Anthony Atwood announced that a food distribution hosted by Farm Share was being held at the South Florida Military Museum on Saturday, July 20, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and anyone attending could preview the progress of the new museum under construction.

Mr. Timothy Daubert explained that individuals receiving distributions from Farm Share received a bag of fruit, vegetables, bread, a case of water, fruit drinks and a blanket.

Mr. Joseph Martory announced that he would soon be a great-grandfather.

Mr. Mark Blumstein noted his orders to deploy to Afghanistan were rescinded.

Ms. Donna Masson noted Ms. Diana Gonzalez was attending the Florida Defense Alliance meeting in Pensacola, FL.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez introduced United States Army Captain James Montiff who served at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti.

Sergeant Major Eric Geressy noted the Navy Marine Corp Reserve would be attending a two week annual training at Camp Blanding, FL for two weeks beginning July 12, 2013.

Mr. Anthony Colmenares introduced Mr. David Conley who was the new American Red Cross' (ARC) Service to the Armed Forces Manager, noting the ARC provided services to the armed forces for 130 years. Mr. Colmenares noted he was the Chairperson of the City of Miami's Homeless Veterans Task Force and the Task Force would be meeting on August 13, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at the City of Miami Hall to discuss an upcoming three-day homeless veteran's stand-down, which would be held in mid-October 2013. He mentioned that a National Armed Forces Telethon with Connie Francis would be televised on the Military Channel on November 11, 2013 from Los Angeles, CA, Las Vegas, NV, and Miami, FL., with the goal of raising \$200 million to help veterans with traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

4. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation

Chairman Diaz presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Jev Clayton for his outstanding support of the Military Affairs Board as its Interim Director.

Mr. Clayton stated that it had been an honor to serve the MAB over the past year. He acknowledged MAB members for working together and for their contributions to the MAB.

5. Introduction of Military Affairs Board Director

Chairman Diaz introduced Mr. Gus Cruz as the new Military Affairs Board (MAB) Director. He noted Mr. Cruz was a United States Marine and a former law enforcement officer. Chairman Diaz said that Mr. Cruz came to the MAB having worked for Commissioner Zapata and that he was a father of two children.

Mr. Cruz provided to the MAB members an overview of his military and law enforcement experience. He said that it was an honor to be placed in this position of trust; that he knew there was much to be done; and that he was fully committed to this position.

It was moved by Mr. Manny Gonzalez to accept the appointment of Mr. Gus Cruz as the Military Affairs Board Director. This motion was seconded by Mr. Timothy Daubert and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 10-0.

6. Old Business

- **Veteran's Day Parade**

Chairman Diaz acknowledged Ms. Gloria Garces, Mr. Gus Cruz and Mr. Jeve Clayton for their efforts on behalf of the parade. He noted Miami-Dade County (MDC) Mayor Carlos Gimenez was fully supportive and a County resolution endorsing the parade would be presented at the next Board of County Commissioners' meeting. Chairman Diaz explained that this resolution authorizes the Miami-Dade County Police Department and Fire Rescue Department to provide in-kind services. He said it also assigns Deputy Mayor/County Manager Alina Hudak to the event, noting she had previously planned ten Super Bowl events in this community. Chairman Diaz indicated that additional County personnel would be made available to provide logistical support. He noted City of Miami (Miami) Mayor Tomas Regalado was committed and would prepare a similar resolution. Chairman Diaz said that he was working with the Dade County League of Cities to obtain the support and participation of all 35 local municipalities.

Chairman Diaz explained that, pursuant to President Barack Obama's request, in order to receive federal assistance, the County would have to hold the 50-year anniversary of the Vietnam War alongside the Veteran's Day Parade. He said that the federal government requested that the MAB agree to a thirteen-year commitment and to holding two annual events to celebrate Vietnam Veterans. Chairman Diaz noted the Veteran's Day Parade was intended to be a one-time event; that MAB could not commit to such a lengthy obligation; and that efforts to ask for federal participation would continue.

Chairman Diaz said that Mr. Cruz would follow-up to encourage participation of United States Senate and Congressional representatives on the MAB, noting their support was important to the success of the MAB and the parade.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that the parade date was moved from Saturday, November 9, 2013 to Friday, November 8, 2013. He said that it would be easier to secure assets on a Friday, which was a more appropriate day to hold a tickertape parade. Chairman Diaz noted the Flagler Street parade would begin at around noon and conclude with a celebratory event and concert at Bayfront Park. He distributed potential site plans of the Amphitheatre area which holds 25,000 people and the Flagler Promenade area which holds 85,000 people.

