



# **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

May 16, 2007  
As Advertised

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Board of County Commissioners

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**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST  
MEETING OF MAY 16, 2007**

The Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMAP) convened a meeting at the Office of MMAP Trust Board Room, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine Room #106, on May 16, 2007 at 11:00 a.m., there being present: Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr. and Members: Mr. Arthur J. Barnes, Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, Ms. Beverly Kovach, Mr. Herbert Robinson (Members: Mr. Kuehne P. Benedict, Mr. Tony E. Crapp Jr., Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Dr. Marzell Smith were late; Members: Mr. Daniel A. Wick Jr., and Ms. Greicy Lovin were absent.)

**ROLL CALL:**

Staff members present were: Mr. Milton Vickers, Executive Director, Mr. John Dixon, MMAP Trust Deputy Director; Ms. Marlene Blanco, Ms. Melba Gasque, Ms. Joann Hicks; and Deputy Clerk Karen Leonard.

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES**

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (March 21, 2007)**

Mr. Kuehne requested that the language on page 11 of the March 21, 2007 Trust meeting minutes be changed to reflect that his statement was the MMAP Agency should not be making donations to organizations that were not part of the mission and goals of the Trust.

Hearing no objections or comments, it was moved by Mr. Barnes that the March 21, 2007 Trust meeting be approved as amended. This motion was seconded by Ms. Freemon, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

**Cynthia W. Curry, Senior Advisor to County Manager – Miami-Dade County**

**Presentation**

Mr. Vickers noted that an amendment was made to the Agenda Item because Ms. Cynthia W. Curry, Senior Advisor of the County Manager initially requested to appear before the Trust Board but she could not attend due to a conflict with a scheduled meeting. He noted that she had asked Mr. Don Allen, Director of the Miami-Dade County Employee Relations Department (ERD), and Mr. Mark Deutsch, Labor Relations (LR) Specialist, to represent her in her absence and address the Trust.

Following Chairperson Jones' request that the MMAP staff be excused from the meeting, Mr. Don Allen appeared before the Trust and provided a brief overview of a recent investigation process regarding allegations brought forth by employees of the MMAP Agency. The allegations were submitted to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and after the preliminary review it was determined to be personnel/administrative related, he noted. Mr. Allen also noted that the allegations were submitted to the County Manager's office and assigned to Ms. Cynthia Curry, who directed the ERD to conduct an investigation.

Mr. Allen noted that he had assigned the Labor Management Division to conduct an investigation of these allegations. During the several weeks of investigation, the LR and the ERD staff interviewed 13 employees of the MMAP Agency individually, which resulted in additional allegations of wrong doings. Mr. Allen spoke on the procedures taken during the interviews to gather more details. He said Mr. Vickers was asked to present copies of certain business records and documents pertaining to the MMAP

Agency to the investigators of the ERD. Mr. Allen expressed concern with frequent allegations/complaints made that pertained to the recording of employee's time and leave policies and proper accountability of working hours.

Mr. Allen noted another allegation of a more serious matter involved a conflict of interest between employees and family members of employees transacting private business with the MMAP Agency. He explained that this type of allegation was not in the purview for the ERD to investigate. Mr. Allen noted that this type of allegation could be a conflict of interest and in violation of the County Conflict Codes. He also noted that he had discussed these issues with the Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust Department (COE), Mr. Robert Meyers.

As of yesterday, Mr. Allen noted that Ms. Curry advised Mr. Deutsch, Chairperson Jones, Mr. Vickers and himself that she had reviewed the information with the Mayor and County Manager. He noted that Mayor Alvarez had given a directive that the allegations and information obtained by ERD be referred to the Public Corruption Unit (PCU) at the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD). He noted the potentially seriousness of the offense and that he assumed that the case was turned over to the PCU MDPD to investigate any criminal offenses.

Mr. Allen noted determinations needed to be made as to whether procedures and/or policies required some corrective action or some education of proper County policy and procedures versus payroll fraud. Consequently, the allegations had to be performed by other professional investigative agencies while looking at the details of these facts, he noted. Mr. Allen said Ms. Curry wanted the Trust members to understand the nature of the investigations/allegations and how the Mayor and County Manager wanted to proceed.

Mr. Allen reiterated the seriousness of the alleged matter noting that ERD representatives were not professional investigators and had reviewed the matter from a County personnel policy perspective. After receiving these allegations the ERD was required to report to the County Manager in order for the allegations to be properly referred to an investigatory agency that had experience, knowledge and authority to conduct an appropriate investigation, he noted.

Mr. Allen noted that representatives from the COE had previously performed similar investigations/complaints and would review these. He noted that Mr. Meyers had told him of his intentions to review the actions taken in the past and look at the additional information. Mr. Allen noted that Mr. Meyers said this process would help him to determine whether a re-investigation was needed or whether the conflict of interest code had been violated. Mr. Allen spoke of the possibility that the PCU MDPD would pursue the allegations that had the potential to be criminal offenses.

Following Dr. Smith's questions regarding the type of allegations, Mr. Allen clarified his use of the word allegations, noting that it would be unfair and premature to conclude a conflict of interest had been violated or that a criminal offense had occurred. He specified that the allegations made by the MMAP staff involved family members transacting private business with MMAP clients by way of business referrals. Mr. Allen noted that another allegation was a conflict of interest between a MMAP staff member regarding responsibilities towards the agency and the family member allegedly profiting from private transactions.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the allegations made and the County's policy and procedures.

Responding to Mr. Kuehne's question regarding whether the MMAP staff and administration were cooperating, Mr. Allen answered yes, and informed the Board that some staff had other claims/allegations regarding treatment as an employee since they had participated in this investigation. He noted his responsibility to remind all parties and the Board of the County Employee Protection Ordinance (EPO) and that it applied to this investigation.

In response to Mr. Barnes' inquiry regarding the anticipated length of time needed to complete the investigation, Mr. Allen stated that in terms of Employee Relations, the investigation was complete, but he was unaware of the timeframe other investigative agencies needed.

Following further discussion, Mr. Allen spoke of the County's EPO policy that empowered employees with the right to come forward and report to the County Manager and OIG any alleged wrongful acts within their department. He noted that the investigation would determine whether the complaint was placed by a disgruntled employee and whether the evidence was valid.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members and Mr. Allen regarding recommendations to the MMAP Agency management staff.

Chairperson Jones recommended Trust members review policy changes and discuss them with Mr. Allen to make recommendations for corrective action to the County Manager

Mr. Allen noted that if the issue had been solely related to personnel policies he would agree with the actions recommended by Mr. Jones; however, he was hesitant to proceed without discussion with the other investigating agencies to avoid potential interference with further investigations.

Chairperson Jones thanked Mr. Allen for providing the Trust members with the information on this item.

Following the discussion regarding the review of policy and procedures, Chairperson Jones recommended that the Trust members no longer discuss this matter and to allow the process to take place and then look at final conclusions in order to make recommendations.

Mr. Vickers noted, as Executive Director, that the existing alleged conflict of interest issues were addressed to him and the employees had several options on how to file a complaint and remain anonymous. Consequently, a hostile work environment would be difficult to create without knowing who the complainant was, he noted. Mr. Vickers noted that Mr. Deutsch attended the MMAP staff meeting on May 7, 2007 to ensure that this issue had not taken place and he addressed the management staff.

Mr. Vickers ensured the Trust that although the complaints were filed during his administration, the time of occurrence was mainly before his administration took place. He also noted that as the Executive Director of the MMAP Agency he had no conflict of interest.

Mr. Kuehne noted that with respect to County policies and procedures, the MMAP Trust Board needed to allow this process to take its course and accept and embrace the fact that employees were permitted to submit complaints to the appropriate agency. He noted that perhaps it was inappropriate to question the overall process, while it might be different from that used by private organizations; however, the Trust would encourage employees to feel comfortable in voicing legitimate complaints. Mr. Kuehne spoke in support of the process being used, which was fact intensive.

In terms of action, Mr. Kuehne noted it was appropriate for the Trust Board to ensure that the MMAP Agency had policies in effect for areas of conflict of interest and use of time on County salaries that come with fiduciary responsibilities. He further noted the administration staff should be directed to ensure that these policies were fully effective. He suggested that Trust members review the County policies.

Chairperson Jones recommended that the Executive Director provide Trust members with a copy of the County's Administrative Order regarding "Conflict of Interest" and time reporting policies for review.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the policies and procedures of the MMAP Agency.

Mr. Barnes asked that since an investigation was pending and the item was time sensitive, that a review of County policies and procedures be added as an Agenda Item on the annual Board Retreat.

Following further discussion, Chairperson Jones stated that the rationale for the briefing was due to the different phases of the allegations and to ensure Trust members were aware of the issue since it was public information. He also noted the briefing was held in spite of the involvement of an administrative

issue as a directive from the County Manager's office to inform the Trust of the investigations without revealing specific details or who brought the allegations forth.

Mr. Crapp spoke in opposition to being involved in administrative issues and he asked that Mr. Vickers not send him the administrative policies to be consistent with the duties of a Trust Board member.

Responding to Dr. Smith, who raised the issue that his position would be difficult not to discuss the item since it was public records, Chairperson Jones noted the discussion in the meeting would end, but acknowledged Dr. Smith's choice of position.

## **I. TRUST ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Committee Action Items**

- 1. Housing**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Criminal Justice**
- 4. Community and Economic Development**
- 5. Legislative**
- 6. Budget**

### **B. Additional Action Items**

#### **1. Board Retreat**

Mr. Vickers noted that staff was requesting the Trust to approve an allocation in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,500.00 for the purchase of refreshments and advertisement/promotional materials and the proposed agenda for the MMAP Trust Board Retreat. He noted the retreat would be held at the Miami-Dade Community College's (MDCC) Wolfson Campus, which provided free parking on July 27, 2007. Mr. Vickers noted the proposed agenda items for the MMAP Trust Board Retreat were included in today's (5/16) meeting packet for the Trust members to review and provide suggestions at a later date.

There being no further discussion regarding this matter, it was moved by Ms. Kovach to approve an allocation in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,500.00 to purchase refreshments and advertisement of the MMAP Trust Board Retreat to be held at the Miami-Dade Community College Wolfson Campus (MDCC) on July 27, 2007. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes, and upon being put to vote, passed by a vote of 9-0 (Trust members Ms. Greicy Lovin, Ms. Cynthia Stafford and Mr. Daniel Wick Jr. were absent).

Chairperson Jones reminded Trust members to submit any additional items requested to be placed on the agenda; however, to consider that several items needed to be discussed during this meeting.

Mr. Barnes asked that the health initiative be added to the MMAP Trust Board Retreat Agenda and he would make a presentation.

## **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. MMAP Program Marketing Plan**

Referring to the handout of the MMAP Program Marketing Plan, Dr. Smith asked that it be distributed on an earlier basis.

Chairperson Jones recommended that the Trust members review the information and framework of the MMAP Trust Proposed Marketing Plan and to discuss any modifications needed during the annual Board Retreat.

Concerning Mr. Crapp's question regarding expenditures to be approved, Mr. Vickers noted that the expenditures listed were projected and based on the programming in the plan.

There being no further discussion regarding this matter, it was moved by Mr. Crapp to approve the MMAP Program Marketing Plan and discuss any modifications at the Board Retreat. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

### **III. TRUST INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. Committee Information Items**

- 1. Housing**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Criminal Justice**
  - a. CJSAC Report**
- 4. Community and Economic Development**
- 5. Legislative**
  - a. Legislative Committee Report**

Mr. Vickers presented a brief overview of the Legislative Session held in Tallahassee and noted that it was active for South Florida, as well as for the MMAP Agency. He noted that the MMAP Agency was involved in three segments of Legislation. Mr. Vickers noted that the Super Enterprise Zone was one segment that would have been located in the Overtown area. Consequently, he noted that it would be comprised of a smaller boundary that would provide businesses within the Super Enterprise Zone incentives, in terms of tax abatements, but the businesses could declare additional tax abatements above the normal amount included in the Enterprise Zone proposal.

Mr. Vickers noted that the MMAP Agency was included in the Legislative proposal to provide technical assistance to the businesses that would be a part of the Enterprise Zone. He stated that the Senate Committee unanimously voted in favor of the Bill; however, it was not passed before being forwarded to the full Senate. An amendment was made to the Bill declaring Biscayne Landing as part of the Super Enterprise Zone which indicated what other parties had a primary interest, Mr. Vickers noted. He said he was not in a position to inform the Trust on whether this legislation would be re-introduced next year.

Mr. Vickers noted the second part of the Legislation that the MMAP Agency amended was the Occupational Surtax License (OSL) which provided 8% of the occupational license funds. He noted the Beacon Council received the majority of these funds and the Office of Film and Entertainment would receive approximately \$75,000. Mr. Vickers said the amendment to the Florida Statute basically addressed business expansion, retention and attraction, which included the same language as that used by the Beacon Council in their mission statement. He noted that this Legislation had the same outcome and did not pass, as well.

With the approval of the local Board of County Commissioners, the third legislative Bill CS/HB1353 pertaining to Teen Court, that would increase the mandatory court cost surcharge from \$3 to \$5, passed on the last day of the Legislative Session Mr. Vickers noted. He said that upon receipt of the Governor's approval, MMAP staff would prepare an amendment and forward it to the County Ward related to Teen Court to initiate the increase of fees. Mr. Vickers noted that the increase in fees would generate approximately \$600,000.00 additional funds for the Diversion Program.

Mr. Vickers noted that the MMAP Board package had various information items pertaining to the Super Enterprise Zone and other legislative items for review.

In response to Mr. Barnes' inquiry as to whether the MMAP Trust would pursue Legislation regarding healthcare initiatives, Chairperson Jones noted previous discussions concluded that if a Trust member volunteered to chair the committee on healthcare, this would initiate the Trust to move forward.

Mr. Barnes noted since healthcare was his primary career, he agreed to volunteer to develop the framework for the Healthcare Committee and prepare a presentation for the Board Retreat.

Chairperson Jones noted Trust members would discuss how to address the item at the annual Board Retreat in July, and possibly identify some State and Federal healthcare initiatives.

Mr. Vickers noted that prior to the Legislative Session, the MMAP staff responded to a Community Budget Issue Budget Request (CBIRS) submitted by Senator Larcenia Bullard's office regarding the priorities of the MMAP Agency including additional dollars for the MLK Academy. He noted the initial request was for \$114,000 that would be used to provide educational materials and student activities related to the annual Black History Tour.

In conclusion, Mr. Vickers noted that Senator Bullard was able to negotiate \$50,000, which was now in the legislative package. Mr. Vickers noted that the proposal was forwarded to the Governor's Office and the State Budget Office had requested information regarding the history of Teen Court, which indicated that the \$50,000 would be awarded to the MMAP Agency for the MLK Academy.

## **6. Budget**

### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. Teen Court Monthly Report**

#### **B. Housing Monthly Report**

#### **C. Fiscal Management Report**

#### **D. Public Information**

#### **E. Criminal Justice Report**

#### **F. MLK Academy Monthly Report**

#### **G. MLK Academy Marketing Plan Update**

#### **H. Coffee Talk Series Update**

#### **I. Teen Court Statistical Analysis (Jurisdictional Arrests)**

#### **J. MLK Academy School Location Sign**

Mr. Vickers noted in an effort to address the MLK Academy financial issue, the foregoing proposed Memorandum of Approval (MOA) requested Trust approval to fund the operation of the summer school session from the Teen Court Budget. He noted that the projection of registration for the summer school program was approximately 120 students. He mentioned discussions with the Miami-Dade School Board were ongoing regarding the enrollment of 50 additional students previously enrolled in a West Hialeah program into the MLK Academy.

Mr. Vickers recommended that a portion of the summer school program expenses be covered through the Teen Court operations and some additional programming would be established. He noted the projected cost would total approximately \$28,000.00 and would be appropriated towards the Director's salary and rent expenses for the summer session.

Mr. Vickers noted the possibility of revisiting this item at the Board Retreat in order to address other long-term recommendations.

Mr. Kuehne questioned the confidence of knowing whether funding the Director's salary from the Teen Court Budget was appropriate and should the Trust seek outside opinion to support this decision. He also inquired as to what the expected revenue was for the summer school program separate from this item at hand.

Mr. Jose Gonzalez, staff member, noted that the projected revenue for the MLK Academy's summer school program was approximately \$52,000 with a registration of 120 students. He noted that the total

cost of operations would be approximately \$75,000 including utility expenses, etc. He noted that additional revenue totaling approximately \$23,000 would be generated with 120 registered students; however, more students would provide additional revenue.

Mr. Kuehne questioned whether 120 registered students in the MLK Academy summer program and funding the program through the Teen Court Budget would generate an excess of revenue over the expenditures.

In response Mr. Gonzalez said yes, and noted that the funding source was structured to increase the revenue according to the number of registered students in the program.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the revenue needed to operate the MLK Academy summer session from the Teen Court Budget to assist in covering the existing deficit.

Following discussion, Mr. Kuehne concluded that the MOA projected a total cost for the MLK Academy to operate the summer school program and would cover the expenses and salary of the director, teachers, etc. and the rent for the summer session with 120 registered students was approximately \$75,000. Consequently, this operation would generate revenue totaling approximately \$50,000, he noted.

In response to Mr. Kuehne's question on generating more revenue with the enrollment of the additional 50 students, Mr. Vickers noted that the projection of additional students was for the new school year.

Mr. Kuehne noted that the Trust needed to ensure that the program and policy clearly stated the Teen Court activities were an integral part of the MLK Academy's school program. He spoke in favor of a vote that indicated funds from the Teen Court Budget would be used for payment of a deficit related to a similar program and the MLK Academy appeared to have the same focus. In terms of a policy point of view, Mr. Kuehne expressed concern that Trust members needed to determine whether the focus of the school blended well with the Teen Court.

Chairperson Jones noted that the MMAP staff had reviewed the Teen Court policy which provided funding for Diversion Programs. He also noted that the MLK Academy, in its entirety, could be considered a Diversion program because it provided an alternative school.

Chairperson Jones pointed out that the Teen Court program was recently awarded additional dollars through the Legislative Session. He recommended an item be added to the Board Retreat's agenda addressing additional Diversionary Programs that might be discontinued from other County agencies that the MMAP Trust could absorb. Chairperson Jones noted that the Executive Director would be meeting with the Administrative Judges' Department of Juvenile Justice's Secretary in order to embrace the Diversionary Programs and to move the MMAP Agency into the process of focusing on this type of program.

Mr. Kuehne's requested reassurance that Chairperson Jones had reviewed the Teen Court Programs and Policies and had determined that some aspect of the MLK Academy Program would fit well. Consequently, only then would it be appropriate to use a portion of the dollars from the Teen Court Budget to help fund the related aspect of the MLK Academy summer school program.

Chairperson Jones assured Mr. Kuehne that the MLK Academy's program and the Teen Court had similar programs. He noted that he had worked on the Diversionary Programs and the Teen Court through the Legislative Session. He spoke of the progress made with the increase of revenues and the County Attorney had been contacted and had discussed creating a written agreement. Chairperson Jones pointed out that the reason this item was presented was because it was time sensitive considering summer school would begin soon. He reminded the Trust members that the MLK had not been able to generate enough revenue to sustain itself and other options needed to be considered since several alternative schools were closing.

Chairperson Jones informed the Trust members of his meeting with the School Board today regarding legislation on the agenda pertaining to using the MLK Academy as a model with the non-violence educational training and the venture into the Miami-Dade County school system.

Chairperson Jones recommended changing the MLK Academy to a Diversionary School model rather than continuing as an alternative school model. He noted the decision to change the school into a Diversionary model would be in line to enter into the process statewide and to interface more with DJJ, as well as related to Teen Court dollars.

Additionally, Mr. Vickers noted that during the summer sessions at the MLK Academy, other services would be added such as: Anger Management, Psychological Services, and the Citizenship and Leadership that the MMAP Agency had contracted with the Meek Foundation to provide the Teen Court services. Mr. Vickers noted that the MLK Academy was a Diversion Program and the intent was to provide additional services that would include case management for the students after school for the full year.

Mr. Vickers spoke of the MMAP Agency's applications for the allocation of approximately \$50,000 from the Legislature for the MLK Academy and the approval of another grant proposal with the Hilfiger Foundation; but the grants were gap funding and inconsistent resources. He emphasized the importance of the school and the need to determine how to work towards financial stability. Mr. Vickers asked that further discussion on this matter be continued at the Board Retreat.

There being no further comments, it was moved by Ms. Kovach that the Trust approve the MOA requesting an allocation in the amount of \$28,767 from the Teen Court Budget to fund the salary of the director and the rent to operate the diversion training program in the summer school session of 2007 at the MLK Academy Leadership Academy. This motion was seconded by Ms. Freemon and upon being put to vote, passed by a vote of 9-0 (Members: Ms. Greicy Lovin, Ms. Cynthia Stafford and Mr. Daniel Wick were absent).

#### **Non-Agenda Items:**

##### **Psychological Services Contract**

Mr. Kuehne asked about the partnership Mr. Vickers previously mentioned regarding the MMAP Agency obtaining psychological services and the discussion on providing these services as an overall package, rather than voting individually as needed.

Mr. Vickers noted the partnership of psychological services with the MMAP was established and the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) was advertised. He noted the responses to the RFQ from three individual organizations: New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Bell Psychological Services, Inc. and The Assessment, Counseling & Development Center was voted on by the Trust.

Mr. Vickers also noted that an individual practicing psychologist would be placed on staff to provide coordinating services for the Teen Court and school program and would pre-test the students to develop anger management courses. The psychological services would be operated on a rotating basis among the organizations, unless a geographic challenge occurred, he noted. The intent was to implement as many additional services in the MLK Academy in order to provide the same benefits that the Teen Court program provided and was the reason for seeking to establish similar type programs, Mr. Vickers noted.

Chairperson Jones noted that the School Board was focused on developing several Career Academies and GED Drop-Out Programs, which were in the diversionary category. He spoke on the issue of crime statistics noting that majority criminal activities committed were by high school drop-outs. Consequently, the ratio of graduates was 40% and demographically the employment rate was 14 to 18%.

Chairperson Jones commended the Superintendent of the School Board for seeking to identify Career Academies to transition students from high school into careers. He noted that the Department of

Corrections and Police Academies had proposed to implement a Transportation Academy and another meeting was held to discuss the development of other types of academic courses.

Chairperson Jones suggested the next discussion on the radio talk show “Coffee Talk be interfaced with the school system and related to the destination of youth. He noted that the MMAP was focused on the appropriate areas and advocacy needed to continue to increase because of the lack of education within the community regarding government.

### **Extension of Solid Waste Agreement**

Mr. Kuehne asked that Mr. Vickers provide an update as discussed in the previous meeting on Black Point Marina and each project, including pending items and items to consider divesting; however, he was unaware of the timeframe.

Mr. Vickers noted the progress of the Solid Waste agreement with the Black Point Marina project and that the proposal was approved by the County Commission Committee. He spoke of the meeting arrangements to discuss issues pending review which included the draft RFP. In conclusion, Mr. Vickers noted that a grid of the MMAP staff assignments was reviewed weekly on Mondays and he would include it in the Trust Board package.

Mr. Kuehne expressed concern that proposals or arrangements with the Solid Waste agreement had been pending for a long period of time and expressed the need to adhere to County regulations.

Mr. Vickers noted there were no Solid Waste projects pending. He noted Black Point Marina was the only site from the original package that would not require a huge amount of litigation and was not on the County’s list of sites for hurricane preparedness.

In terms of other pending projects, Mr. Vickers mentioned the Northside Metrorail Station parcel and noted that research of the material was in progress and recommendations would be forthcoming.

Chairperson Jones acknowledged the accomplishment of the MLK Academy and commended Mr. Frank Tarrau, Director, MLK Academy, which had 100% student participation in the FCAT Examination. He noted that the ratio of the Miami-Dade County Schools that were in compliance through the Education Alternative Outreach Program (EAOP) was 59%.

Mr. Kuehne suggested that the Trust send Mr. Tarrau a certificate or letter of appreciation and acknowledge him at the Board Retreat.

Chairperson Jones concurred with Mr. Kuehne and recommended that a plaque of appreciation would be in order. He also noted that the Valedictorian graduate of the MLK Academy would be appearing before the School Board to make a presentation regarding the process of her accomplishments. Chairperson Jones also noted that she would be a guest along with other students on the Coffee Talk radio talk show regarding the Diversionary Programs and Criminal Activity within the North District of Dade County. He spoke on the importance of hearing from the youth and that the intent was for leadership and local government to take heed of the youth as they participated in making changes.

Dr. Smith noted that the MLK Academy had a final building inspection and scored an “A”. He spoke on behalf of the MLK Academy staff noting that the accomplishment was not easy due to the lack of staff and revenue. Dr. Smith mentioned his request to Mr. Vickers to look for a site that could be used for additional space. He noted that Mr. Vickers was going to contact the Department of General Service Administration (GSA) to determine the feasibility of acquiring additional space for the school.

In response to Mr. Vickers’ comment regarding the search for space and the possibility of using the Ebenezer Church facility, Dr. Smith said that location would be inappropriate.

Mr. Vickers noted that Ms. Denise Mincey-Mills contacted his office regarding a site located in the Opa Locka area, but upon a site visit being made, it was determined to be inadequate, and the present location with the building improvements appeared to be the most appropriate site.

Mr. Barnes asked that Dr. Smith and Mr. Vickers address this issue separate from the meeting.

Following the discussion, Mr. Kuehne commended Dr. Smith and staff members who worked with the MLK Academy in becoming a success story.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the agenda process of the MMAP Trust Board meetings and an appropriate timeline to discuss the informational and action items.

Mr. Barnes noted his appreciation of receiving the Agenda packet for the MMAP meeting in advance which gave him an opportunity to review the contents at his leisure which would reduce the time of discussion. Following further discussion, Mr. Barnes asked that a standard updated list on subjects that were discussed be added to the agenda items for future meetings.

Additionally, Mr. Kuehne noted the Trust had discussed an individual being designated to review the minutes, to identify pending items, and to determine which items needed follow-up status reports.

Mr. Vickers reiterated that the grid of staff assignments that was updated after every Trust meeting and included carryover items that were reviewed weekly until the next Board meeting should be included in the Agenda packet for the MMAP Trust meeting. He noted that the details included the Board action and status of the project regarding the time of completion would be informative for the Trust members.

Concerning Ms. Kovach question regarding feedback on the Florida International University (FIU) study, Mr. Vickers noted a draft of the telephone survey of 600 individuals who lived in the core of the Commission District was submitted to Chairperson Jones. He further noted that another portion of the disparity study was expected within the coming month from FIU.

Mr. Vickers asked that a presentation of the FIU study be added to the agenda of the Board Retreat. He also spoke of the crime data report that was provided by Mr. Robert Parker, Director, MDPD, the data received from the Teen Court referrals, and the concerns expressed from the community phone survey in the four Commission districts. Mr. Vickers noted that a draft of these analyses was submitted to the County Manager during a budget presentation to support the Trust's proposal for the Diversionary program. He noted that hard data had been used and hoped this information could be provided at the Board Retreat.

Concerning Mr. Kuehne's inquiry regarding the MMAP Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP) and breakdown of the loans per Commission District, Chairperson Jones noted the numbers were as anticipated and accurate. He also said the same information was provided at the Commissioners budget hearing.

Mr. Vickers emphasized that some of the loans were based on the availability of inventory which was a major issue for the Trust as well as for the Housing Finance Authority. He noted the difficult process in finding inventory of housing and explained that a joint effort to provide information on housing programs had been scheduled.

Additionally, Ms. Hicks stated that two events were scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> with intent to help developers showcase their inventory to new homebuyers who were pre-qualified for housing in the North and South Miami-Dade District. She noted bank representatives would be available for individuals who needed to pre-qualify for housing.

Chairperson Jones thanked Ms. Kovach for the participation of CommerceBank in the Coffee Talk Initiative. He noted that this type of participation helped people to see the collaboration established with the MMAP Agency in the private sector and a lot of feedback was received from the community.

Ms. Kovach noted for the record that the proper spelling of the bank that participated in the program was "CommerceBank" and not the separate name entitled "Commerce Bank."

Concerning Dr. Smith's question regarding an update on the nominating council and whether the Mayor had approved it, Mr. Vickers noted that the document had to be resent to the Mayor's office because of an error in the documentation.

Mr. Dixon noted that the background checks and preliminary information of the candidates for the nominating council had been completed; however, the Mayor's office notated that the nominated candidates would be on the MMAP Trust Board in error and was in the process of making the corrections.

Following Dr. Smith's comments regarding the contracting rules related to the building maintenance of the MLK Academy, Mr. Vickers noted that according to the terms of the lease agreement, the landlord was only responsible for the repair of certain items. Consequently, in order to cover the cost, the MMAP Agency staff would request the landlord to repair the other items and submit a bill to the MMAP, he noted. Mr. Vickers noted the reason for this process was because the maintenance staff at MLK Academy was not on the County's vendors list and the payment process was difficult, but the repairs needed to be completed as soon as possible.

In response to Mr. Barnes' inquiry as to whether this issue would be a conflict of interest or protocol, Mr. Vickers said no and noted that the landlord had his own staff to do repairs.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further comments or questions the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

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John T. Jones, Jr., Chairperson  
Metro Miami Action Plan Trust