



# **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

November 17, 2004  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Madry Sullivan, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

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**METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2004**

The Metro-Miami Action Plan (MMAP) Trust convened at 12:24 p.m. on November 17, 2004, at the Office of the Metro-Miami Action Plan, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine – Room 106. Present were Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr.; Trust members: Mr. Arthur J. Barnes, Mr. Tony E. Crapp, Jr., Mr. Thomas Donaldson, Mr. Robert Holland, Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, Ms. Beverly Kovach, Mr. Benedict Kuehne, Ms. Greicy Lovin-Meighan, Ms. Ruth Page, Dr. Marzell Smith, and Mr. Daniel Wick, Jr. (The following members were absent: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Mr. Omar Malone, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Mr. Herbert Robinson, Ms. Cynthia Stafford and Dr. Richard E. Williams.)

The following staff members were present: MMAP Trust President/CEO Vincent Brown; Staff members: Mr. Jacob Berry, Ms. Cindy Campbell, Mr. Randel Carr, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Ms. Joann Hicks, Mr. Caesar Phillips, Ms. Natelege Powell, Mr. William Simmons, Ms. Gloria Taylor, and Mr. Joey Walker; Mr. Gary Hartfield, Assistant to Assistant County Manager Tony Crapp; and Deputy Clerk Ms. Mary Smith-York.

First Vice Chairperson Arthur J. Barnes called the MMAP Trust meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

**ROLLCALL**

MMAP Trust staff member Ms. Gloria Taylor announced excused absences for the following Trust members: Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Mr. Omar Malone, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Mr. Herbert Robinson, and Ms. Cynthia A. Stafford.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Clerk of Courts)**

The July 21, 2004 and September 15, 2004 were submitted for approval by the Trust. No action was taken.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Later in the meeting, the agenda for today (11/17/04) was amended to add the following items:

- Trust Item-G: Economic Development Committee Report - Poinciana Park;
- International Trade Committee Report by Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr.

**LUNCH BOX SERIES**

First Vice Chairperson Arthur Barnes introduced the Honorable Shirley Gibson, Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens as the Lunch Box speaker.

Mayor Gibson greeted members and staff of MMAP Trust and expressed her appreciation for being invited to speak today. Mayor Gibson provided a fact-filled overview of what was happening in the City of Miami Gardens and shared the city's vision. During her presentation, Mayor Gibson highlighted the following points:

- The City of Miami Gardens incorporated on May 13, 2003;
- The current population was over 108,000;
  - 77% African American
  - 17% Hispanic
  - 3% Anglo or Other
- The majority residences were single-family units,
- The amount of rental properties was increasing;
- The millage rates were increased from 2.447 to 3.648;
- The City was focused on economic development:
  - Planned development of old strip malls;
  - Development of a Comprehensive Master Plan underway;
- A Strategy for increased investment in industrial parks was being developed;
- A code enforcement initiative was underway to ensure consistency;
- A beautification project was launched awarding owners of beautifully maintained residential/commercial areas;
- A tree planting project underway to increase the City's canopy;
- Entering City of Miami Gardens signs being posted at city limits.

Mayor Gibson noted that increased education for residents would be essential to securing high-level jobs with the medical research company that was relocating from Canada to the Miami Gardens area. Mayor Gibson expressed concern that a limited number of residents would qualify for positions with the company due to a lack of education and skills. She advised that the mandated Specialized Police Services contract with Miami-Dade County would cost the City approximately \$6.5 million per year. Mayor Gibson indicated that overall, the City of Miami Gardens was economically sound and that efforts were being focused on the goal of making the City of Miami Gardens a destination. Mayor Gibson concluded her presentation by addressing questions and comments from Trust members.

Upon arrival of Chairperson Jones and following Mayor Gibson's presentation, Vice Chairperson Barnes relinquished his role as chair of the meeting. Chairperson Jones began consideration of today's agenda.

## **I. MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS**

### **A. Action Committees**

- 1. Criminal Justice Sensitivity Action Committee**
- 2. Education Action Committee**
- 3. Community Economic Development Action Committee**
- 4. International Trade Committee**

Chairperson Jones advised that as Chair of the International Trade Committee, at the request of officials of the World Trade Center, he met with representatives of the Barbados government on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, to discuss issues concerning business development within Miami-Dade County. He stated that Dr. Mann of Florida Memorial College had agreed to develop an executive summary/feasibility study to determine the benefits of MMAP's participation in the Barbados venture.

Chairperson Jones stated that he would join representatives from Miami-Dade County in a meeting with Barbados government officials on Friday, November 19, 2004 to discuss the issue further. Chairperson Jones noted various projects that could be considered opportunities for MMAP Trust's participation in this international venture.

Mr. Keuhne expressed opposition to MMAP Trust providing funds to finance travel in connection with a trade mission to a foreign country and suggested that it be funded through an alternate source.

## **B. Unis/Sections/Divisions**

### **1. Fiscal Management**

### **2. MLK Academy**

#### **a. Alternative Outreach Center Recommendations**

Mr. Brown provided an overview of the memorandum from Mrs. Betty D. Major, Assistant Principal of Educational Alternative Outreach program of the Martin Luther King (MLK) Leadership Academy dated November 15, 2004, which was distributed to Trust members. Mr. Brown noted that the MLK Outreach Program staff had recommended three options for the Trust's consideration for addressing issues of disruptive student behavior and the need for increased security as follows: 1) Discontinue the enrollment of tenth grade students for the second semester in January; 2) Review present master schedule and make plans to implement Block Scheduling for the second semester or for fall 2005; and 3) Hire at least one additional security person. Mr. Brown advised that the Miami-Dade General Services Administration (GSA) had stationed a contracted security officer at the school site and that staff had begun discussions with the school regarding block scheduling. He indicated that a meeting with the Education Oversight Committee would be held to further address the school's comments and requests.

Discussion ensued among Trust members regarding the current situation at MLK highlighting the following points:

- Consequences of discontinuing tenth grade for the second semester in January 2005;
- Benefits of the Trust's recommendation to continue 10<sup>th</sup> grade to the end of school year;
- Impact on students' FCAT scores if 10<sup>th</sup> grade eliminated;
- Effect on MLK Academy's efficient operations if 10<sup>th</sup> grade continued;
- The motivation behind MLK Academy's recommendation to eliminate 10<sup>th</sup> grade;
- Fiscal impact of the elimination of 10<sup>th</sup> grade at MLK Academy;
- Negative/positive effect on the school's budget;
- Stabilization necessary for MMAP Trust staff at MLK Academy;
- MLK Academy Youth Development Director position advertised;

- Application for lease to a charter school being considered by the Church currently housing MLK Academy.

Having concluded the discussion, by motion duly made, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote, the Trust reconsidered agenda item II-B from the meeting of October 20, 2004.

During reconsideration of the foregoing proposed item, the Trust by motion duly made, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote approved termination of tenth grade classes from the MLK Academy at the conclusion of the current semester in 2004. Attached to the motion was an instruction to staff by Mr. Keuhne to include language authorizing MLK Academy staff to assist students in the transition into the second semester tenth grade at different institution.

Later in the meeting, Dr. Smith pointed out that the memorandum dated 11/17/04 regarding the MLK Academy contained errors which omitted the administrative staff's line item and misstated the number of students and he asked that staff make the necessary corrections and reissue the memorandum.

**b. MLK Budget**

Trust members discussed the MLK budget briefly and the discovery of errors prompted a request for staff to make revisions and bring them back to the Trust.

