



# **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

February 20, 2008  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Madry Sullivan, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

Karen Leonard, Commission Reporter  
(305) 375-1296



**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST**  
**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2008**

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 February 20, 2008 at 12:00 Noon, there being present Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr. and Members: Mr. Arthur J. Barnes, Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, Ms. Greicy Lovin, Mr. Herbert Robinson, and Dr. Marzell Smith (Ms. Veldrin Freemon were absent).

**ROLL CALL:**

Staff members present were: Mr. John Dixon, Interim MMAP Executive Director; Mr. William Simmons, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Ms. Marlene Blanco, Ms. Melba Gasque, Mr. Anthony Williams, Mr. Joey Walker, and Mr. Frank Tarrau; and Deputy Clerk Karen Leonard.

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES**

**Approval of Minutes (August 15, 2007)**

It was moved by Mr. Barnes to approve the August 15, 2007 MMAP Trust minutes. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hyppolite 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
    - 2. Education
      - A. Black History Tours**

Mr. Dixon noted Chairperson Jones had the invoice for the Black History Tours and in 2007 the amount was \$26,000.00; however, this year's cost would be \$29,900.00. He advised the increase of cost was related to the trip to Chicago, Illinois and travel expenses.

Dr. Smith expressed concern regarding the students' visit to Chicago-Museum of Science and Industry, which would take more time than allocated to thoroughly see. He noted that MMAP staff needed to plan ahead and implement fund raisers in order to provide plane transportation.

Dr. Smith noted for the record that he was not in support of this portion of the trip. He said he would support the tour if it included Bethune Cookman College, Daytona 500, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and other places in Alabama within the same vicinity. He suggested other options regarding places to visit like Nissan's manufacturing plant for automobiles in Mississippi, and New Orleans, etc.

Mr. Barnes concurred with Dr. Smith concerning the fact that the itinerary for Chicago would be

too much to cover in the short time of the student's visit; however, the experience would be good for them. He added that he supported the other options suggested by Dr. Smith. Mr. Barnes noted that Mercedes Benz would be included in the path of the Black History Tour and the MMAP staff should request sponsorship from those types of entities that would support students.

Additionally, Mr. Barnes questioned whether the Black History Tours was a County vendor.

Ms. Hyppolite also concurred regarding the students not taking the trip to Chicago, but she also noted that she was not in support of the New Orleans trip suggested by Dr. Smith. She noted the list of areas that would be visited should be enough events to cover the five day tour.

Mr. Robinson agreed with Dr. Smith and noted that a lot of civil rights historical events were in Montgomery, Alabama which was in the area and there was no significant point in going to Chicago.

Chairperson Jones noted the final tourist sites would be determined by the Trust members and the MMAP staff would make the adjustments to the schedule. He added that this project was time sensitive and the tour company needed enough time to make any adjustments.

Following the discussion, Mr. Dixon reviewed the amended list clarifying the visiting sites for the Black History Tours as follows: Bethune Cookman College, Daytona 500, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (A&M), NASA in Huntsville, Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama, and Mercedes Benz Factory.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding ways to increase the science education level for the MLK Academy students by acquiring science grants and the route that would be taken during the tour.

3. Criminal Justice
4. Community and Economic Development
5. Legislative
6. Budget

B. Additional Action Items

**1. Women & Reproductive Health Conference Sponsorship**

Chairperson Jones noted that the foregoing item had been approved by the Executive Committee for MMAP to provide booths representing the Housing and Teen Court Programs.

Mr. Barnes noted he could not attend the Executive Committee meeting; but, if a committee meeting were to be held to address health issues for the community, including cancer, as MMAP had advocated, then he was in support and felt that the Women & Reproductive Health Conference was important.

In response to Ms. Lovin's question regarding the cost of a booth, Mr. Dixon noted it would cost approximately \$2,000.00 and the event would be held at Florida International University (FIU)

Conference located at the Miami-Dade North Campus.

Dr. Smith noted his understanding was that the subject, health, would be combined with education. He expressed concern that the MMAP staff would follow the committee structure and would work with Mr. Barnes on the project.

It was moved by Ms. Lovin to approve the Memorandum of Approval (MOA) requesting to allocate \$1,500.00 for the cost of advertisement and a booth at the Women and Reproductive Health Conference that would be held on March 6-7, 2008. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hypollite, and upon being put to a vote, passed 4-0. (Member: Ms. Veldrin Freemon was absent.)

## **2. Community Advocate Consulting Agreement**

Mr. Barnes' questioned the number of hours required for the position of the Community Advocate Consultant and the type of program that would justify the request for the allocated amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for a period of six months.

Mr. Dixon noted the MMAP staff had identified a way to work with the City of Miami Gardens, and he had met with Mayor Gibson. He added that she expressed some new ideas based on her experience and the need for African Americans to take responsibility in the community.

Mr. Barnes expressed concern regarding the limited number of services that would be provided at the cost of \$10,000.00, which was not feasible to last for six months.

Dr. Smith expressed concern regarding MMAP's other financial obligations, which he felt should take priority over hiring a community outreach consultant.

Chairperson Jones noted he felt that MMAP needed to interface with the targeted clients and the community was looking for MMAP to step up and collaboratively make some things happen with other governmental entities. He added that this process should be a proactive approach of outreach before September. Chairperson Jones noted that MMAP needed to be able to go before the County Commission and present the wants of the community.

In response to Dr. Smith's question regarding available money from the General Fund Revenue, Mr. Gonzalez noted the MMAP staff thought that since the Consultant would be in the field, some of those resources could be used for that position. He noted that the Dade County Finance Department had been contacted and the MMAP staff was advised by the Budget Analyst that the Director had to verify whether or not those funds could be used for this purpose.

Dr. Smith reiterated his concern that the expenses of the MLK Academy needed to be addressed.

Mr. Dixon noted that a certified letter was mailed to Reverend Taylor who was the landlord of the facility that housed MLK Academy; however, the confirmation of receipt had not come back.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the needs of the school.

In response to Ms. Lovin's question regarding why MMAP's marketing person could not perform the job of the Community Advocate, Chairperson Jones explained that the marketing personnel was not employed long enough to understand the MMAP process. He added that MMAP should use the money from the General Fund budget and monies left from the former Executive Director's position rather than return the funds.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the responsibilities of the Community Advocate and whether the temporary position was feasible without the need for those responsibilities to be carried on after the position had expired.

Ms. Lovin suggested that Mr. Dixon have an assistant carry out those responsibilities because personnel money was available to work out a budget within a system and she would not be in support of hiring a consultant.

Following further discussion, Ms. Lovin noted that in terms of budgetary purposes, the intent of this position should be clearly stated.

Chairperson Jones noted that MMAP would be evaluated and the purpose of this item was to complete certain projects.

In response to Ms. Lovin's question regarding the other resources if the money did not come from the General Funds Revenue budget, Chairperson Jones recommended that since the issues that would be addressed were related to housing and education and were across the board, the monies could be allocated from those same budgets. He also added that Mr. Gonzalez should follow-up with the County's Finance Department regarding the remaining resources from the former Executive Director's position.

Chairperson Jones relinquished the chair.

It was moved by Mr. John T. Jones to approve the February 4, 2008 MOA as amended for MMAP to enter into an agreement with a Community Outreach Consultant for an allocation in the amount not-to-exceed \$10,000.00 from available funds in the Housing, Teen Court account and resources from the Executive Director's position before allocating monies from the General Fund budget for a period not-to-exceed six months. This motion was seconded by Ms. Greicy Lovin and upon being put to a vote, passed 5-1. (Dr. Smith voted in opposition to the item and Ms. Veldrin Freeman was absent.)

Chairperson Jones retained the chair.

## II. Trust Information Items

### A. Committee Information Items

#### 1. Housing

#### A. **EDHS Subcommittee Meeting Update**

Ms. Hicks referred to the report included in the Agenda Package, noting that the MMAP staff attended the Economic Development and Human Services (EDHS) Committee meeting on

February 13, 2008, which was chaired by Commissioner Audrey Edmonson. She added that the County Manager presented a proposal regarding dividing the allocation of the Documentary Stamp Surtax funds and State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) that totaled \$49,554 million. Subsequently, she noted, 50% of that amount, which equated to \$24,777 million, would go towards housing. This included both new construction and rehabilitation, she explained. Ms. Hicks stated that the remaining allocated funding would go towards assisting homeowners.

Ms. Hicks noted both Commissioners Jordan's and Moss' primary concern was the County Manager's proposal to earmark the homeownership budget that was solely for County-invested development projects similar to Infill Housing Program projects. Subsequently, she noted, home buyers should have a choice of locations and what types of homes to purchase in Miami-Dade County. She added that Director Jose Cintron of the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) expressed interest in the meeting with regard to utilizing the County inventory of homes that were idle due to the lack of funds to assist homebuyers. Ms. Hicks noted the meeting ended with the decision to come back to the Board of County Commissioners with an inventory list of housing projects that were ready to close and the amount of money required at the next meeting in March 2008.

2. Education
  - A. **Overpayment to Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS ) Update**
  - B. **Community Outreach to MDCPS-Recruitment (MLK Academy) Update**
  - C. **Newspaper Ad for MLK Teachers**
  - D. **Supplemental Budget FY 06-07**
  - E. **MLK Academy Alumni Recognition –MDC-BCC**
3. Criminal justice
  - A. **Teen Court Action Plan Update**
  - B. **Teen Court Procedures Review**
4. Community and Economic Development
  - A. **Occupational License Funding Status**

In response to Dr. Smith's inquiry regarding the arrangement for a meeting to receive clarification on the ordinance, Chairperson Jones noted that the Economic Development and Human (EDHS) Committee had not scheduled the meeting. He referred to Agenda Item II.A.4A in the agenda package regarding the Occupational License Funding Status memorandum.

Mr. Dixon noted he was advised by Ms. Cynthia Curry to meet with the Office of Community & Economic Development (OCED), which had the revenue in escrow and the meeting would be on February 21, 2008.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the distribution process of MMAP funds that was held in escrow.

5. Legislative
6. Budget

**A. Organization Summary Budget Actual FY 06-07**

## **B. Organization Summary Budget Actual FY 07-08**

### **B. Additional Information Items**

#### **1. Community Advocacy Action Plan Update**

### **III. 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

Mr. Tarrau provided a brief report on the MLK Academy and noted after January 2008 a recruitment drive had been implemented for the Highway to Success program. He added that staff had a meeting with Dr. Gallon and the result of the recruitment drive was 85 new enrolled students with a current enrollment of 125 students. Mr. Tarrau referred to the memorandum from the Interim Director and noted the process of contacting the parents who expressed interest in their youth attending the MLK Academy.

In response to Chairperson Jones' question regarding the plan to discuss identifying a subsidy to supplement the need for more student enrollments with Dr. Gallon, Mr. Dixon noted a meeting took place on February 15, 2008. Subsequently, a commitment letter was drafted at the meeting thanking the Highway to Success program for their support, he added. Mr. Dixon noted that progress was made, but the MMAP's goal included an enrollment of 200 students. Mr. Dixon added that a letter was sent requesting continual recruitment of students for MLK Academy and to receive payment for the additional enrollments. A copy of the letter was mailed to Representative Wilbert "Tee" Holloway of the Miami Dade School Board District 1, he noted.

Mr. Tarrau advised the Trust members that the recruitment drive started in January 2008 and the FTE count started in the first week of February. Subsequently, because monies would not be received for those students who enrolled after that time, he added, other options were needed.

Mr. Dixon added that Dr. Smith asked for consent to continue registering students without enrollment until some indication from Dr. Gallon's office was made concerning the enrollment process. He noted the MMAP staff would continue to work with the list provided by Highway to Success by giving presentations. Mr. Dixon stated the representatives of Highway to Success were advised that the MMAP staff was willing to meet with parents after work hours and make visits to the parents' work places; but, presently had not received any requests.

Mr. Tarrau referred to attachment B listed in the memorandum, noting as of February 8, 2008, the Outreach Program reported the FTE total count was 117 students and the MLK Academy would be paid for those students.

MLK Academy participated annually in the MLK Richmond and Perrine District Parade with the support of the MMAP Trust, Mr. Tarrau noted. He added the students that were chosen during the pageant held at the Miami Dade Community College North Campus also participated.

Mr. Tarrau noted that MLK Academy had prepared for the FCAT and as a result of the interim assessment test, 98% of enrolled students participated.

Mr. Barnes emphasized the importance of identifying the quality of the school in terms of the passing score ratio and requested the MMAP staff to determine what an estimated passing score for the school would be this year. He noted that the information did not have to be publicized, but should be available.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding how alternative schools were rated and the tools useful for marketing the school.

Mr. Anthony Williams noted that the FCAT scores from an alternative school could not be used as a marketing tool because it would not be comparable to the normal schools.

Mr. Barnes noted the importance of all students passing the FCAT exam despite the different system between an alternative school and the school system and the fact that MLK Academy had students that passed the FCAT score would inform the community of MLK Academy's accomplishments.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the continuation of publicly awarding those students that attained passing scores as well as those who achieved academic honors.

Chairperson Jones recommended that the MMAP staff identify the MLK Academy students' success stories and build on them as a marketing tool.

In response to Ms. Hyppolite's question regarding the development of a system to monitor the students who graduated and attended college, Chairperson Jones concurred that a system should be in place because many professionals were once students at MLK Academy. He added that this information should be used as a marketing tool.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the success of former MLK Academy students and the need to have an alumnus.

Mr. Barnes noted the report of the students' grades should have scores earned by student prior to their attending MLK Academy.

Mr. Tarraus advised that MLK Academy was the only middle school outreach program and that in terms of the FCAT, it was difficult tracking and comparing the data provided by the School Board because the information differed from other schools. He noted the need for this report and the possible need to create two reports.

Chairperson Jones recommended that the MMAP staff submit a request for additional grants outside of FTE to support MLK Academy. He noted the feasibility of receiving those grants was good because MLK Academy was a sole provider of those services. Chairperson Jones also noted there were democracy, science, and math grants, etc. available.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the process of applying for grants.

Mr. Barnes recommended that MLK Academy staff prepare to address the issues that came up during the influx of 40 students by providing an orientation program which included the parents.

Mr. Walker advised that Representative "Tee" Holloway had approved the students from MLK Academy coming before the School Board members in March 2008.

Mr. Dixon added that Commissioner Edmonson had sponsored the trip for those students.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding the need to communicate with the media and implement an outreach program to the community.

Chairperson Jones requested that the MMAP staff notify the Trust members as to when the MLK Academy students would be making a presentation to the School Board.

#### **Add-On Items**

Ms Hicks advised the Trust members regarding a Bill, that was provided during a meeting she attended, sponsored by Senator Margoles. The Bill was to abrogate the repeal of the Surtax Dollar Fund in 2011, she noted. Ms. Hicks added that the County had been working with Senator Margoles, along with the Greater Miami Realtors, a partner of MMAP and would lead this charge because at that time, the ordinance would sunset. Ms. Hicks added that MMAP would have that as an item in the Housing Action Committee and Ms. Daniele Blake, who worked with Senator Margoles, would provide an update.

Chairperson Jones noted that the Bill should be added to the agenda item on the MMAP Legislative Committee as well.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

---

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