Chairman Diaz explained that every MAB member was part of the fundraising committee. He noted the goal was to raise \$500,000, noting this amount did not include \$500,000 for police and fire services underwritten by MDC, Miami and other participating local municipalities. Chairman Diaz pointed out that everyone on the MAB had contacts – people, businesses and organizations – that should be approached to provide assistance. He noted he was establishing an advisory group of influential individuals who were sensitive to veterans' issues to also assist.

Chairman Diaz noted Mr. Thomas Davis was working to secure flyovers from the United States Air Force, Miami-Dade County, and other agencies. He suggested that the federal government partners on the MAB could assist him in this effort. Chairman Diaz pointed out that the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) could help by providing military assets. He said that the South Florida Military Museum could solicit support from the veterans of foreign war and other veterans groups.

Mr. Anthony Atwood indicated that the Legion Riders was a motorcycle group that could participate in the parade.

Chairman Diaz indicated that Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho was committed to the parade and discussions were underway pertaining to the number of bands needed to march and transportation logistical issues. He noted Mr. Antonio Colmenares would secure the participation of the American Red Cross.

Colonel Morris Hatcher noted he did not want the MAB to have a false expectation about SOUTHCOM's level of participation. He pointed out that SOUTHCOM was a senior-level organization and did not have a pool of soldiers, airmen, or other service members to provide. Colonel Hatcher noted he gave Ms. Gloria Garces a specific list of ways SOUTHCOM could provide assistance, other than the availability of service members.

Chairman Diaz said that if SOUTHCOM was unable to provide soldiers, other military installations in this community could do so. He said he communicated with the Florida National Guard and received a commitment from Governor Rick Scott to provide assets. Chairman Diaz noted SOUTHCOM was responsible for much of the military operations

in this area and the MAB appreciated whatever assistance it was able to provide. He said he envisioned that there would be participation from the Marines, the Coast Guard, Special Services, Homestead Air Force Base, the National Guard, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps., and the Veterans Administration, in addition to SOUTHCOM.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that Mr. Cruz would be the liaison person and that all communication should be directed through him rather than to fellow MAB members in order to comply with the Florida Sunshine Law.

Chairman Diaz said he met with Comcast representatives. He noted the Military Channel and the History Channel both indicated their willingness to participate and they were provided the names of Vietnam and Bay of Pigs veterans to interview for documentaries. Chairman Diaz said that they would assist the MAB to secure funding and to promote the event. He noted anyone from Broward, Palm Beach or Monroe Counties that were willing to contribute assets or pay tribute to our veterans was welcome to participate, even though the parade was within the realm of Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck suggested that Prisoners of War (POW) and Soldiers Missing in Action (MIA) be included.

Chairman Diaz clarified that the parade was designed as a tribute to the men and women who served this country and was not a political event. He explained that the Vietnam Travelling Memorial Wall was not available as it was booked through 2015. Chairman Diaz announced that Dexter Lehtinen, Larry Hawkins and Bob Levy would be among the featured veterans due to the injuries they received in the Vietnam War.

Chairman Diaz asked MAB members to volunteer and indicate how they could assist rather than being assigned to tasks. He requested that MAB members send their ideas, comments or suggestions to Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Ed Haynes noted 24 veterans from a Broward County Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) post who wrote a book and were using the proceeds of book sales to fund VFW activities were willing to participate in the parade.

Chairman Diaz requested that this group be given a table at no charge to sell their book.

Mr. Luis Fernandez was introduced by Chairman Diaz as an event promoter who would assist with logistics related to the staging area.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez asked who would be responsible to collect and deposit the funds received, and to obtain the participation of food vendors; and whether a trust account would be opened.

Chairman Diaz stressed that the County would receive the funds in a transparent manner and that law enforcement personnel would be involved in all aspects of the event.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez offered to help obtain the participation of food vendors through Miami International Airport (MIA).

Mr. Timothy Daubert pointed out that vehicles for disabled veterans wanting to ride in the parade were needed as well as individuals to push disabled veterans in wheelchairs along the parade route.

7. New Business

- **Change of Command at Homestead Air Reserve Base**

Mr. Gus Cruz announced that Colonel Lindburg was relinquishing command to Colonel Funk in a Change of Command Ceremony on Sunday, July 14, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. He noted the ceremony would be conducted by General Binger, a former Base Commander.

Chairman Diaz asked MAB members to inform Mr. Cruz if they wanted to attend so he could arrange for base access.

- **Miami-Dade County Employee Veteran Questionnaire**

Mr. Gus Cruz said that he wanted to create a County employee database of veterans and active reservists, noting this information could be used to disseminate pertinent information or to request assistance.

Mr. Ed Harris suggested that two additional questions be added to the proposed survey that was distributed to MAB members as follows: 1) What was the reenlistment code for the veteran; and 2) What was the veteran's character of service. He noted this was important data that was needed to assist veterans when requesting service.

Mr. Anthony Atwood noted he concurred that a great deal of unknown code was encrypted in the DD Form 214.

- **Other Issues**

Chairman Diaz noted information to be included on the MAB website should be forwarded to Mr. Cruz. He said that Mr. Cruz would schedule an appointment with each MAB member to introduce himself and to strengthen the working relationship. Chairman Diaz reiterated that all communication regarding MAB issues should be directed through Mr. Cruz in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Law.

- **Presentation to the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)**

Chairman Diaz introduced Mr. Luis Fernandez, Colonel Antonio Perez and Mr. Guillermo Cuadra who came to present SOUTHCOM military personnel with tickets to an upcoming World Striking Challenge fight on Saturday, 20, 2013.

Colonel Perez announced that this was the first premier fighting event to be held at the Magic City Casino. He said that a section of the venue was set aside for the military and presented a block of tickets to Colonel Morris Hatcher for distribution to local military personnel.

Mr. Fernandez provided an overview of the event, noting it features fighters from a host of different backgrounds ranging from boxing to karate competing against one another.

Mr. Guillermo Cuadra noted the organization's motto was "no tap outs, just knock outs".

Colonel Hatcher inquired whether it was expected that service members would attend the event in uniform.

Chairman Diaz confirmed that service members were asked to wear their uniforms.

Colonel Perez noted the presence of soldiers in uniform would remind the public of the importance of caring for the military veterans; of inviting them to events; and of recognizing the military for the sacrifices that were made.

Mr. Fernandez informed MAB members that the promotion code "305USA" would give veterans and their families a ticket discount.

Colonel Hatcher expressed his appreciation to Mr. Fernandez, Colonel Perez and Mr. Cuadra for providing this opportunity to the local military personnel.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez suggested that the MAB maintain a record of all organizations that provided benefits to the military.

Chairman Diaz noted he concurred with the suggestion to include information on the MAB website about organizations and companies that supported our military with discounts or special offers.

8. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Keith Whitbeck that the June 5, 2013 Military Affairs Board Minutes be approved as corrected to reflect that the Armed Forces Services Center at Miami International Airport served over 2000 people in June 2010 rather than 2000

people in the first paragraph of Page 5. This motion was seconded by Mr. Timothy Daubert and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Diaz announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2013.

10. Discussion Items for the next agenda

Chairman Diaz noted items to be placed on the agenda should be forwarded to Mr. Gus Cruz.

11. Announcements

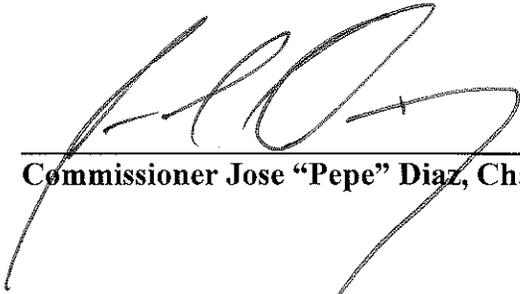
Mr. Anthony Atwood announced that Chairman Diaz was honored today (7/10) by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce for Lifetime Achievement in Military Affairs.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck noted the Armed Forces Services Center and the Air Force Association hosted 1,000 military personnel at the Port of Miami Seaman's Café. He announced the opening of the Armed Forces Services Center at Miami International Airport on September 20, 2013 and asked that this event be included in the next MAB meeting agenda.

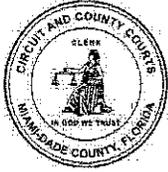
Mr. Ed Haynes noted Congresswoman Frederica Wilson would host a port caucus at the Port of Miami on July 15, 2013 to discuss local jobs related to the Panama Canal expansion. He said that this would be an opportunity for veteran set-aside jobs. Mr. Haynes noted he would provide Mr. Cruz with a flyer to be distributed to MAB members.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Military Affairs Board
July 10, 2013

Prepared by: Alan Eisenberg

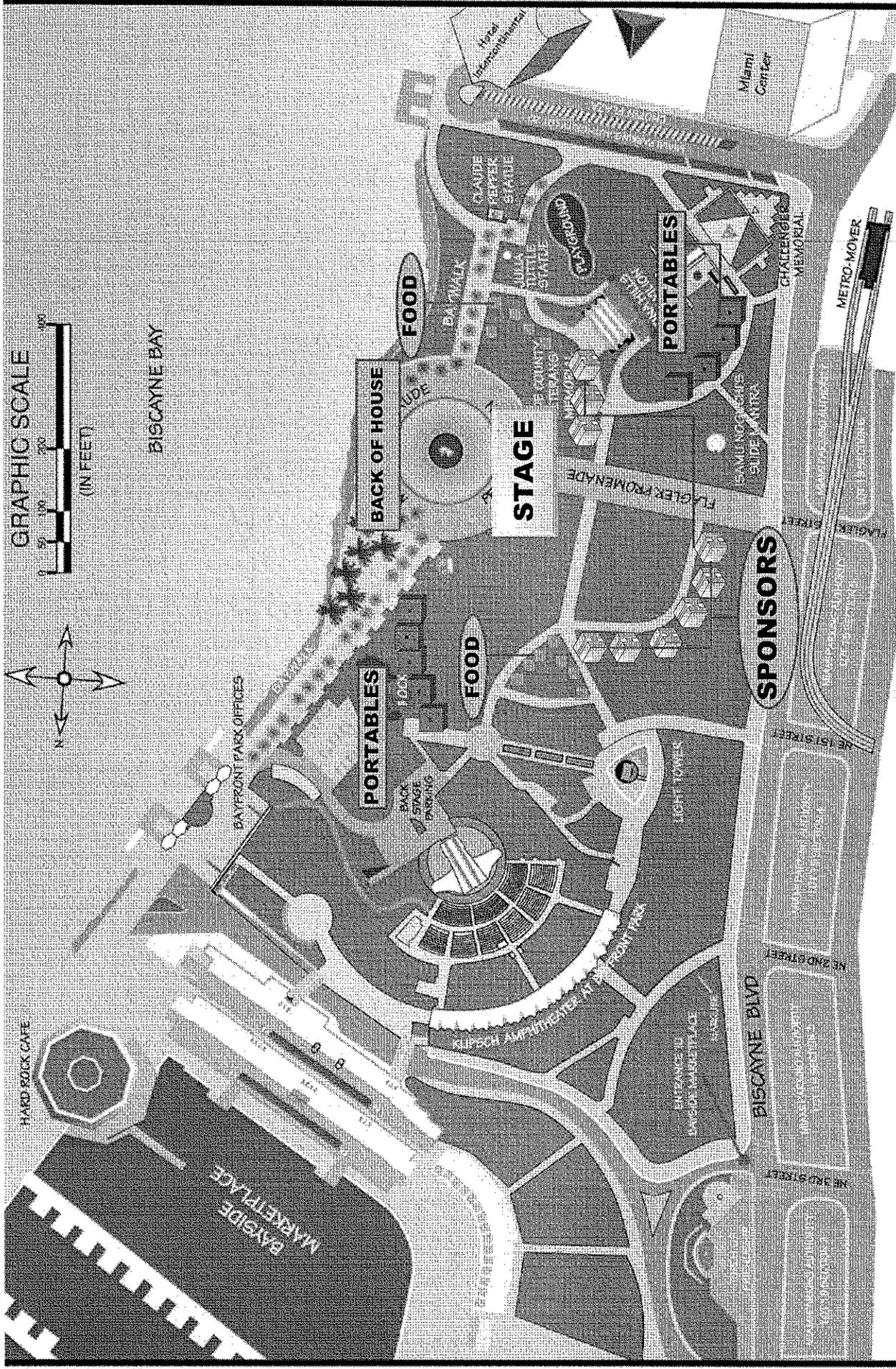
EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	7/10		Agenda
2	7/10		Bayfront Park Proposed Layouts for Veteran's Day Parade Concert
3	7/10		Farm Share Feed Food Distribution Flyer
4	7/10		Sign-In Sheet
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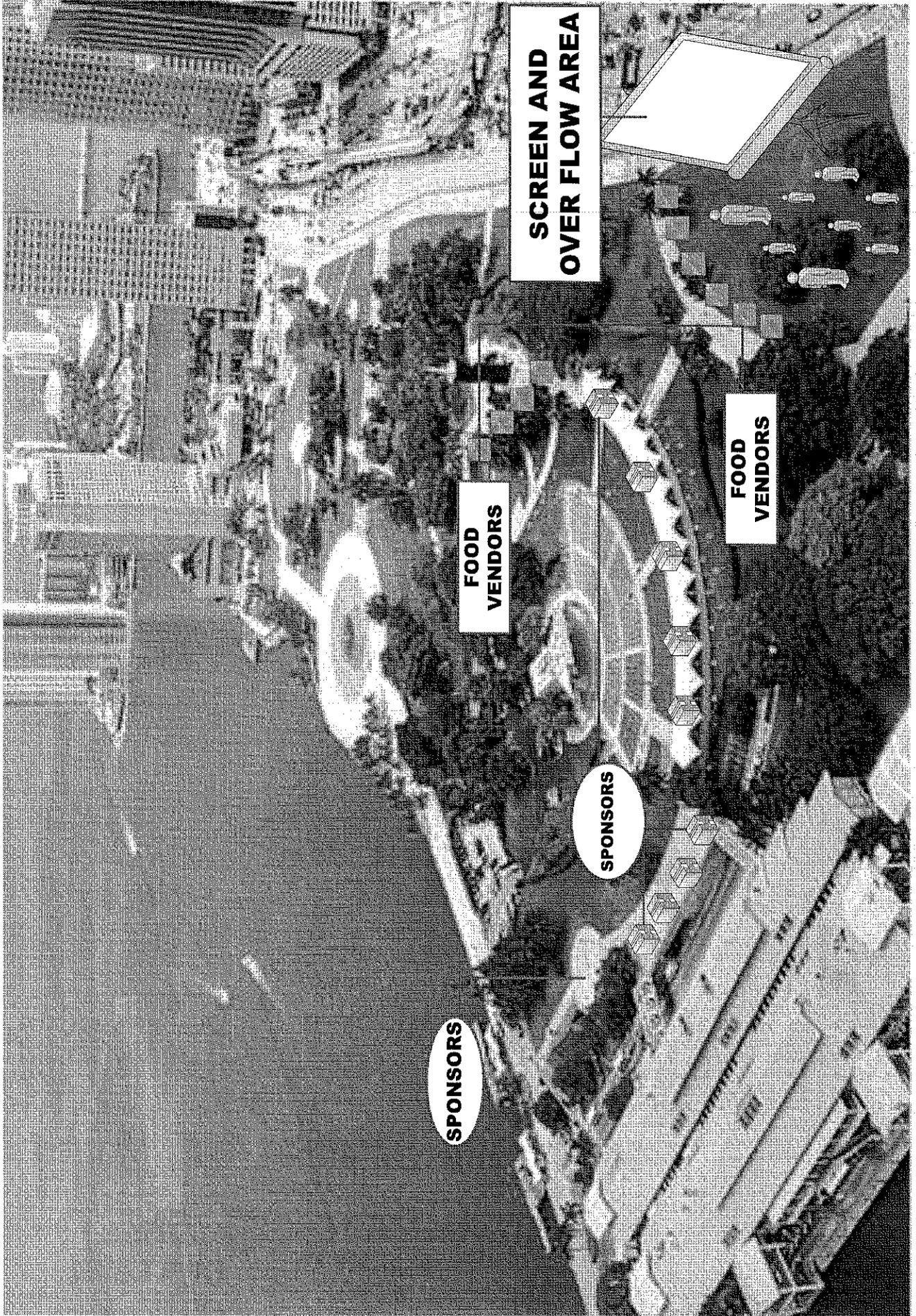
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH, 2013
5:30 PM

FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL BUILDING
8000 NW 21 Street, Doral, FL 33122
AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
- ❖ Introduction of Military Affairs Board Director
- ❖ Board Member Roundtable
- ❖ Old Business
 - Veteran's Day Parade
- ❖ New Business
 - Change of Command at Homestead Air Reserve Base
 - Miami-Dade County Employee Veteran Questionnaire
- ❖ Approval of Minutes (June 5th, 2013)
- ❖ Next meeting date is scheduled for August 7th, 2013
- ❖ Discussion items for the next agenda
- ❖ Adjournment



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Mayor, Miami-Dade County

Rep. Jeanette Nuñez

Representative, District 119

Rep. Jimmie Smith

Representative, District 34

Rep. Frank Artiles

Representative, District 118

&

The Department of Children and Families

For a Free Food Distribution

South Florida Military Museum

12450 SW 152 Street

Miami, FL 33177

Saturday,

July 20, 2013

9am—12 pm



Beatriz Lopez (305) 252-4300 Beatriz.lopez@myfloridahouse.gov

Documentation not needed. First come first serve. Not limited to Veterans.