3. Teen Court
4. Neighborhood Accountability Board/July-August-September Reports
5. Housing
6. Economic Development

**II. PRESIDENT ITEMS**

- A. Florida Memorial College's Year-End Report – Information Item**
- B. Risk Management Claims Activity Reports – Information Item**
- C. Secret Shopper Program Results – Information Item**
- D. Empowerment Zone's Endorsement of MMAP EDI-0604 RFP – Information Item**

Mr. Brown read the foregoing proposed items A through D into the record. He commented that item B (Risk Management Claims Activity Reports) had been produced by Miami-Dade County General Services Administration (GSA). Mr. Brown further noted that item C (Secret Shopper Program Results) had been submitted by the County Manager's office and was very indicative of MMAP Trust staff's responsiveness to the community's needs.

Ms. Lovin-Meighan commended MMAP Trust staff on the improved Secret Shopper results as compared to last year's results.

### **III. TRUST ITEMS**

#### **A. MLK Oversight Committee – Board Meeting Nov. 20, 2002 Summary**

A brief overview of the foregoing item was provided by staff member Ms. Natelege Powell.

Ms. Kovach informed the Trust that this item would clarify the established function of MLK Oversight Committee. She pointed out that Dr. Smith, as Chairperson of the Oversight Committee, had the right to set policy and review matters in connection with the operation of MLK Academy.

At Dr. Smith's request, Mr. Barnes recited the steps for scheduling a Trust Committee meeting.

#### **B. FY 04-05—Special Budget Expenditures – Memorandum of Approval**

Mr. Brown provided a brief overview of the FY 04-05 Specialized Budget Expenditures and stated that during Budget Hearings, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) had attached a request for MMAP Trust to fund projects in District 3, in the amount of \$550,000. He advised that the BCC had provided a funding breakdown as outlined in the memorandum of approval dated November 8, 2004.

Chairperson Jones explained that the County Commission could and would designate unexpended funds according to their plans. He advised members of his request to the BCC that MMAP be allowed community branding through its funding of the designated projects.

It was moved by Mr. Holland that the Trust approve the allocation of funds in the amount of \$550,000 for projects in District 3 from the General Fund, Economic Development, and Housing budgets as requested by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 12-0 (Trust members Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Mr. Omar Malone, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Mr. Herbert Robinson, Ms. Cynthia Stafford, and Dr. Richard E. Williams were absent).

#### **C. MMAP Board Quorum Ordinance Amendment**

Mr. Donaldson initiated discussion on the foregoing proposed item and expressed opposition to lowering the number of members required to constitute a quorum. Trust members commenced discussion on the frequency of not having a quorum present at Trust meetings and what representation of members should be considered a quorum.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Trust by motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a majority vote, approved the ordinance amending Section 2-502 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, relating to Metro Miami Action Plan Trust, reducing to nine the number of Metro Miami Action Plan Board of Trustees

members necessary to constitute a quorum, providing severability, inclusion in the Code, and an effective date.

#### **D. Budget Modifications to Contract M-Car No. Dev. 0302 – Memorandum of Approval**

Chairperson Jones read the foregoing proposed item into the record.

Mr. Crapp expressed concern with the request to modify the budget for M-Car Consultants' Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) contract. He noted the proposed item had not been reviewed by the Executive Committee and that the Consultant, Ms. Maria Al Fau Reyes, was absent.

Mr. Keuhne inquired about the required funds, the budgetary impact, and the value of services performed by M-Car.

A brief discussion ensued among Trust members followed by a recommendation by Chairperson Jones that the item be deferred to allow for preparation of a comprehensive report justifying the requested modification of the M-Car budget.

Ms. Lovin-Meighan asked staff member Ms. Hicks to give Trust members a summary of the events leading up to the proposed budget modification.

Staff member Ms. Joann Hicks provided a lengthy overview of M-Car's progress in connection with the ERI project and the relative budget expenditures. She stated that when M-Car discovered the budget shortfall while being paid on an hourly basis, a proposed flat fee modification was done to the budget in order to complete the project.

Following Ms. Hicks' presentation, Ms. Lovin-Meighan explained that the ERI project was created in response to tornado damaged and/or destroyed homes in the Liberty City area to assist homeowners repair or replace their homes. She requested that the background information justifying the budget modification be outlined in the memorandum of approval.

Mr. Brown recommended deferring the item to permit further review of the consultant's current and proposed contracts so they might provide a more comprehensive report.

Ms. Lovin-Meighan requested that MMAP Trust staff establish a standard requiring all agenda items to have attached clearly-defined, detailed supporting documents and mandating all agenda items to be presented before the Executive Committee for review prior to presentation to the full Trust.

Chairperson Jones advised that the item would be deferred to the next Trust meeting scheduled for December 15, 2004. The Trust proceeded to consider the next item on the agenda.

**E. Soul on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue – FAMU Band – Memorandum of Approval**

Mr. Brown provided a brief overview of the foregoing proposed item and stated that the Soul on 7<sup>th</sup> organization had provided an itemized budget for the requested expenditures. He noted that the initial funding request was for a total of \$25,000 but had been reduced to \$5,000.

In response to Mr. Barnes' comment on the budget containing no itemized expenditures, Mr. Brown advised members of the Trust that the Executive Committee had recommended that the Trust approve each-line item as expended in a combined amount not to exceed \$5,000 during the reimbursement process.

Trust members agreed that staff should provide copies of the line-item expenditures. Regarding the issue of branding raised by Chairperson Jones, staff member Mr. Simmons distributed a flyer outlining items provided with the Trust's sponsorship package that included a booth provided by Soul on 7<sup>th</sup>, and a banner.

In response to Mr. Keuhne's inquiry regarding economic development justification, Mr. Brown stated that the project would promote businesses along the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was moved by Ms. Kovach that the Trust approve an allocation in the amount of \$5,000 from the Martin Luther King Economic Development Committee budget for sponsorship of the Soul on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Holiday Festival scheduled for November 26, 2004. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wick, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 10-1 (Trust member Mr. Donaldson voted no; Trust members Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Mr. Omar Malone, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Mr. Herbert Robinson, Ms. Cynthia Stafford, and Dr. Richard E. Williams were absent).

**F. Haitian Lawyers Association 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala – Memorandum of Approval**

Chairperson Jones read the foregoing proposed item into the record.

Dr. Smith initiated discussion by making a motion to approve an allocation in the amount of \$2,500 to purchase a Silver-Grand Contributor Sponsorship Package for the Haitian Lawyers Association 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala & Silent Auction – Caribbean Nights to be held on Saturday, January 29, 2005. This motion was seconded by Ms. Marie Hyppolite and upon being put to a vote, failed by a vote of 2-9 (Trust Members Dr. Smith and Ms. Hyppolite voted yes; Trust members Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Mr. Omar Malone, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Mr. Herbert Robinson, Ms. Cynthia Stafford, and Dr. Richard E. Williams were absent).

Discussion ensued among Trust members on the benefits of sponsorship of this event. The following points were discussed:

- MMAP Trust should have representation at event;
- Advertisements should appear in both Creole and English;
- Admission should be purchased only for the members who wished to attend;
- Contributions that did not provide a benefit were not recommended;
- Development of programs, seminars, and workshops in collaboration with organizations should be pursued in lieu of purchasing sponsorships;
- The Trust should consider sponsorship packages that provided the most benefit;
- Which budget would generate resources to purchase the sponsorship package?

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Kuehne that the Trust approve a one-time allocation in the amount of \$950: \$500 for a full-page advertisement in the program book and \$450 for the admission of up to five (5) Trust members to the Haitian Lawyers Association 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala & Silent Auction – Caribbean Nights on Saturday, January 29, 2005. This motion was seconded by Mr. Donaldson, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (Trust members Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Mr. Omar Malone, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Mr. Herbert Robinson, Ms. Cynthia Stafford, and Dr. Richard E. Williams were absent).

