



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES Metro Miami Action Plan Trust

Office of the Metro Miami Action Plan Trust
19 West Flagler Street
Mezzanine Room 106
Miami, Florida 33128

January 21, 2004
As Advertised

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Board of County Commissioners

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**METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST
MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2004**

The Metro-Miami Action Plan (MMA) Trust convened at 12:24 p.m. on January 21, 2004, at the Office of the Metro-Miami Action Plan, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine – Room 106, there being present Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr.; Trust members: Mr. Arthur J. Barnes, Ms. Greicy Lovin-Meighan, Mr. Tony E. Crapp, Jr., Mr. Thomas B. Donaldson, Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Beverly Kovach, Ms. Ruth Page, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Dr. Marzell Smith, Ms. Cynthia A. Stafford, Mr. Daniel Wick, Jr. and Mr. Herbert Robinson. (The following members were absent: Mr. Torris Cooper, Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, and Mr. Andre McAden; the following members were excused absentees: Mr. Robert Holland, Mr. Benedict P. Kuehne, and Mr. Omar Malone.)

In addition to the members of the Board in attendance at today's meeting, there were also present the following staff support: MMA President/CEO Vincent Brown; Staff members: Ms. Cindy Campbell, Mr. Randel Carr, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Ms. Joann Hicks, Mr. Caesar Phillips, Ms. Traci Pollock, Ms. Natelege Powell, Ms. Rashada Simmons, Mr. William Simmons, Ms. Gloria Taylor, Mr. Jeffrey Watson; and Deputy Clerk Ms. Mary Smith-York.

First Vice Chairperson Barnes called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Clerk of Courts)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Kovach requested that all presentations be considered first on the agenda.

In response to Dr. Pinkston's request that presentations by Ms. Ginn and Mr. Haynes be added to the agenda under Trust Items as numbers 4 and 5 respectively, it was moved by Mr. Barnes that the Trust officially adopt the agenda with the additions of Trust Items Number 4, Oral Report by Ms. Donna Ginn, CEO, Ginn, Scroggins & Associates; and Number 5, Oral Report by Mr. Haynes, Chairman of the Model City Homeowners Association.

This motion was seconded by Ms. Kovach, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 13-0 (Trust members Mr. Cooper, Mr. Holland, Ms. Hyppolite, Mr. Kuehne, Mr. Malone, Mr. McAden, and Dr. Williams were absent).

III. TRUST ITEMS

1. Presentation Pastor and Faith Based Leader Workshop

Dr. Phillip Mann, Director of the Entrepreneurial Institute of Florida Memorial College, introduced Ms. Rosemarie McClung, Assistant Director of the program. He gave a brief background of the program. Dr. Mann noted that he had worked with Ms. Kovach, who

introduced the “Smart Money” program published by FDIC, from which information was extracted to include in the sourcebook and trainer’s guide he wrote for the program.

Mr. Barnes added that the “Smart Money” Program was available online and the issuing company would include an additional 24 copies with the one requested for distribution. He emphasized that the books were free to the public and there were no copyright restrictions so they could be made easily available to everyone. Dr. Mann stated that the goal of the program was to have students graduate debt-free. He distributed a set of books to each Trust member, and explained that the sourcebook contained basic information regarding lending and credit. Dr. Mann elaborated on the contents of the sourcebook, after which he asked members to provide ideas on where to install the program and to share their reaction on the presentation.

Mr. Barnes noted that the focus at the last Economic Development meeting was on credit because of the role it plays in securing jobs. He added that it was common practice for employers to check an individual’s credit history before hiring and to deny employment based on credit ratings.

Ms. Kovach added that the Community and Economic Subcommittee would present the Protecting Your Financial Future Training Program to a Pastoral Forum on February 28, 2004, at the Carol City Library from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and subsequently at Florida Memorial College and other historically black colleges.

Dr. Mann stated he felt that the MMAP Trust could reach more than 100,000 people through this program. He further noted that the County had a credit taskforce that might be interested in using this program as a general education program for County employees and others.

Mr. Barnes noted that the Economic Development Committee would coordinate a program with Dade County Public Schools to include high school students at the ninth grade level.

Ms. Page spoke in support of the program stating that it was long overdue and would be a great help to young people who encountered credit problems for whatever reason.

In response to Ms. Freemon’s comment that information regarding this program be available at the One Stop and Equal Opportunity Centers, Dr. Mann stated that anyone interested in getting copies should call his office.

Discussion ensued among members and it was noted that copying the document could be costly; therefore, workshops would be conducted for representatives of the organization, who would then make their own copies. It was also suggested that this program be included as topic for a workshop at the upcoming annual conference.

Chairperson stated that this would be a good program for the financial education component of the Teen Police Council.

Upon concluding his presentation, Dr. Mann noted that after 21 years, he felt good about the program. He thanked each of the Trust members and staff for all their help.

4. Presentation by Ms. Ginn, CEO, Ginn, Scroggins & Associates

Ms. Ginn began her presentation by referring to two documents: the Strategic and Work Plan for 2002 through 2006 and the final draft of the Organizational Assessment that was redone last year. Ms. Ginn stated that both documents were presented to each member at the July Board Retreat as a work-in-progress.

Ms. Ginn gave a brief history of her working relationship with MMAP Trust from 1998. She stated that upon her return following a year's leave, she was asked to develop a strategic plan. She stated that the strategic plan was completed, with the exception of the work plans for the Housing and Economic Development areas. She further noted that the Organizational Assessment would remain in draft form because the Trust members felt that the additional cost for a written report was unwarranted. Regarding the strategic plan, she noted the conclusions and recommendations would be submitted once she received input from the MMAP Trust Committee Chairs. Ms. Ginn closed her presentation by thanking each Trust member for the opportunity to work with them.

5. Presentation by Mr. Herschel Haynes, Chairman, Model City Homeowners Association (MCHA)

Mr. Haynes introduced himself and expressed thanks to Chairperson Jones and the members of the Board for inviting him to present today. He also acknowledge staff member Cindy Campbell for sharing useful information regarding the Board with his organization. He stated that the MCHA focuses its major efforts on the youth and special interests of the community, as does the Trust. He noted that one area of his presentation was credit cards. He recommended that his organization along with MMAP work together collectively to address the practice of usury by credit card companies, and solicit enactment of new laws to address this concern through elected officials. He stated that the MCHA was currently engaged in efforts to reach out to the schools within the Model City area, including Northwestern, Miami Jackson, Edison, etc. He stated the MCHA would like to partner with the Trust to create an educational plan to help students pass the FCAT and other problems that prevent the children from learning. He suggested the criminal Justice system also be involved in this initiative.

When questioned by Mr. Barnes regarding the intent of his presentation, Mr. Haynes stated he was asking that the Trust work collaboratively with the MCHA Board to develop solutions that would benefit all the communities.

Mr. Barnes stated that as Chair of the Economic Development Committee, he would be willing to meet with Mr. Haynes. Dr. Smith also stated he would meet with him on the educational component.

Following further discussion, Mr. Barnes and Dr. Smith would arrange to meet with Mr. Haynes and representatives of the MCHA to discuss plans.

I. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed at the meeting.

II. MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS

A. Action Committees

1. Criminal Justice Sensitivity Action Committee (CJSAC)

Ms. Cindy Campbell presented the report. She stated that the Criminal Justice Committee had met to develop the Teen Police Council. She noted that three members, a Coordinator and two administrators, were appointed at last week's meeting. Ms. Campbell stated that the City of Miami's Community and Economic Development had purchased a building at 1461 NW 60th Street, and had offered the use of the second floor for the operations of the Teen Police Council. She added that Mr. Joey Walker, CJSAC Public Information Officer, was preparing plans for the Council's Kick-off for early February.

In response to an inquiry regarding the administrator was for the Teen Police Council, Ms. Campbell stated Mr. Robert Holden of Miami-Dade Police Department would hold that position.

2. Education Action Committee

Dr. Smith presented the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy report relating to the Student Recruitment Section. In response to Mr. Barnes comment regarding the number of students, Dr. Smith stated there were currently 174 students, which reflected an increase since this report was printed. He noted the next student headcount by the School Board would be in March 2004, and a minimum 200 students must be enrolled at the Academy to qualify for the funding. He further clarified this, and added that a decrease in enrollment by approximately 30 students occurred due to the problem experienced with the air conditioning.

Chairperson Jones stated that meeting the 200-student requirement would determine whether the Trust continues operating the MLK Academy.

Dr. Smith stated that a decision must be made regarding whether or not to continue operating the Academy.

In response to Mr. Crapp's question regarding the timeline for renewing the contract, Dr. Smith eluded to a report in which he explained that it would not be feasible for the Trust to continue operating the Academy at the present location.

Mr. Barnes stated that a meeting with Mr. Henderson, President of the Foundation, was scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2004, to discuss the continued operation of the MLK Academy.

Dr. Pinkston suggested that the Education Committee discuss the status of the Academy and forward a report and recommendation(s) to the Trust.

Chairperson Jones recommended that the Committee present their recommendations at the Retreat.

Mr. Brown stated, for the record, that the Trust was given a report on the financial status of the Academy and the monies transferred from the Foundation Account for operation of the Academy.

Following discussions, Mr. Barnes recommended that Trust members who wished to have their concerns addressed at the Foundation meeting should submit those concerns in writing to Mr. Barnes for presentation at the meeting.

After further discussion regarding the Academy and preliminary procedures for the Foundation meeting, it was moved by Dr. Pinkston that the Education Committee schedule a meeting with Mr. Henderson and other appropriate parties, within five business days to discuss the status of the MLK Academy. This motion was seconded by Mr. Donaldson, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 13-0 (Trust members Mr. Cooper, Mr. Holland, Ms. Hyppolite, Mr. Kuehne, Mr. Malone, Mr. McAden, and Dr. Williams were absent). Mr. Barnes stated that Mr. Carr would coordinate the meeting with Mr. Henderson.

In response to Mr. Barnes' inquiry regarding the Homework Hotline, Ms. Simmons stated that implementation of this service was pending the installation of touchtone service by ITD, for which a service order was placed approximately two weeks ago.

3. Community and Economic Development Action Committee

The foregoing report was presented by Dr. Mann earlier during today's meeting.

Mr. Barnes pointed out that the meeting date for the Pastor and Faith-Based Leader Workshop had been changed from January 31, 2004 to February 28, 2004, and would be held at the North Dade Regional Library, 2455 N.W.183rd Street.

III. TRUST ITEMS

2. MOA Teen Police Council

Ms. Lovin-Meighan stated that the original funds request was reviewed and a memorandum listing the correct amount of \$248,990 allocated to the Teen Police Council

program and the corrected budget summary report were included in the day's meeting package.

Following further comments by Ms. Lovin-Meighan and Chairperson Jones, it was moved by Ms. Lovin-Meighan to approve the Memorandum of Approval regarding \$248,990 for Teen Police Council. This motion was seconded by Dr. Pinkston, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 13-0 (Trust members Mr. Cooper, Mr. Holland, Ms. Hyppolite, Mr. Kuehne, Mr. Malone, Mr. McAden, and Dr. Williams were absent).

3. MOA Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation

Mr. Crapp provided a brief overview of the foregoing Memorandum of Approval (MOA). He stated that the purpose of this MOA was to seek retroactive approval of expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to reimburse the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation (MLKEDCO) for costs associated with the 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Celebration.

In response to an inquiry by Chairperson Jones regarding his previous requests for an itemized listing of expenditures and receipts for this event, Mr. Barnes stated that he and Mr. Crapp had received this information as well as a list of contributions made by other entities and they were satisfied with the information provided.

Mr. Crapp further stated that it was important to note that the event had already occurred; therefore, the funds would be available but would not be released until proper documentation had been submitted for each reimbursable expenditure.

In response to Dr. Pinkston's concerns with MMAP making a commitment to reimburse funds without presenting a recommendation before the Trust, Mr. Crapp explained that the request for assistance was made by Ms. Cornelia Dozier at the Executive Committee's Meeting on January 7, 2004, which did not allow sufficient time for this matter to be reviewed by the Trust.

Following further comments, it was moved by Mr. Crapp that the Trust retroactively approve MLK Celebration expenditures by Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation. This motion was seconded by Chairperson Jones, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 12-1 (Trust member Pinkston voted No; Trust members Mr. Cooper, Mr. Holland, Ms. Hyppolite, Mr. Kuehne, Mr. Malone, Mr. McAden, and Dr. Williams were absent).

II. PRESIDENT ITEMS

A. House Bill Regarding Teen Court Funding

Trust members discussed this report briefly, noting that the House bill and a companion Senate bill will reserve Teen Court funding. Chairperson Jones stated that the Legislative Committee should follow this legislation. In response to Ms. Lovin-Meighan's inquiry regarding the Trust's lobbyist, Chairperson Jones noted that the lobbyist was diligently working on this issue.

B. Installation of Safety Measures at MLK Academy

Mr. Brown presented the report stating that a news crew from Channel 10 visited the school to address concerns regarding the lack of speed zone signs posted near the MLK Academy. He stated that the signs were posted at the Academy immediately by staff. In response to Mr. Crapp's inquiry regarding safety issues and the current status of code violations within the building, Mr. Brown noted that all of the safety issues had been resolved, with the exception of installation of a handicapped ramp, which would be resolved once city permits were obtained. He stated that the Foundation was responsible for paying fines incurred from code.

Following a discussion of the issues involved, the Trust proceeded to consider the next report.

C. Department Business Plan

Mr. Brown presented the foregoing report and stated that the Business Plan in the meeting package was prepared using the criteria based on the County Manager's performance-based budget business plan and budgeting process guidelines, and it had been submitted to the County Manager's Office.

Following a discussion regarding the advantages of internal performance-based budgeting and benchmarking and the dedicated funding received from the School Board, Ms. Lovin-Meighan stated that if the Trust was obligated to set policy, the upcoming Board Retreat would be a platform for addressing issues pertaining to benchmarking and performance-based budget.

Chairperson Jones asked that these issues be added for discussion during the Trust's Retreat. He added that the Public Relations Committee was currently working on securing a date, time, and location for the retreat, but that information was not available at this time.

D. Quarterly Report

Mr. Brown stated that Ms. Kathy Jackson, Director of Audit and Management, was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the purpose of an audit, how to prepare one based on the County's process, and how to determine whether an internal or external auditor was required. He stated she would attend the February Trust Board meeting.

II. MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS

B. Units/Sections/Divisions

In response to Mr. Barnes' inquiry regarding a possible discrepancy in the MMAP Homeownership Assistance Program Report, which stated that 37 families purchased

homes during the period December 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003, and listed the total number of applicants as 37, but the total number of loans as listed as 34, Ms. Simmons stated that this was a discrepancy and she would research and correct it. Mr. Barnes also noted that the page listing the ERI Loan Status report only listed 23 applicants, but was informed that the listing was complete.

Dr. Smith noted that two Revolving Loans were currently in litigation. He stated these issues should be addressed at some point.

Ms. Lovin-Meighan requested staff to revisit policy and procedures as related to grants and prepare a presentation for discussion at the retreat.

Chairperson Jones opened the floor to discussion on the framework for an Agreement distributed at the last Trust meeting. There being no discussion, it was moved by Ms. Kovach that the Trust submit the framework for an Agreement to the County Attorney's Office to be reviewed for legal sufficiency. This motion was seconded by Ms. Lovin-Meighan, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 13-0 (Trust members Mr. Cooper, Mr. Holland, Ms. Hyppolite, Mr. Kuehne, Mr. Malone, Mr. McAden, and Dr. Williams were absent).

There being no further business to come before the Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr.