



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

July 18, 2007

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Board of County Commissioners

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OFFICIAL MINUTES
METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST
MEETING OF JULY 18, 2007

The Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMA) convened a meeting at the Office of MMA Trust Board Room, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine Room #106, on July 18, 2007 at 12:00 Noon, there being present: Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr. and Members: Mr. Arthur J. Barnes, Mr. Tony E. Crapp, Jr., Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, Ms. Beverly Kovach, and Mr. Herbert Robinson, (Members: Dr. Marzell Smith, Ms. Veldrin Freeman, Mr. Benedict P. Kuehne , and Mr. Daniel A. Wick, Jr. were late; and Ms. Greicy Lovin was absent.)

ROLL CALL:

Staff members present were: Mr. Milton Vickers, Executive Director, Mr. John Dixon, MMA Trust Deputy Director; Mr. William Simmons, Ms. Marlene Blanco, Ms. Joann Hicks, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Mr. Eric Johnson, Mr. Joey Walker, and Mr. Anthony Williams; and Deputy Clerk Karen Leonard.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (May 16, 2007)

First Vice Chairperson Barnes called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m. and noted the Trust would consider the disclosure of conflicts of interest from Trust members and Trust Information Items pending the arrival of a quorum.

Mr. Vickers noted that the discussion items included the budget and the Mayor and County Manager's budget proposal referring to the agenda package. He also noted that Ms. Joann Hicks needed to be present to discuss the HAP Lottery Adjustment.

Following the arrival of a quorum, it was moved by Mr. Robinson that the May 16, 2007 MMA Trust minutes be approved. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wick, and upon being put to vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

I. Trust Action Items

A. Committee Action Items

1. Housing

Mr. Vickers noted in a previous Trust Board meeting the Trust approved a funding request in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the housing assistance for the Parade of Homes in Miami Gardens and Florida City. Consequently, the funds were not used. Therefore, the foregoing Memorandum of Approval was a request that the Trust would approve the expenditure in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,000.00 from the Documentary Surtax Budget to cover expenditures for hosting the District 3 Teachers Housing Fair to be held on Saturday, July 21, 2007.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the expenses associated with hosting this

event which included refreshments, and radio broadcasting.

Following this discussion, Ms. Hicks noted 700 teachers responded from Commission District 3. She further noted a remaining balance in the amount of \$10,000.00 in the Documentary Surtax budget that may be used for future events to be scheduled in the South Dade area.

It was moved by Mr. Robinson that the Trust approve an allocation amount not-to-exceed \$6,000.00 from the Documentary Surtax Budget to cover expenditures associated with the District 3 Teachers Housing Fair scheduled for Saturday, July 21, 2007 at the Booker T. Washington Senior High School. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wick, and upon being put to vote, passed 7-0. (Trust members: Ms. Freemon, Mr. Kuehne, Ms. Lovin, and Dr. Smith were absent.)

A. HAP Lottery Adjustment

Ms. Hicks noted the foregoing Memorandum of Approval (MOA) was a request for the MMAP Trust to approve and rescind the unused funds from MMAP Housing Assistance Program (HAP) Lottery Initiative that provided funds for participating winners and consolation awardees to purchase homes. She stated that letters were mailed urging participants to submit their sales contract documents and currently 11 participants had responded. Ms. Hicks also stated that the MMAP staff was requesting approval to recapture the remaining available funds for future use.

Concerning Mr. Barnes' question regarding the amount of money to be recaptured, Mr. Vickers noted the foregoing Memorandum of Approval was not an additional expenditure, but a request for approval to recapture the lottery monies totaling \$1,080,150.00 to be placed into the Documentary Surtax fund and considered as uncommitted.

Mr. Eric Johnson provided a brief statistic report and noted the funds allocated to the Lottery Initiative totaled \$2,900,000.00 and currently 19 families comprised of (7) lottery winners and (12) consolation winners purchased homes with the assistance of these allocated lottery funds totaling \$1,719,850.00.

Mr. Johnson provided a brief overview of the MMAP HAP Lottery Initiative Closing Tracking Sheet. He noted that a family with four children had been unsuccessful in purchasing a home and had a new sales contract pending. Mr. Johnson stated that the request was to also approve the maximum permissible funding amount of \$100,000.00 consolation money to be set aside for this family.

It was moved by Ms. Kovach that the Trust approve the MMAP Housing Assistance Program Lottery non-allocated monies totaling \$1,080,150.00 to be placed into the general Documentary Surtax funds pool for future use. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite, and upon being put to vote, passed 6-0. (Trust members: Ms. Freemon, Mr. Kuehne, Ms. Lovin, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Wick, Jr. were absent.)

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding timelines and the importance of following the MMAP ordinance that specified the MMAP's mission under the jurisdiction of Miami-Dade County.

Concerning Chairperson Jones question regarding the status of Zamora Estates, Mr. Johnson noted that the developer received a Certificate of Occupancy and five contracts were received with a down payment; however, the Housing Finance Authority Department was currently going through a re-evaluation of fiscal dollars.

Mr. Vickers noted that this item regarding the Zamora Estates needed to go before the County Commission.

Following discussion, Mr. Crapp stated that developers who had potential homebuyers needed to know in advance whether funding was available and for this reason the monies were encumbered.

Ms. Hicks noted the issue was that there was an average of 80 potential homebuyers per month and asked that the Trust implement a policy that would limit the number of people to be provided housing assistance on a long term basis.

Chairperson Jones noted the Trust had committed dollars to this project. He recommended before it was determined that the funding should be recaptured; the MMAP staff should investigate the reason for the delay and meet with all parties involved. Subsequently, staff should make a site visit for this project prior to moving forward and inform the parties involved of the MMAP Trust intentions.

Mr. Vickers noted that this discussion among the Trust was informative and applicable to other items on today's agenda. He further noted he would ensure that the developer was contacted and the foregoing item would come back before the Trust.

Chairperson Jones noted the MMAP Trust needed to ensure that these funds were used for the HAP to demonstrate that additional funding was needed.

Mr. Vickers noted the number of individuals who needed housing assistance could not be pre-determined and as a precaution there should be capital dollars available. Additionally, he noted a meeting would be scheduled with representatives for the Brownsville project to discuss the \$750,000.00 funds that were allocated for this project. Subsequently, Mr. Vickers noted that this item would be brought back before the Trust for discussion.

Chairperson Jones requested that Mr. Vickers provide the Trust with a follow-up report regarding the meeting with the Brownsville organization.

Concerning Mr. Robinson's question regarding the number of applicants, Ms. Hicks noted there were 250 applicants were pending housing assistance, but staff had requested the submittal of additional documents.

- 2. Education**
- 3. Criminal Justice**
- 4. Community and Economic Development**

5. **Legislative**
6. **Budget**

II. Trust Information Item

A. County Manager's and Mayor's Proposed Budget as it relates to MMAP

Mr. Vickers provided a brief overview of the County Manager's and Mayor's proposed budget pertaining to MMAP. He stated that the Senior Advisor to the County Manager Ms. Cynthia Curry had provided an outline of the proposal at the last Trust meeting and informed the Trust members the County Manager proposed that the MMAP Trust continue to exist solely in an advocacy role. He proceeded to provide an overview of the information provided by Ms. Curry that indicated that the MMAP functions would shift over to Housing Finance Authority (HFA), Office of Community Economic Development (OCED) and the Teen Court dollars, which totaled \$300,000.00, would be transferred into the Department of Juvenile Services' budget. Mr. Vickers pointed out the possibility that some of MMAP's programmatic dollars would no longer exist.

Mr. Vickers noted from his understanding of the County Manager's proposal the Trust would provide advice regarding the dedicated sources of funding. He also noted that an alternative budget had been prepared for the Trust to review and the MMAP Trust was submitting two budgets with recommendations as a result of the County Manager's proposal.

Mr. Vickers informed the Trust that the proposed MMAP budget had a 15% reduction, which was comprised of downsizing the existing staff.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the need to see a table of organization reflecting the reductions and the impact.

Mr. Crapp noted that the challenge would be based on whether the County Commission agreed with the County Manager's proposal. He emphasized the need for the Trust to develop a strategy because the majority of the budget would be lost and the MMAP staff would be reduced from 32 to 4 employees.

In response to Mr. Barnes' question regarding whether a request to increase the budget was included in the resolution, Mr. Vickers noted no and that the Federal Tax Exempt (FTE) dollars was in the amount of \$700,000, and there were instances that coverage was not met. He noted that an additional \$65,000.00 budget was requested for the MLK Academy.

Following discussion, Mr. Vickers stated that the programming expenses for the MLK Academy had not been an item on the County Manager's budget and the school had not been recognized by the County in the past as well as its success.

Mr. Vickers noted that this year's Request for Proposal (RFP) would reflect the impact from the reduction of alternative schools from 34 to a total of 7. He noted the students enrolled in the MLK Academy would now be retained and the MLK Academy needed 200 enrolled students,

but currently had 177 students. Mr. Vickers noted that the deficit related to the school would become difficult with the School Board's change of policy.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the School Board policy changes.

Chairperson Jones recommended that the Trust members spend time developing strategies regarding the identified services that were needed as a result of a disparity study. He noted the Trust worked for the County Commission which represented the people and the services that were needed. Chairperson Jones emphasized the importance of being precise in identifying the Trust's purpose and the need to continue providing services which could require more funding.

Concerning Mr. Barnes' comment regarding the directive given to the MMAP staff at the last Trust meeting to implement a plan of strategy. Mr. Vickers noted that the MMAP staff had begun to do so by requesting vendors and other organizations such as banking groups for support letters and would collect petitions to sustain MMAP. He noted that letters of support have been received and suggested that the Trust members participate with the media outlets throughout the community. Mr. Vickers noted that the Trust members were responsible for lobbying and the basic information of MMAP operations would be provided.

Mr. Vickers stated that the MMAP staff was in progress of planning the Community Planning Retreat for Saturday, July 28, 2007 and a draft would be provided the Trust members. Additionally, he stated that the Florida International University (FIU) Disparity Study had been reviewed and the concerns were identified and discussed with the FIU Director Dr. Dario Moreno. He also noted that Dr Moreno spoke in favor that the study supported the need for services provided by the MMAP Trust.

In response to Mr. Barnes' question regarding whether a copy of the disparity report would be available before the MMAP Retreat, Mr. Vickers stated a copy would be provided and discussions were in progress regarding how to release the information publicly. He noted that FIU would be holding a quarterly meeting the second week beginning in August and wanted to roll the study out and would provide reserved seating for the Trust members to attend. Mr. Vickers stated that the County Commission would be meeting on September 6, 2007 and the MMAP Trust needed support beyond grassroots from the community.

Chairperson Jones asked that the Trust members discuss the plans for the Community Planning Retreat. He also asked that each Trust member who chaired a Trust committee to be present because the community needed to be educated on the process, the budget and the policy. He requested that facilitators and tape recordings be placed in each workshop and the needs of the community be documented.

Following discussion, Chairperson Jones noted that the four (4) topics for discussion at the MMAP Retreat would include: Crime, Housing, Education and Economic Development.

Mr. Vickers noted that he would have a staff meeting regarding the Community Planning Retreat; however, Audit and Management Services (AMS) had requested information and the MMAP staff responded with written documents to the Office of Community Economic and

Development (OCED), and the Governmental Operations and Environment Committee (GOE). He noted the MMAP staff had worked during the weekend and were moving forward. Mr. Vickers stated that the Trust members needed to be prepared to respond and be interviewed on the radio talk shows which included: WBBM Chambers Show, and Chief Brown's Talk Show.

Mr. Crapp noted the need to create brochures that would contain general and statistical information pertaining to the MMAP Trust. Therefore, this information could be used to educate the general public about MMAP.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding a plan to gather the statistics.

Chairperson Jones noted that the Trust Board meeting would be scheduled for 2:00 p.m., on July 28th, during the Community Planning Retreat and a Deputy Clerk would be needed.

Mr. Kuehne noted the following three items that the Trust needed to address included: to formulate information that would be provided to the community; to address the budget issue; to identify issues resulting from the FIU Disparity Study with feedback from the community to determine how to address the budget concerns.

Mr. Kuehne noted that the Trust needed to object to the County Manager's proposal to position the MMAP Trust in a parenthetical category like other entities that were not similar. He stated the need for the MMAP Trust's existence was because of the existing fundamental programmatic issues. Mr. Kuehne asked the MMAP staff to provide the Trust members review documents based on facts of the MMAP Trust function.

Following discussion, Dr. Smith suggested the Trust review the MLK Academy's contributions, and enrollments to provide a list outlining the funding support for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He suggested using the MMAP budget to address the Federal Tax Exempt. Dr. Smith asked whether information was available regarding students who were no longer involved in criminal activities.

Additionally, Mr. Crapp noted that the Trust needed to discuss legislative strategies and the difference from past years because of the proposed budget cuts. He recommended that the Trust meet with the County Commission and that certain persons be identified to lobby on the MMAP Trust's behalf and to identify the problems that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Barnes emphasized the need to change the MMAP Trust image from an advocacy agency because its role involved more. He stressed that all disparity studies needed to be highlighted in order to develop an analysis to reflect the percentage of positive and/or negative changes.

Ms. Freemon questioned the deadline to provide a strategic plan to the County Commission and requested a draft copy of that plan. She emphasized the need for more public relations efforts and the development of a 501(c) 3 to minimize the need for County funds and for the MMAP Trust to advocate its own funding.

Concerning Mr. Crapp's question regarding feedback from the County Commission's Economic

Development and Human Services (EDHSC) meeting this morning, Mr. Vickers stated that Commissioners Audrey Edmonson, the Chair of the Committee and Barbara Jordan spoke in opposition of the County Manager's recommendations. Commissioner Jordan understood the MMAP Trust history and Commissioner Edmonson did not support the County Manager's budget proposal, and no action was taken by the Committee.

Chairperson Jones recommended that the Trust go before the County Commission before the time of recess which would be the second week in August.

In response to Mr. Robinson's question regarding the Trust Board image, Chairperson Jones recommended that the Trust's position support a 9% budget cut.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding an acceptable budget cut for the MMAP Trust.

Concerning Mr. Robinson's point that the MMAP Housing Assistance Program generated income for the County, Chairperson Jones noted that the County had targeted the MMAP's General Fund dollars.

Following discussion, Mr. Robinson asked the Trust members to determine a plan of action and gather the information regarding funding generated by the MMAP Trust for the county and come up with an alternate plan.

Mr. Crapp explained that the General Funds involved County salaries which paid the MMAP Trust employees and a proposal without a budget cut would be unrealistic.

Mr. Vickers noted that the budget acceptance from the County Commission EDHSC would take place in August and upon approval, it would be considered for approval by the County Commission at its Budget hearings.

Chairperson Jones noted that the Trust would schedule a meeting with the County Commission.

Mr. Vickers noted that the two budget proposals received were from the County Manager's Office and the AMS; and the County Commission would determine the items of importance. He suggested that a summary be created for quick reading and that the fact sheets used during the "Coffee Talk" radio talk show were available. Mr. Vickers noted that the MMAP staff had been working on this and in terms of a budget, a resolution would be needed.

Ms. Kovach questioned which MMAP programs would be continued and recommended that a list be created outlining this information for next year.

Mr. Wick concurred with Mr. Kuehne and noted that the Trust needed to identify options regarding staff. He also stated that the Trust needed to pursue legal advice.

Following discussion, Mr. Vickers stated that the County Manager was obligated to present a budget proposal which had to be approved by the County Commission that would also present a

millage rate. He noted the difference this year was that the County's Audit Management Services Department was operating as a congressional budgeting committee. Mr. Vickers stated that a reflection of a 9 to 15% budget cut was before the Trust and an additional 25% would be in workforce housing.

In response to Mr. Robinson's inquiry regarding funding for economic development, Mr. Vickers stated that the funding source was through the Documentary Surtax Budget which had not changed and the County Commission would determine the outcome.

Following discussion, Chairperson Jones asked that the Trust members make a decision and schedule an emergency meeting for July 25, 2007. He noted that the Trust needed to present a proposal that the County Commission would support.

Following Mr. Vickers' request for the MMAP staff to be dismissed from the meeting, Mr. Vickers explained to the Trust that the majority of the percentage cut would not be programmatic. He noted the County Manager clearly addressed the issue during the budget hearing. Mr. Vickers noted that big cuts would be taken by Juvenile Justice Department and although a \$50,000.00 cut from general funds would be taken, the school would still be in operation.

Concerning Mr. Barnes' question regarding who would internally operate and monitor the programs, Mr. Vickers noted that those staff persons would not be removed; however, the cuts would impact administration.

Following discussion, Mr. Vickers spoke on the areas in administration that would be impacted and noted that the administrative cost was less than 4%. He noted that the intent of the County Commission was always to invest dollars into the community and based on this discussion a budget cut needed to be presented.

Chairperson Jones recommended the Trust members meet with the County Commission to offer a solution to the proposed administrative changes to MMAP.

Concerning Mr. Kuehne's question regarding the position of Black Affairs Advisory Board on this issue and the feasibility of it being placed under the Trust's jurisdiction, Chairperson Jones noted that the County Manager's proposal was not supported and that Mr. Vickers had scheduled a meeting with them.

Mr. Vickers noted that he would follow-up with feedback to the Trust on results of the meeting to be schedule with the Black Affairs Advisory Board.

Chairperson Jones urged Trust members to be present at the next scheduled Trust meeting.

Hearing no further comments, it was moved by Ms. Kovach to approve that the MMAP staff be allowed to continue to prepare and participate as a part of the County's budget process. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wick, and upon being put to vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

Chairperson Jones noted the key date would be September 26, 2007 because the proposal would go before the County Commission.

Mr. Vickers noted that he had reviewed the AMS report and made some adjustments with the MMAP staff to ensure corrective action was made as well as the Employee Relations Department report; but no one had reviewed the responses submitted by the MMAP Trust.

Mr. Kuehne recommended to the MMAP staff to create a list of the MLK Academy student successors and those who have become employed. He also recommended that one of these students be a spokesperson at the workshop on July 28th.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the organization of the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or questions the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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