Mr. Kuehne asked that the President/CEO assemble a meeting with the president or a representative of the Haitian Lawyers Association to discuss the potential airing of a MMAP program on the KOZE legal television program that included some involvement by the MMAP Homeownership Assistance Program and the possibility of a program over the next year that assisted MMAP HAP in educating the community on available housing opportunities.

#### **G. Economic Development Committee Report - Poinciana Park- Discussion**

Mr. Barnes provided a brief overview of the foregoing proposed item and asked staff member Mr. Jacob Berry and Trust member Ms. Kovach to provide further detail on the item.

Mr. Berry stated that members of the Economic Development Committee met on November 4, 2004, and discussed economic development at the Poinciana Industrial Park area by the MMAP Trust. Mr. Berry pointed out that the committee had been advised that LISA Industries had been a MMAP initiative in that particular area and that progress would be ongoing in the development of more small businesses that would hopefully expand into larger ones.

Mr. Brown stated that staff had been working with Mr. Brian Finnie, Director of Office of Community and Economic Development and President of the Empowerment Zone Trust, who held the development rights over the Poinciana Industrial Park area.

## **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Trust members discussed the recent taser incident involving a 6-year-old boy by a Miami-Dade Police officer and noted that the Director of Miami-Dade County Police Department, Robert "Bobby" Parker, had requested MMAP Trust's assistance in the event of community reaction resulting from the incident.

Mr. Kuehne noted that the Commission Chairperson had requested a study be done regarding police involved incident and noted the opportunity for MMAP Trust's involvement through the Kingian Non-violence Center and through education of people in power rather than silencing the community.

Chairperson Jones agreed with Mr. Kuehne that it was a great opportunity for MMAP Trust's involvement. He mentioned that through conversations with representatives from the South Dade District station and other community organizations the opportunities to expand the Teen Police Academy program by infusing it into the existing law enforcement processes was evident.

Upon hearing Mr. Donaldson's recommendation that the Criminal Justice Sensitivity Action Committee (CJSAC) meet with the Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department to discuss measures taken regarding law enforcement officials using deadly force unnecessarily, Mr. Kuehne suggested asking the Commission Chairperson to acknowledge MMAP Trust CJSAC as an appropriate organization to assist with policy development to address the issue.

Ms. Page concurred that the opportunity for involvement was long overdue and that MMAP Trust needed to act soon.

2. Dr. Smith inquired about Assistant County Manager Tony Crapp, Sr.'s request for information and meeting to discuss the executive on loan of the President/CEO to the Carrie P. Meek Foundation referenced in the Trust meeting minutes of July 21, 2004 contained in today's (11/17) meeting package.

Chairperson Jones stated that the meeting had not been scheduled pending notice of a proposed dated by Mr. Hartfield. He stated that the Trust was in the process of requesting the County Manager's attendance at the next Trust meeting on December 15, 2004 or at a special meeting of the Trust in December.

3. Mr. Brown informed Trust members that a resolution transferring the approximately \$69,000 remaining balance from the Foundation account back into

the Trust account would be presented at the next Trust meeting scheduled for December 15, 2004.

4. Mr. Kuehne asked that staff be instructed to comply with the following:
  - Conduct a meeting with the Super Bowl 2007 Host Committee to ensure MMAP received exposure regarding MMAP's programs during the Super Bowl;
  - Housing Department representative(s) meet with Senator Mel Martinez to discuss the MMAP's housing program and bring back a report to the Trust at the next meeting scheduled for December 15, 2004; and
  - Place an item on the agenda of the next MMAP Trust meeting on December 15, 2004 regarding support in the County's Election Department for election-related services that affect constituent communities addressing questions about whether the MMAP Trust targeted communities were shortchanged during the early voting and Election Day voting processes in order to ensure MMAP Trust affected interest group was represented in terms of election services.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having concluded consideration of the day's agenda, the MMAP Trust meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr.