



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

October 17, 2007

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Madry Sullivan, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

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OFFICIAL MINUTES
METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST
MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 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 October 17, 2007 at 12:00 Noon, there being present: Chairperson John T. Jones,. and Members: Mr. Arthur J. Barnes, and Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, Mr. Herbert Robinson (Member: Mr. Tony E. Crapp, Jr. was late; Members: Ms. Beverly Kovach, Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Mr. Kuehne P. Benedict, Dr. Marzell Smith, 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; Mr. William Simmons, Ms. Joann Hicks, Mr. Joey Walker; and Deputy Clerk Karen Leonard.

Also present were Reverend Dr. R. Joaquin Willis, President of Collective Banking Group, and Mr. Bill Diggs, Executive Director of the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce

MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Jones noted the Florida LLC update would be added to the agenda as Agenda Item 4B and the following reports would be placed under the Committee Information Items: MLK Academy Teen Court Transition; MLK Academy and the School Sign report. Chairperson Jones noted the report on the County Attorney's opinion regarding the use of Occupational Surtax Dollars would be added as Agenda Item 5.A and Florida Financial report would be added as Agenda Item III.A.7.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES

MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA:

- I. Trust Action Items**
 - A. Committee Action Items**
 - 1. Housing**
 - A. Restructuring MMAP HAP Program**
 - 2. Education**
 - A. MLK Academy Advertising**
 - 3. Criminal Justice**
 - 4. Community and Economic Development**
 - A. Economic Development Strategic Plan (Draft)**

Chairperson Jones advised the Trust members the intent of this discussion was to provide the Economic Development Strategic plan that was requested by the County. He noted the prior

discussion was regarding an amendment to legislation that would add retention and expansion of businesses in order to render services and use those funds; however, the Trust requested an opinion from the County Attorney's office. Chairperson Jones noted three (3) items involved the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Memorial University Economic Development Mobile Unit and Entrepreneur Institute for Nonviolence, and the Collective Banking Group.

Mr. Bill Diggs, President/CEO, Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce (MDCC) appeared before the Trust to provide a brief overview of MDCC's partnership with MMAP that provided services to African American entrepreneurs within the Miami Dade community. Mr. Diggs explained that last year MDCC was awarded a \$75,000.00 grant for each quarter to develop programs and services to grow and maintain businesses in the community. He noted quarterly reports were submitted along with the financial records and audits that were updated thoroughly. Mr. Diggs noted the success of the MDCC program and the media had reported the growth in the services provided.

Mr. Diggs noted MMAP had entered into another year of partnership with MDCC because of its success; however, he expressed concern regarding the issue of not having access to those dollars held in a form of an escrow account in a County department. He noted the programs were run efficiently and he explained the process required the program to be reimbursed during operation.

Mr. Diggs advised the Trust that the MDCC had become dependent on MMAP's program and the growth was visible. He shared the success of client that had a net revenue growth of approximately \$4 million and the largest personnel placement service for truckers in the country. He contributed the success of the program from the grant and partnership with MMAP and other programs that assisted in writing the business plans for the clients. Mr. Diggs emphasized the importance to continue MMAP services in order for MDCC's program to maintain low membership fees.

In terms of the strategic plan, Mr. Crapp noted that he felt the collaborative efforts between MMAP and community organizations were in line with the County regulations and were needed. He suggested that each organization be examined to ensure the activities were consistent with the Florida State statutes. Mr. Crapp spoke in opposition of supporting a plan that did not include MMAP's current collaborative partners: MDCC, Collective Banking Group (CBG), and specifically Florida Memorial Entrepreneur Institute (FMEI) for Nonviolence which honored MMAP's former Chairperson, Dr. Marty Pinkston.

Mr. Crapp spoke in opposition of how the strategic plan was structured and written by the MMAP staff. He noted the plan did not address the needs of the community because insufficient funds could not achieve the needed goals in a county as large as Miami Dade. Mr. Crapp noted he disagreed to approve the plan and the monies should sit in escrow until the activities were sorted out and determined to be consistent with the State statute, or propose an amendment in order to continue those collaborative efforts. Mr. Crapp expressed concern regarding the CBG, MDCC, and FMEI for Nonviolence if MMAP moved forward without them being included in the plan.

Mr. Barnes noted the Trust had determined the strategic plan needed some modifications. He noted he was dismayed to see his recommendations were not included. Mr. Barnes concurred with Mr. Crapp noting he was not in favor of the drafted strategic plan. He noted alliances took time to build and the community needed the services of those organizations.

Mr. Vickers noted the MMAP staff considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee and that the rearranged prioritized goals would be presented to the Trust in that agenda as a Walk-In Item packet. He noted the MMAP staff would move forward; but needed directives from the Trust.

Mr. Barnes noted the MMAP strategic plan was supposed to be presented at the Trust's Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC) Committee meeting before being forwarded to the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners; however, the meeting was postponed and provided more time to make changes.

Mr. Vickers noted the changes to the strategic plan would be based on Mr. Crapp's request to have the County Attorney's office review individual contracts to determine its compliance with the State statute. He noted he wanted to implement this course of action before an adjustment was made to the plan.

Rev. R. Joaquin Willis, President of CBG appeared before the Trust and noted he had recently learned about the State legislation requirements. He clarified MMAP was to provide support to organizations like CBG regarding marketing, and to uphold the initiative of the community which was related to economic development.

Rev. Willis expressed concern regarding the politics in Miami Dade and the stumbling blocks that were put before the African American community. He spoke of the conditions of the economic development within the community to be tragic and had the highest incidents of HIV Aids and unemployment. Rev. Willis noted the banks in the community should be held accountable to reinvest in that community. He commended MMAP for its support and noted that CBG had progressed in the development of real property and could impact the political arena.

Rev. Willis noted another issue was whether MMAP had received the same level of treatment as the Beacon Council. He suggested a collaborative effort be established to address this matter. Rev. Willis noted he viewed CBG and MMAP as a partnership and listed MMAP as a strategic partner. He provided a copy of the "CBG Chronicle" newsletter. Rev. Willis noted that he hoped the legislation issue would not end MMAP's relationship. He requested the Executive Director to provide feedback following a review of the legislation; but he would not compromise the integrity of CBG and its mission. Rev. Willis noted the community needed MMAP to be an agent that would impose needed changes rather than a marketing owner.

Rev. Willis suggested if the City or the County did not value MMAP enough to provide more funding, MMAP needed to alter its incorporated status, change the Board structure and join CBG. He noted the banks were asked to be accountable with CBG's funds which he felt was the same request of MMAP. Rev. Willis noted the color line was related to money (green) rather than just a racial issue and he was holding the other 67 churches that participated in CBG

accountable to stand for economical justice.

Mr. Charles Cutler, a resident of Miami Dade and a member of the Veterans Employment Transition Services appeared before the Trust and concurred with Rev. Willis that Miami Dade County had a team of strong minds. He spoke in opposition of compromise because communities were suffering, and there was a need for professional support to raise the level of services and to address State legislation changes. Mr. Cutler expressed concern regarding the suffering of economic devastation and noted he felt it was time for the City/County leaders to support the needs of the communities.

Chairperson Jones concurred with the majority of comments, and noted that government needed to fulfill its responsibility. He noted the first course of action should be to move forward and support the programming that this Trust worked hard to put together which impacted MMAP's mission to reduce disparities.

Chairperson Jones recommended that a prioritized list of collaborative partnerships that had a positive impact in the community be included in the strategic plan as well as the request to change to legislation. He noted the Trust worked hard in an attempt to amend the legislation last year, but it was terminated in the process. Chairperson Jones noted political leadership needed to be addressed concerning the needs of the community and the necessary course of action. Subsequently, if the Trust moved forward regarding the strategic plan and it was not approved by the County, the funds would stay in escrow account and leadership would be responsible to make changes.

Rev. Willis requested to look at the proposed amendment for the State legislation that was created to determine whether it should be readdressed

Chairperson Jones concurred with Rev. Willis regarding the next course of action and noted support was provided by the political leadership in taking the amendment back through the process. He noted the community needed to be aware the Trust was comprised of citizen volunteers who worked hard support the community.

Rev. Willis noted that the CBG was involved with the 79th Street Corridor Initiative and he invited MMAP to be a collaborative partner. He noted he would like to keep the doors open to MMAP and provide a financial report with or without funding coming from MMAP. Rev. Willis noted that CBG currently had 67 churches involved and the majority was stationed in Miami Dade County. He noted that he could make recommendations based on the direction from the Trust and information that lined up with the needs of the community.

Chairperson Jones stated that MMAP would support those initiatives of this community. He noted that MMAP had always accomplished a lot with little resources and had moved more legislation than other community based organizations in the State of Florida. Chairperson Jones noted that teamwork and community support was needed in order to focus on the issues, determine a course of action and identify the entity that would carry it out.

Mr. Crapp reiterated he would only support a strategic plan that included four (4) goals and the

continued relationship with MMAP's collaborative partners as well as the proposed amendment to the State statute. Mr. Crapp noted MMAP had established a relationship with three (3) major community based organizations that included: CBG; Florida Memorial University and MDCC that needed to continue to grow in order to ensure focus on the mission statement.

Mr. Barnes agreed with Mr. Crapp and noted that due to limited funds, in his draft of the strategic plan he questioned how MMAP would accomplish 10 goals with \$350,000.

Mr. Barnes recommended that the first goal should be to amend Florida State legislation and request more funding.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding other similar entities like the Beacon Council and the County allocation of funds.

Chairperson Jones agreed with the recommendations and noted if other items not listed became a priority, the MMAP Trust would request additional funds from the Occupational License Taxes.

Mr. Diggs noted the importance to realize that the businesses involved with the MDCC had requested assistance from the County in an attempt to maintain operation; however, funds were not granted. He noted MDCC's business relationship with the Beacon Council and its challenges in obtaining support. Mr. Diggs stated he felt that MDCC's success was based on the funds raised by the organization. He noted the importance of continuing MDCC's partnership with MMAP in the strategic plan. He requested some feedback to ensure the funds would be granted because MDCC needed the \$75,000 to continue MDCC programs.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members and representatives of the MDCC and CBG regarding the status of their operations and the collaborative effort that was needed.

Following the discussion, Chairperson Jones noted he would ensure those organizations would receive the information regarding MMAP's strategic plan and priorities.

Mr. Barnes noted Florida Memorial University (FMU) had been funded by MMAP for several years and had inquired about MMAP's support. He noted the Trust needed to make a decision which could not be determined today due to the lack of a quorum.

Mr. Barnes recommended that MMAP continue to support FMU since it supported community businesses of any size with technical assistance and other related technological support

Chairperson Jones noted the MMAP staff should move forward with the strategic plan based on those priorities including the collaborative partners and present those items to the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners' Economic Development and Human Services Committee (EDHSC) and the Board of County Commissioners. He explained that the Board of County Commissioners would deem which recommendations would be appropriate with the State legislation.

Chairperson Jones noted the Trust requested a legal opinion regarding whether the collaborative

partners missions lined up with the County regulations. He noted that the response from the County Attorney did not address that the issue and he questioned whether the request by the MMAP staff was submitted in the right manner.

Chairperson Jones recommended that another opinion be requested from the County Attorney based on the collaborative partners and prioritized in line with the legislation.

Mr. Barnes noted for clarification that the three (3) collaborative partners were as follows: Collective Banking Group; Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce; Florida Memorial University; and the first goal would be to address the legislation.

Additionally, Chairperson Jones noted other items that were deemed to be a priority in the strategic plan should be submitted as a request for an increase of dedicated funds from the Occupational License Taxes.

Mr. Vickers noted the MMAP staff would create a draft of the strategic plan based on today's (10/17) discussion.

In response to Mr. Vickers' request to have the strategic plan draft reviewed, Chairperson Jones advised him to invite the Chairpersons of the EDHSC, the Trust's Legislative, and the Budget committees for the review. He also noted the Trust would arrange a special meeting to review the final copy of the strategic plan before it was forwarded to the Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC) Committee in November 2007.

Mr. Vickers noted the final draft of the strategic plan would be emailed to the Trust members next week in order to receive some feedback.

Chairperson Jones noted the Trust would not be able to take a vote on the action items due to a lack of quorum. He noted the Trust members needed to be diligent in communicating with their individual district Commissioners.

In response to Mr. Crapp's inquiry regarding the source of funding for the Martin Luther King (MLK) Academy advertising item, Mr. Vickers noted that funding came from General Revenue Funds, but the Trust deemed the item would be based on the discretion of the Executive Director because the cost was under \$2,500. He noted the MMAP staff would move forward to purchase on the item that required \$1,500.

Mr. Barnes requested the MMAP Executive Director to provide a status on the response to the County Manager's summary of the MMAP 2007 Performance Report that was due on October 19, 2007.

Chairperson Jones noted an email of the drafted response should be sent to the Trust members in order for the Executive Director to receive some feedback regarding any modifications. He noted that once the document was completed a special meeting would be held to finalize the response and to move forward.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the need to raise the level of knowledge for the MMAP staff regarding MMAP's history as well as individuals who inquire.

B. Florida Memorial Update

Mr. Robinson informed the Trust members that he met with a lobbyist in Washington, DC regarding Florida Memorial University (FMU) and the request for additional monies through the EDHSC and EDA (please spell-out acronym first usage.) He noted the lobbyist suggested that the MMAP staff send information regarding the foregoing item. Mr. Robinson noted he had prepared the information package and a letter for Chairperson Jones to sign to be mailed. He noted the lobbyist would work on behalf of FMU and MMAP since MMAP needed a lobbyist in Washington, DC.

Mr. Robinson advised the Trust he had discussed with United States Representative Kendrick Meeks' Chief of Staff, District 17, MMAP's intentions and he would be sending a package as well.

Chairperson Jones noted he had been communicating with a representative of the National Real Estate Board located in Washington, DC and a meeting would be scheduled and the SEDC Committee members would be invited in order identify other collaborative partners regarding housing.

Mr. Vickers advised the Trust members of the passing of Ms. Kovach's husband and the information would be forwarded to the members by email.

Chairperson Jones expressed his condolences regarding Ms. Kovach and noted her dedication to the MMAP as well as her employer, Commerce Bank that was one of the best corporate supporters of MMAP. He noted those were the type of collaborative partners MMAP needed to reduce the disparities in the communities.

In response to Mr. Barnes' question regarding the status of the letter addressed to Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan, Chairperson Jones noted he had received a response letter stating she could not attend this meeting; however, the MMAP staff needed to contact her Chief of Staff, Mr. Andre T. Ragin in order to schedule a meeting by November 7, 2007.

Chairperson Jones noted the Trust meeting for November had been rescheduled for November 14, 2007 due to the holiday. He advised the Trust members to prepare to attend a special meeting before the Trust's Executive Meeting that would be held on November 7, 2007 in order to be within the timeline and to present the foregoing item before the Board of County Commissioners.

In response to Mr. Barnes' inquiry regarding the letter to be sent to Dr. Phillip H. Mann concerning MMAP's support of FMU, Chairperson Jones noted the letter would advise Dr. Mann to contact FMU's Miami-Dade County District Commissioner to express concerns regarding the importance of moving forward on this initiative.

Mr. Vickers noted the MMAP staff would invite the FMU, CBG and MDCC representatives to

the meeting to be held on October 19, 2007 to develop the strategic plan. He noted the Florida MLK Institute of Nonviolence would also be advised to contact its District Commissioner.

In response to Mr. Crapp's question regarding the development of the strategic plan, Mr. Vickers noted he wanted to ensure that MMAP quoted the scope of services that was agreed on and to receive input from each collaborative partner. He noted in terms of a collaborative effort with those partners, he wanted to connect those items to MMAP's proposed strategic plan as well as their mission statements that reflected similar goals like MMAP.

Chairperson Jones noted MMAP should have the majority of that information except the results from the impact of the provided services and each partner should submit that information in a written document. He requested the Executive Director to start putting the strategic plan together before the scheduled meeting.

Mr. Vickers noted the MMAP staff would begin to draft the proposed strategic plan, but he wanted to meet with all parties involved as a collective effort.

Chairperson Jones advised the Trust that the month of January would conclude when the County would gather its legislative initiatives to be forwarded to Tallahassee. He noted the Trust needed to prepare to identify a meeting date with the Dade Delegation by February 2008 in order to convey some input regarding Legislative initiatives.

Discussion ensued between Chairperson Jones and Mr. Vickers regarding the office of the Dade Delegation and its removal from the County's budget.

Chairperson Jones advised the MMAP Executive Director to go through the Board of County Commissioners, or the Office of the Mayor regarding the Dade Delegation.

5. Legislative

6. Budget

B. Additional Action items

II. Executive Director's Action Items

III. Trust Information Items

A. Committee Information Items

1. Housing

2. Education

3. Criminal Justice

4. Community and Economic Development

5. Legislative

6. Budget

7. Florida Financial LLC.

ADDITIONAL WALK-IN ITEMS:

1. Criminal Justice Monthly Report
2. MLK Academy Monthly Report
3. MLK Academy School Location Sign
4. MLK Academy – Teen Court Transition
5. County Attorney Opinion Re: Use of Surtax funds

Chairperson Jones read the (memorandum dated June 9, 1994 from the Miami Dade County Attorney Robert Ginsburg to Nic Walker, Beacon Council on page 12 under the section of the Walk-In Items on the Agenda. He recommended that the Trust members take time to review the memorandum, and convey it to others. Subsequently, this was the reason a historical review was needed and new employees needed to be aware of MMAP's history.

6. Florida Financial, LLC Payment Difficulties
7. Economic Development Strategic Plan Draft with Proposed Changes

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Trust, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

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