



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT)**

Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 Northwest 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Miami, Florida 33128

April 21, 2015  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

Zorana Gainer, Commission Reporter  
(305) 375-3570



**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES  
MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST  
BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2015**

The Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) convened its meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Stephen P. Clark building, 111 Northwest 1<sup>st</sup> Street, on April 21, 2015, at 3:30 p.m., there being present: Chairman Marc Douthit, Vice Chairman Ron Butler, Mr. Cornell Crews Jr., Mr. Sheldon Edwards, Ms. LaTonda James, Ms. Stephanye Johnson, Ms. Barbara Montero and Reverend Walter T. Richardson (Ms. Cheryl Mizell and Mr. George Ray III were late; Messrs. Carlos E. Morales and Charles F. Sims; and Ms. H. Leigh Toney were absent).

The following staff members were present: Executive Director John Dixon, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Ms. Traci Pollock, Mr. William Simmons, Mr. Eric Johnson; and Deputy Clerk Zorana Gainer.

Chairman Marc Douthit called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Douthit opened the floor for public comments on any of today's agenda items. Seeing no one come forward the floor was closed.

Ms. Ernisha Randolph, President, Young Professionals Network of Miami, requested that the Trust revisit the partnership where they sponsored 10 young professional's membership at the Lab Miami. She spoke of the successes of the program and asked that MDEAT support the program once again. Ms. Randolph also proposed a program to assist students that were experiencing difficulties after graduating, entering into their careers or internships. She noted they were still working on the type of program that would make the transition smoother for the graduates.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Mr. Butler that today's agenda be approved. This motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 8-0 (Ms. Mizell, Mr. Sims, Mr. Ray, Mr. Morales and Ms.Toney were absent).

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Board Action Item**

**II. Information Item**

**III. Advocacy Items – Committee Updates**

#### **IV. Chairperson's Report**

Chairman Douthit noted this meeting marked the expiration of his second term as Chairperson of the Trust. He expressed his appreciation to each member and noted that it had been a pleasure serving on the Trust.

Mr. Dixon also expressed appreciation to each Trust member. He noted he was looking forward to working with the remaining members, as well as the new members. He pointed out that each Trust member had made a real impact addressing the needs of the community. Mr. Dixon apprised Trust members that a meet and greet/farewell reception will be held at Soyka in June for all members.

#### **V. Executive Director's Report**

##### **A. North Central Dade Business Expo; Miami-Dade Police and Youth Dialogue hosted by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Suarez's office.**

Mr. Dixon noted that MDEAT had partnered with the North Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Small Business Development (SBD) to take a look at the types of businesses that would like to participate in the North Central Dade Business Expo. He noted that Chairman Monestime, Commissioners Jordan and Edmonson were supporters of the Expo.

Mr. Dixon noted that Commissioner Suarez had contacted him regarding Teen Court and the Youth Intern Partnership Initiative program in an effort to create a youth dialogue forum. He noted that he would keep everyone updated regarding the next event.

#### **VI. Departmental Monthly Reports**

##### **A. Fiscal**

##### **B. Homeownership**

##### **C. Teen Court/Youth Services**

##### **D. Marketing and Public Information**

#### **VII. Special Election for Board Officers**

Chairman Douthit disseminated ballots and congratulated the uncontested nominees First Vice Chairperson and Second Vice Chairperson. He noted there were two nominees on the ballot for the Chairpersonship - , Mr. Cornell Crews Jr. and Mr. George Ray III; and allowed each candidate to make a three (3) minutes presentation on their position as candidates and what they intended to bring to the Trust as its Chairperson.

Mr. Crews noted that he would like to see MDEAT become more active within the community; advocate more for the issues facing the community and be more aggressive in solving these issues. He pointed out that the transportation issue in South Miami-Dade directly affected the community and that he would like MDEAT to be more involved in the matter, as well as economic development and job creation. Mr.

Crews noted that he would also like to improve on the amount of assistance to small businesses through with technical, training, and loan/grant assistance.

Mr. Ray noted that he had a lot of passion for MDEAT and felt this passion was misconstrued at times. He pointed out that he wanted to focus increased fund raising efforts; solicitation of grants, rebrand of the agency to create a pipeline for young professionals; and creation of a proprietary fund to supplement the shortfalls. Mr. Ray noted that as a young professional resident coming back to this community, he found it difficult to be recognized as a professional; and had to create his own opportunities. He noted that he had the experience as a senior Trust member and had studied this field as an intern. Mr. Ray said he felt the Trust needed to be reformed in a way that allowed an endowment trust fund for programs such as Teen Court. He stated he believed there were great opportunities, and if he was elected as Chairperson, he would ensure recruit creative and innovative minds to serve on the board as one way to move forward and make the organization second to none when it came to youth programs and entrepreneurship. Mr. Ray stated he was dedicated and that he looked forward to working with the Trust.

Following the collection of the ballots, Chairman Douthit read the results of the election as follows:

Chairperson – Cornell Crews  
First Vice Chairperson – Sheldon Edwards  
Second Vice Chairperson – LaTonda James

Chairman Douthit congratulated the newly elected Board officers.

**VIII. Next meeting:**

There being no objection, the next meeting of the MDEAT was set for May 20, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. in the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 Northwest 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33128

**Adjournment**

Hearing no further business to come before the Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



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Chairman Marc Douthit  
Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust



**Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust**  
**April 21, 2015**

Prepared by: Jill Thornton

**EXHIBITS LIST**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ITEM #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	04/21/2015		MDEAT April 21, 2015 Meeting Agenda Package
2	04/21/2015	V.A.	Brochures advertising MDEAT North Central Dade Business Expo – Thursday, May 14, 2015 6-9 P.M.
3	04/21/2015	V.A.	Document entitled “Agency partners with the Commission Suarez’s Office to connect teens and police
4	04/21/2015	VI. C.	Newsletter entitled “Miami-Dade County Teen Court News” – Spring 2015
5	04/21/2015	VII.	2015 Voting Ballots (tallied) of Special Election for Board Officers
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# MIDEAT

Miami-Dade Economic  
Advocacy Trust



*Working Together for Economic Change*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April 21, 2015

Agenda



## MEETING NOTICE

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### MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST

### TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 21, 2015

**TIME:** 3:30PM

**LOCATION:** Stephen P. Clark Center  
Commissioners Conference Room, Third Floor  
111 NW 1 Street | Miami, FL 33128

***The MDEAT Board Meetings are governed in accordance with  
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners Rules of Procedures.***

#### PARKING VALIDATION LOCATIONS

Cultural Arts Center Garage | 50 NW 2 Avenue | Miami, FL 33130  
*Before exiting the garage, please remember to get your ticket validated at the information window on the first floor.*

Hickman Garage (Garage 5) | 270 NW 2 ST | Miami, FL 33130

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**MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST**

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2015 | 3:30 PM**

**STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER | 111 NW 1 STREET | MIAMI, FL 33128  
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR**

**Roll Call**

- **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
- **QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES**
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
  
- I. **Board Action Item - None**
  
- II. **Information Item - None**
  
- III. **Advocacy Items – Committee Updates**
  
- IV. **Chairperson’s Report**
  
- V. **Executive Director’s Report**
  - A. North Central Dade Business Expo; Miami-Dade Police and Youth Dialogue hosted by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Suarez’s Office
  
- VI. **Departmental Monthly Reports**

A. Fiscal	05
B. Homeownership	12
C. Teen Court/Youth Services	16
D. Marketing and Public Information	23
  
- VII. **Special Election for Board Officers** 28
  
- VIII. **Next Meeting:**

May 20, 2015 | 3:30PM | Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW 1 ST, Miami, FL 33128

**Adjournment**

# **DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORT**

## **VI. A**

### **Fiscal Report**

# MDEAT

Miami-Dade Economic  
Advocacy Trust 

*Working Together for Economic Change*

## FISCAL REPORT

**FISCAL YEAR 2014/15**  
As of March 31, 2015

## MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST

## ADMINISTRATION (G.F.)

## FISCAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FY 14/15

As of March 31, 2015

Subobject	Description	Budget	Actual	Balance
	GENERAL FUND	258,000		258,000
	INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS	490,000		490,000
	REVENUE TOTAL	748,000		748,000
100	SALARIES	466,000	241,209	224,797
1010	FRINGES	171,000	101,217	69,783
21110	MANAGEMENT SERVICES		1,354	-1,354
23210	GENERAL LIABILITY	8,100	5,123	-29
24130	MAINT & REPAIR OFF MACHINES		121	-121
24571	P.C. MAINT	4,000	807	3,193
25330	COPY MACHINE RENTAL	6,000	4,407	1,593
26028	GSA SERVICE TICKET		1,087	-1,087
26050	GSA PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	13,000	157	12,843
26062	FM LT EQL MILEAGE		201	-201
26077	FM-POCI VEHICLE HOURS		145	-145
26110	DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	2,200	14,260	-12,060
26513	CLERK-RECORDS STORAGE		35	-35
30030	TELEPHONE-REGULAR	8,800	4,435	1,065
30031	TELEPHONE-LONG DISTANCE	400	137	263
30035	CELLULAR PHONE SERVICES	900	682	218
30038	OTHER COMMUNICATIONS		792	-792
31110	PUBLICATIONS	300		300
31230	TRAVEL EXPENSE-U.S.	2,000		2,000
31235	TRAVEL EXPENSE-PCA	1,000		1,000
31330	AUTO EXPENSE-REIMBURSEMENTS		55	-55
31330	PARKING REIMBURSEMENTS	700	340	340
31402	NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING	17,000	5,043	11,957
31408	RADIO ADVERTISING	14,000	2,095	11,905
31420	SPONSORSHIPS/MARKETING	17,000	1,355	15,645
31510	OUTSIDE PRINTING	2,000		2,000
31520	GRAPHIC SERVICES	1,500		1,500
31511	POSTAGE-REGULAR MAIL	200		200
31910	PETTY CASH EXPENDITURES	500		500
32010	INSERVICE TRAINING	500		500
33090	OTHER GENERAL OPERATING		25	-25
43231	COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT		60	-60
47030	OFFICE SUPPLIES/OUTSIDE VENDORS	900	394	106
47031	GSA CENTRAL SERVICES	4,000	938	3,002

**MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST**

**ADMINISTRATION (G.F.)**

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FY 14/15**

As of March 31, 2015

<u>Subobject Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Balance</u>
49910 CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS	500		500
60620 GRANTS TO OTHERS	10,000		10,000
95023 COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	2,200		2,200
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	<u>740,000</u>	<u>386,518</u>	<u>361,452</u>

**MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (G.F.)**

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FY 14/15**

As of March 31, 2014

<u>Subject Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Balance</u>
GENERAL FUND	251,000	-	251,000
REVENUE TOTAL	<u>251,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>251,000</u>
110 SALARIES	75,000	12,445	42,555
1010 FRINGES	21,000	3,140	11,860
21110 MANAGEMENT SERVICE	20,000	12,918	7,082
60620 GRANTS TO OTHERS	135,000	7,678	127,322
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	<u>251,000</u>	<u>62,181</u>	<u>188,819</u>

**MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST****HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HAP)****FISCAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FY 14/15**

As of March 31, 2014

<b>Subobject</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Balance</b>
R31900	OTHER TAXES	3,400,000	1,281,828	2,118,172
R36100	INTEREST EARNINGS	3,000	2,044	956
R36900	OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	-	130,540	(130,540)
R38900	ROLLOVER	1,986,000	2,304,742	(318,742)
	<b>REVENUE TOTAL</b>	<b>5,389,000</b>	<b>3,719,154</b>	<b>1,669,846</b>
00110	SALARIES	169,000	86,405	82,595
01010	FRINGES	56,000	24,669	31,331
26050	GSA PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	1,000	4,963	(3,963)
26616	RECORDING FEES	500	330	170
32010	INSERVICE TRAINING	800		800
47011	GSA CENTRAL SERVICES	400	346	54
57000	INTRAFUND TRANSFER	340,000		340,000
60620	HAP PROGRAM	4,821,300	1,132,976	3,688,324
	<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>5,389,000</b>	<b>1,249,689</b>	<b>5,272,287</b>

## MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST

## TEEN COURT

FISCAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FY 14/15

As of March 31, 2015

Subobject	Description	Budget	Actual	Balance
R35900	OTHER FINES AND/OR	1,243,000	369,663	873,337
	CARRYOVER	309,000	570,342	261,342
R36100	INTEREST EARNINGS	1,000	327	673
	REVENUE TOTAL	1,555,000	777,509	777,491
	00110 SALARIES	750,000	273,740	476,260
	01010 FRINGES	235,000	81,469	153,531
	21110 MANAGEMENT SERVICES		350	-350
	22310 SECURITY SERVICES	15,500	8,575	6,925
	22350 BOTTLED WATER & CHILLER	100		100
	24130 MAINT & REPAIR:OFF MACHINES	2,000		2,000
	25330 COPY MACHINE RENTAL	2,900		2,900
	25511 PAYMENTS TO LESSOR	12,800		12,800
	26028 GSA SERVICE TICKET	300		300
	26032 GSA AFT.HOUR CHRG	4,000	2,115	1,885
	26050 GSA PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	6,500	8,310	-310
	26051 GSA POSTAGE	200	530	330
	26062 FM LT EQ MILEAGE	2,800	1,297	1,503
	26068 FM ACC/ABL/MOD		37	-37
	26077 FM-POOL VEHICLE HOURS	5,500	1,152	4,348
	31210 TRAVEL EXPENSE-U.S.	1,200	673	527
	31220 REGISTRATION FEES	400	330	70
	31402 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT	4,000		4,000
	31420 SPONSORSHIPS/MARKETING	3,000		3,000
	31510 OUTSIDE PRINTING	600		600
	31611 POSTAGE-REGULAR MAIL	300		300
	33050 OTHER GENERAL OPERATING		25	25
	41016 GASOLINE-UNLEADED		57	-57
	47011 GSA CENTRAL SERVICES	2,200	2,221	-21
	57000 INTRAFUND TRANSFERS	150,000		150,000
	60220 TRANSPORTATION	6,000	420	5,580
	60620 GRANTS TO OTHERS	345,700		345,700
	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	1,555,000	379,801	1,175,199

# **DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORT**

## **VI. B**

### **HOMEOWNERSHIP UNIT REPORT**



# Homeownership Assistance Program

MARCH 2015

## HOUSING OUTREACH & ADVOCACY REPORT

During the period from March 1, 2015, through March 31, 2015, forty-one (41) HAP loan applications were submitted totaling \$6,304,779 in first mortgages with a \$7,018,690 aggregate purchase price. There were \$301,050 in Miami-Dade County and other (non-county) administered Down-payment Assistance Program (DAP/ DPA) funds associated with those loans.

During the same period from March 1, 2015, through March 31, 2015, thirty-three (33) families purchased homes using \$189,390.00 in HAP funds. These loans generated \$5,579,283 in first mortgages with a \$5,900,065 aggregate purchase price. There were \$60,000 in Miami-Dade County assistance program funds leveraged with these loans with \$130,750 in non-county DAP/DPA funded mortgages linked to these first-time homebuyer closings.

HAP loans have thereby increased this year's county property tax roll by an estimated \$66,000 for March 2015 based on an average tax bill of \$2,000 (*see March 2015 Production Report for statistical details*).

## HAP TRAINING SEMINARS AND FUNDING

HAP Certification and Down-payment Assistance Programs (DAP/DPA) Training Workshops detail the HAP operation along with a general overview of DAP/DPA funding sources, timeframes, set-up and possible usage. Signed Agreements are required for individuals seeking HAP participation along with affiliated company licensing information for monitoring and tracking purposes.

HAP Re-certification workshops began in March with nearly 200 mortgage loan originators (MLOs) and real estate professionals attending the **Lender Re-Certification and Realtor Participation Workshop** on March 18, 2015, at the Milander Center in Hialeah. This was followed by more than 150 title agents and title attorneys in attendance at the **Closing Agent Re-Certification Workshop** at Keiser University in Doral on March 26, 2015. Updates to HAP participation and certification guidelines approved by MDEAT's HAC (Housing Advocacy Committee) including the implementation of performance sanctions along with file submission and closing procedural updates were main topics in addition to the release of MDEAT's new marketing materials for HAP participants.



MDEAT receives eight percent (8.00%) of the Documentary Surtax Funds sent to Miami-Dade County on a monthly basis. The amount received fluctuates monthly. HAP funded loans through the first five months of fiscal year (FY) 2014-15 total just under \$1MM with 157 funded loans fiscal year-to-date. Projected revenue for FY 2014-15 is still between \$3.1MM and \$3.2MM.

### **HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

The HAP Housing Counseling Agency (HCA) Payout Initiative has reached the end of its first nine months of operation. Homebuyer data and demographics from the HCAs are being gathered and assessed. A meeting with participating HCAs is being planned for April.

### **HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION – OUTREACH – ADVOCACY**

*Presenter at the Experts Resource Center First-Time Homebuyer Education Workshop:* The workshop was held at the Betty T. Ferguson Center, 3000 N. W. 199th Street, Miami Gardens, FL 33056 on March 14, 2015. The presentation topic was on MDEAT's HAP and MDEAT's role in usage with other subsidy program funds, other available Down-payment Assistance Programs (DAP/DPA) and how they integrate into the mortgage process. Presentations were made for both English and Spanish sessions. Approximately 80 South Florida residents attended the two workshops.

*Presenter at the Trinity Empowerment Consortium First-Time Homebuyer Education Workshop:* The workshop was held at the Goulds Community Center, 11350 SW 216 Street, Goulds, Florida 33157 on March 21, 2015. The presentation topic was on MDEAT's HAP and MDEAT's role in usage with other subsidy program funds, other available Down-payment Assistance Programs (DAP/DPA) and how they integrate into the mortgage process. Presentations were made for both English and Spanish sessions. Approximately 85 Miami-Dade residents attended the two workshops.

MDEAT's Housing Programs & Outreach Administrator presents at an average of two-five first-time homebuyer education workshops and/or affordable housing advocacy and outreach events each month. Through these presentations alone, **MDEAT Homeownership Division reaches and interacts with at least 800 to more than 1000 Miami-Dade County and South Florida residents annually.**

All these agencies are located in TUAs (Opa-locka – Miami Gardens – Goulds – Homestead – Florida City) and while workshop participants cannot be pre-determined or dictated, more than half the participants observed at the forenamed agency workshops represent MDEAT's primary target population.

MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM		March 2015 Production	
Report			
			
General Statistics	March 2015	Fiscal YTD March 2015	
Total Applicants (Applications Processed)	41	230	
Total Purchase Price	\$7,018,690.00	\$38,345,547.00	
Total Amount in First Mortgages	\$9,304,779.00	\$34,461,280.00	
Total Miami-Dade County (MDC) & Non-County Subsidies	\$301,050.00	\$1,937,320.00	
<b>Total HAP Loans Funded</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>190</b>	
<b>Total \$ Amount of HAP Funding</b>	<b>\$189,390.00</b>	<b>\$1,144,976.00</b>	
Total Purchase Price (funded)	\$5,900,085.00	\$31,176,529.00	
Average Sales Price (funded)	\$178,789.85	\$164,086.99	
Total Amount in 1st Mortgages (funded)	\$5,579,283.00	\$28,874,443.00	
Average 1st Mortgage (funded)	\$169,069.18	\$151,970.75	
Total Amount of Other MDC Funding (leveraging)	\$60,000.00	\$1,325,000.00	
Total Amount of Non-MDC Subsidy Loans (leveraging)	\$130,750.00	\$357,770.00	
Estimated Increase to Tax Base	\$68,000.00	\$380,000.00	
* Based on annual taxes of \$2000/yr.		Ave. HAP Ln Amt. YTD = \$5,026.19	
		Ave. HAP Ln Amt. March: 15 = \$5,739.09	
<b>Head of Household</b>			
Female	17	73	
Male	16	117	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>190</b>	
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Black	7	38	
Hispanic	26	141	
White	0	10	
Other	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>190</b>	
<b>Median Income Level</b>			
Very Low	3	20	
Low	11	83	
Median	10	57	
Median Moderate	9	30	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>190</b>	
<b>Commission District</b>			
District 1 - Barbara Jordan	6	40	
District 2 - Jean Monestime	1	11	
District 3 - Audrey Edmonson	2	5	
District 4 - Sally A. Heyman	0	0	
District 5 - Bruno A. Barreiro	0	0	
District 6 - Rebeca Sosa	1	4	
District 7 - Xavier L. Suarez	1	1	
District 8 - Daniella Levine Cava	9	61	
District 9 - Dennis C. Moss	10	47	
District 10 - Javier D. Souto	1	4	
District 11 - Juan C. Zapata	0	3	
District 12 - Jose "Pepe" Diaz	2	6	
District 13 - Esteban Bovo Jr.	0	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>190</b>	

# **DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORT**

## **VI. C**

### **TEEN COURT UNIT REPORT**

# Memorandum



## MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST

### TEEN COURT REPORT

**To:** Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) Board  
**From:** John Dixon, Executive Director  
**Date:** April 21, 2015  
**Subject:** Comprehensive Teen Court Report for March 2015

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#### **PURPOSE OF ITEM**

The purpose of this item is to inform the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) Board, of Miami-Dade County Teen Court (M-DCTC) performance and activities for the month of March.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

##### **Program Activities**

**March 9-12:** Teen Court youth participated in the Youth Entrepreneurship Workshop series which was designed to help address the high unemployment rate among teens in the county's Targeted Urban Areas (TUAs). This economic initiative aims to help expose youth to business principles and encourages the creation of micro-businesses among this population. This month's workshop was abbreviated and focused on helping the youth volunteers understand the essentials of business marketing. The speakers were: Adrienne Stephens-Walks, life insurance agency and tax preparer; Lydia Desnoyers, CPA, president and CEO of Desnoyers CPA, LLC; and agency staff facilitated the Wednesday and Thursday workshops.

##### **Program Performance**

**Referrals:** Teen Court received a combined total of 147 referrals from the Juvenile Services Department's (JSD's) Department of Juvenile Justice, Prevention Initiative Program (PIP), Civil Citation Program, Miami-Dade County Public Schools\Student Court, and other Juvenile Justice Intervention programs.

**Community Service:** Teen Court generated 880 community service hours. This total included 370 completed by defendants, 351 performed by youth volunteers, and 129

community service hours provided by adults who served as jury monitors and legal professionals volunteering as judges presiding over Teen Court hearings.

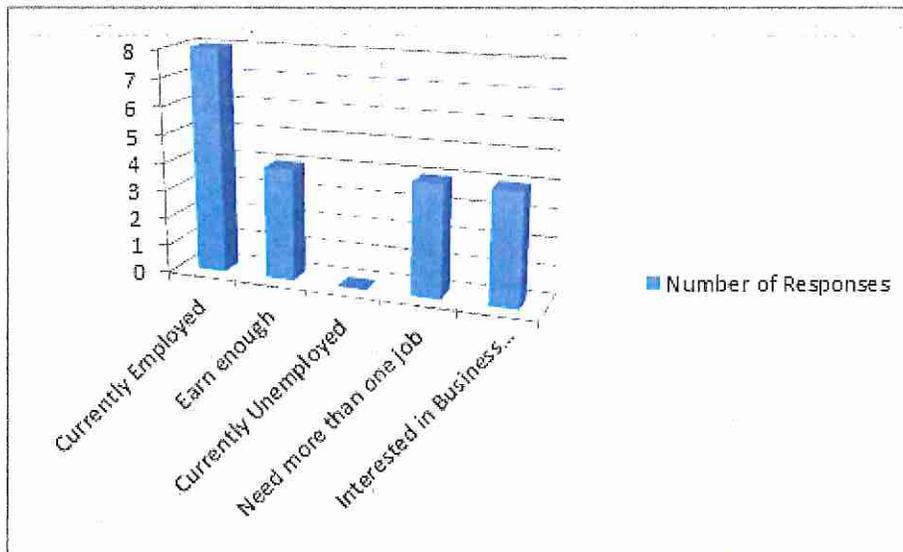
**Student Court:** Student Court provided services to 95 students. There is a marked increase in the referrals generated after 1/5/2015 compared to the period beginning 8/18/14-12/16/14. Fifty percent of the participating schools are on track to exceed the targeted 50 referrals for schools with populations exceeding 1,000 students. Miami Southridge Senior High has exceeded the annual projection and is on a pace of 224%. MDCPS School Operations reports that schools have provided updated referral information that was not previously submitted for prior reporting periods. Adjustments should be reflected in the April Report.

**Psychological Services:** Teen Court provides psychological services for juvenile offenders and youth designated for prevention services. During the month of March, 25 youth and family members were provided care.

### Summary of Psychological Services

The clinical psychologist is in the process of administering a survey to parents of children at the various Teen Court locations. Some preliminary data collected in March and April from parents of participants from the North, Central, and Hialeah locations is included in this document. These findings are the results of eight parent surveys and pertain to employment status. Due to MDEAT’s mission of increasing economic parity within the Black community, it is important to get a snapshot of the population that it is mandated to serve within the area of youth development.

**Table 1**  
**(Survey of eight parents of Teen Court participants who responded anonymously)**



- The survey found that **all eight** parents or guardians reported they were employed.
- **Four or 50%** of the sample population reported they earn enough money to support themselves and their dependents.
- **Fifty percent** of the parents indicated they need to work more than one job in order to make ends meet.
- **Fifty percent** of the sample population reported they would be interested in learning more about how to start their own business or improve their existing business.

This small sample is a good start in getting an idea of the needs and current conditions of the parents of Teen Court participants. All were employed; however, only about half felt they earn enough money to adequately support themselves. Half of those surveyed also felt they needed more than one job in order to make ends meet. It is likely that a significant percentage of parents of Teen Court participants feel pressured by a need to work more than one job and the feeling they do not earn enough to support themselves and their dependents.

The clinical psychologist continues to provide therapy for Teen Court participants. A recent intellectual assessment completed by the Teen Court psychologist alludes to the importance of eating an adequate breakfast each morning, especially when engaging in an intellectual activity. The individual's intellectual functioning appeared to increase dramatically after eating breakfast. This data is important because it underscores the link between adequate nutrition and academic or intellectual functioning. Subsequently, intellectual functioning and academic attainment relate directly to economic well-being as an adult.

**Offender Data for March 2015****Referrals per fiscal year:**

12/31/98 – 09/30/99	334	Carried Over	5,852
10/01/99 – 09/30/00	506	12/01/13 – 12/31/13	41
10/01/00 – 09/30/01	323	01/01/14 – 01/31/14	33
10/01/01 – 09/30/02	336	02/01/14 – 02/28/14	29
10/01/02 – 09/30/03	293	03/01/14 – 03/31/14	46
10/01/03 – 09/30/04	390	04/01/14 – 04/30/14	95
10/01/04 – 09/30/05	267	05/01/14 – 05/31/14	39
10/01/05 – 09/30/06	215	06/01/14 – 06/30/14	46
10/01/06 – 09/30/07	245	07/01/14 – 07/31/14	42
10/01/07 – 09/30/08	356	08/01/14 – 08/31/14	48
10/01/08 – 09/30/09	424	09/01/14 – 09/30/14	51
10/01/09 – 09/30/10	454	10/01/14 – 10/31/14	47
10/01/10 – 09/30/11	619	11/01/14 – 11/30/14	29
10/01/11 – 09/30/12	537	12/01/14 – 12/31/14	27
10/01/12 – 09/30/13	501	01/01/15 – 01/31/15	64
10/01/13 – 10/31/13	32	02/01/15 – 02/28/15	*95
11/01/13 – 11/30/13	20	03/01/15 – 03/31/15	*147
	<b>5,852</b>	<b>TOTAL REFERRALS</b>	<b>*6,694</b>

\*Total includes Student Court referral total for Feb\March 2015

**Monthly Sanctions for Referrals Completed (March 2015):**

Anti-Theft Class Attendees	45	Verbal Apology to Parent	22
Curfew	0	Jail Tour Attendees	29
Declined Referrals	0	Jury Duties Completed	166
Civics and Business Attendees	0	Letter of Apology/Closed	25
Conflict Resolution	27	Peer Circle Attendees	0
Substance Abuse Attendees	0	Restitution	0
Essay Completed/Closed Cases	25	Victim Awareness Panel Workshop Attendees (VAP)	48
Entrepreneurship	45	Verbal Apology to Parent	22
Ethics Workshops Attendees	39	Psychological Services	25
Hours of Community Service/Closed Cases	370		

**Referral Sources:**

Other Juvenile Services Departments (JSD) Programs	13
Civil Citation Program	21
Prevention Initiative Program (PIP)	17
Other Agencies	1
Miami-Dade County School Based Referrals	95

**Offenses and Number of Charges:**

Note: Some defendants have multiple charges

Anger Problem	1	Lying	1
Battery	2	Petit Theft	4
Behavioral Issues	2	Possession of Alcohol Under 21	1
Burglary (Auto)	1	Possession of Marijuana	3
Defiant/Disrespectful	2	Retail Theft	15
Fight at School	1	Robbery By Sudden Snatch	1
Gambling	1	Stealing	4
Giving False Name	1	Taking Things not hers	1
Grand Theft	2	Trespass on School Grounds	4
Loitering and Prowling	2		

**Age:**

Seven	0	Thirteen	9
Eight	2	Fourteen	9
Nine	1	Fifteen	6
Ten	2	Sixteen	8
Eleven	0	Seventeen	14
Twelve	0	Eighteen	1

**Gender/Race – Male:**

**Gender/Race – Female:**

African American	13	African American	11
Caucasian	1	Caucasian	3
Hispanic	15	Hispanic	9
Other	0	Other	0

**Commission Districts and Zip Code March 2015:**

<b>District 1:</b> 33054-5 33055-2	33056-2 33179-1	10	<b>District 8:</b> 33032-1 33033-2	33157-1	4
<b>District 2:</b> 33147-2 33150-1	33162-1 33167-1	5	<b>District 9:</b> 33033-1 33034-5 33157-1 33169-3	33170-1 33177-1 33179-1 33181-1 33190-1	15
<b>District 3:</b> 33127-2 33147-1		3	<b>District 10:</b> 33165-3 33172-1		2
<b>District 4:</b> 33181-1		1	<b>District 11:</b> 33175-1 33184-1	33185-1 33196-1	4

<b>District 5:</b> 33139-1	<b>1</b>	<b>District 12:</b> 33018-1	<b>1</b>
<b>District 6:</b> 33010-1 33135-1	<b>3</b>	<b>District 13:</b> 33012-1 33013-1	<b>2</b>
<b>District 7:</b> 33145-1	<b>1</b>		

**Commission Districts for Fiscal Year 10/01/14 – 09/31/15:**

District 1	73	District 8	94
District 2	79	District 9	125
District 3	80	District 10	22
District 4	30	District 11	46
District 5	23	District 12	36
District 6	25	District 13	23
District 7	18		

**COMPARISON OF YEAR-TO-DATE REFERRALS:**

Referrals for 10/01/13 – 09/30/14		Referrals for 10/01/14 – 09/30/15	
Date cases received	No.	Date cases received	No.
10/01/13 – 10/31/13	32	10/01/14 – 10/31/14	47
11/01/13 – 11/30/13	20	11/01/14 – 11/30/14	29
12/01/13 – 12/31/13	41	12/01/14 – 12/31/14	27
01/01/13 – 01/31/13	61	01/01/14 – 01/31/14	27
02/01/13 – 02/28/13	49	02/01/14 – 02/28/14	28
03/01/13 – 03/31/13	34	03/01/14 – 03/31/14	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>204</b>

**VOLUNTEER COMPONENT**

COURT HEARING SITES	MONTH	HOURS PROVIDED BY DEFENDANTS	MONTH	# OF YOUTH RECRUITED	MONTH	HOURS PROVIDED BY ADULTS	MONTH	# OF ADULTS RECRUITED	MONTH	# OF HOURS PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEER JUDGES
South	March 2015	141	March 2015	4	March 2015	63	March 2015	0	March 2015	8
Central	March 2015	117	March 2015	6	March 2015	36	March 2015	1	March 2015	10
Hialeah	March 2015	30	March 2015	1	March 2015	12	March 2015	1	March 2015	2
North	March 2015	63	March 2015	0	March 2015	36	March 2015	0	March 2015	8
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>351</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>147</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>28</b>

# **DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORT**

## **VI. D**

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT**

# Memorandum



## INFORMATION ITEM

**TO:** Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust Board  
**FROM:** Susana Cortázar, Marketing Administrator  
**THRU:** John E. Dixon, Jr., Executive Director  
**DATE:** March 31, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Marketing Report for March, 2015

### PURPOSE OF ITEM

The purpose of the item is to inform the MDEAT Board of activities associated with marketing and public relations. It covers a multi-media mix of communication vehicles positioned to build awareness about the agency's advocacy and programmatic operations. The following activities occurred during March, 2015.

### Housing Breakfast Series – March 4, 2014

- Held breakfast at Jimmy's Place in North Miami
- Speakers included:
  - Mayor Smith Joseph, D.O., Pharm. D., City of North Miami
  - Aleem A. Ghany, City Manager, City of North Miami
  - Marie-Frantz Jean-Pharuns, CFM/Housing Manager 1
  - City of North Miami Community Planning and Development
  - Tanya Wilson-Sejour, Planning Manager  
City of North Miami Community Planning and Development
- Discussion topics included:
  - City of North Miami Housing Assistance Programs
  - City of North Miami Community Development initiatives and operations
  - MDEAT HAP updates and current advocacy issues
- Approximately 75 bankers, lenders, and loan closing officers attended



**The HAP Breakfast Series**

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
 The Honorable John M. Anderson, Chairman  
 Board of County Commissioners, 1999-2012

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 8:30 AM  
 TIME: 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM  
 LOCATION: Jimmy's Place Restaurant  
 1319 NE 125 Street  
 North Miami, FL 33166

AGENDA:

- Mayor Smith Joseph, D.O., Pharm. D., City of North Miami
- Aleem A. Ghany, City Manager, City of North Miami
- Marie-Frantz Jean-Pharuns, CFM, Housing Manager 1  
City of North Miami Community Planning and Development
- Tanya Wilson-Sejour, Planning Manager  
City of North Miami Community Planning and Development

REGISTRATION:

- City of North Miami Housing Assistance Program
- City of North Miami Community Development Initiatives, Operations
- MDEAT HAP updates and current advocacy issues



**Development Breakfast Series – March 12, 2014**

- Held breakfast at Jimmy’s Place in North Miami
- Speakers included:
  - Althea Harris, Small Business Administration
  - Cornell Crews, Jr., Fund Development/Community Relations Director, Partners for Self-Employment, Inc.;
  - Tanya Wilson-Sejour, Planning Manager City of North Miami Community Planning and Development
- Discussion topic included:
  - Lending possibilities for small business owners
- Approximately 50 people attended the event



**North Central Dade Business Expo – May 14, 2015**

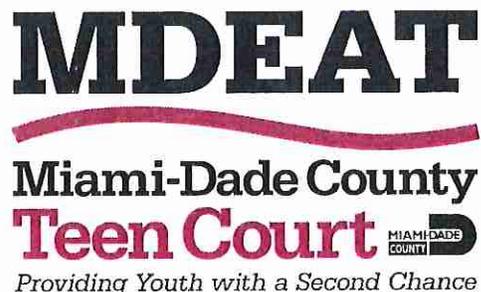
- Flyer to invite vendors has been drafted
- Flyer to invite community has been drafted
- Generic collaterals are being designed for the agency’s business expos
- Submitted photos of MLK expo to include in new design

**New board members recruitment ad and application**

- The application for potential members was posted on the MDEAT website along with the recruitment ad.
- The ad for recruitment of new board members was designed and placed for publication between March 19 – April 3:
  - Neighbors (all zones)
  - South Florida Times
  - Haiti en Marche
  - El Nuevo Herald
  - Miami Times

**Teen Court Newsletter**

- The Spring 2015 newsletter has been finalized and is being reviewed for submission to print and distribution



### **Tenth Annual Jazz in the Gardens Music Festival – March 21- 22, 2015**

- Had presence at festival via information booth to make people aware of MDEAT and capture their information for future mailings and promotions.
- More than 200 event-goers visited MDEAT's information booth. Gave away bags, calculators, pencils, pins, bracelets, hand sanitizers, key chains/flashlights, pens, and agency collaterals to those who signed-up to receive information from MDEAT.



### **Website**

- Met with housing staff to make changes to the website.
- Some changes are reflected on the website.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Attended Logistical Outsource, Inc., business expo and collected numerous catalogues and promotional items samples to review for potential purchasing as giveaways at events, workshops, etc.

### **Social Media**

MDEAT owns and maintains three agency-branded social media profiles on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The agency also distributes communications through the Constant Contact platform.

The agency posts content including MDEAT's *Tuesday Tidbits*, the agency's electronic newsletters, and provides insight on topics including upcoming events, juvenile justice, housing, business growth opportunities and economic development. Most of the content is aggregated from MiamiDade.gov, BlackEnterprise.com, Entrepreneur.com, U.S. Small Business Administration, Minority Business Development Agency, Florida's

Enterprise Development Corporation, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and other governmental and non-profit agencies.

During March 2015, the agency utilized the following mediums:

- **Constant Contact:** MDEAT delivered six electronic communications utilizing this platform. The platform has 1420 (0.28 percent decrease) active contacts and an average open rate of 36.166 percent. The agency sent invitations to the EDAC business development breakfast, notices of the trust board vacancies, and two Tuesday Tidbits e-newsletters.
- **Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/MDEATInfo](http://www.Facebook.com/MDEATInfo)):** The platform has 345 active members (2.89 percent membership increase) and 58 posts. The agency sent the Tuesday Tidbits e-newsletter, agency committee notices and other timely resources and information. Staff also forwarded pertinent county news and information from local and national news outlets.
- **LinkedIn ([www.TinyURL.com/MDEATInfo](http://www.TinyURL.com/MDEATInfo)):** The platform has 42 members (2.38 percent increase) and four posts. These posts included links to articles, upcoming events, juvenile justice, housing, business and economic development.
- **Twitter ([www.Twitter.com/MDEATInfo](http://www.Twitter.com/MDEATInfo)):** This platform has 273 members (11.35 percent membership increase) and 62 posts. These posts included links to articles, upcoming events, juvenile justice, housing, business and economic development.

#### **Current Events: The State of Affairs**

- Provided MDEAT staff and Board of Trustees with 33 newspaper articles which can generate conversations and advocacy related to the agency's mission.

# Special Election for Board Officers

## VII

# Memorandum



## MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST

**To:** Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) Board  
**From:** John Dixon, Executive Director  
**Date:** April 16, 2015  
**Subject:** Special Election for MDEAT Board Officers

### PURPOSE OF ITEM

The MDEAT Board must conduct a special election and vote for a new board chairperson, first vice-chairperson and second vice-chairperson due to the term limit of the existing officers.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the MDEAT Bylaws, the election of board officers is held in October of an MDEAT board election year. However, the term of office for the existing MDEAT board chairperson, first vice-chairperson, and second vice-chairperson are scheduled to expire on May 1, 2015. As a result, nominations for new board officers were held on March 18, 2015, in accordance with the agency's bylaws with a scheduled election on April 21, 2015.

Nominations for chairperson were Cornell Crews, Jr. and George Ray III. The nomination for first vice-chairperson was Sheldon Edwards. The nomination for second vice-chairperson was LaTonda James.



**MDEAT**  
Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust

**2015 VOTING BALLOT**

Candidates	✓ * Select
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	
Cornell Crews, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>
George Ray, III	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIRPERSON</b>	
Sheldon Edwards	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIRPERSON</b>	
LaTonda Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>

MDEAT Board Member (Sign Name) \_\_\_\_\_
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_



# MDEAT BUSINESS EXPO



V.A.

## Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) North Central Dade Business Expo

Join us for a **FREE** community event

A showcase of nearly 65 businesses

- Learn about products and services in your community
- Network with key business professionals

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

**6 – 9 P.M.**

**Joe Celestin Community Center**

**1525 NW 135 Street, North Miami, FL 33161**

**Refreshments • Live entertainment • Free raffles**

Supporters:

The Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairperson  
Board of County Commissioners, District 2

The Honorable Audrey Edmonson  
Board of County Commissioners, District 3

The Honorable Barbara J. Jordan  
Board of County Commissioners, District 1

**For more information,  
contact [MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov](mailto:MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov)  
or 305-375-5661.**

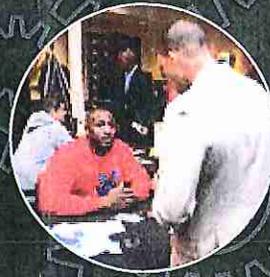
# MDEAT

Miami-Dade Economic  
Advocacy Trust

*Working Together for Economic Change*



# MDEAT BUSINESS EXPO



## Vendor Invitation

### Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) North Central Dade Business Expo

Are you a small-business owner looking for the perfect venue to showcase your company, products, and services to other local vendors and area residents?

Participate in the **FREE** MDEAT North Central Dade Business Expo and:

- Gain exposure for your business
- Increase market share
- Learn about products and services in the community
- Network with key business professionals

**Thursday, May 14, 2015 • 6 – 9 P.M.**

**Joe Celestin Community Center  
1525 NW 135 Street, North Miami, FL 33161**

Each vendor will be provided a table, two chairs, and a tablecloth at no cost.

Space is limited; please RSVP no later than Friday, May 1, 2015. To download registration form, visit [www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust](http://www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust).

Preference is given to vendors conducting free raffles for the public.

Supporters:

The Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairperson  
Board of County Commissioners, District 2

The Honorable Audrey Edmonson  
Board of County Commissioners, District 3

The Honorable Barbara J. Jordan  
Board of County Commissioners, District 1

**For more information,  
contact [MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov](mailto:MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov)  
or 305-375-5661.**

## MDEAT

Miami-Dade Economic  
Advocacy Trust

*Working Together for Economic Change*



# MDEAT BUSINESS EXPO



## 2015 VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM

**Space is Limited!**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the **2015 North Central Dade Business Expo** hosted by Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT). The expo will take place **Thursday, May 14, 2015**, at Joe Celestin Community Center, 1525 NW 135 St, North Miami, FL 33161, from 6 - 9 p.m. Vendor set-up is from 4 - 5 p.m. Please complete the following registration form, sign, and return to [MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov](mailto:MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov). Vendor selection is based on first-come, first-served. Again, thank you for your participation.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, May 1, 2015, at 5 p.m.**

NAME OF ENTITY: _____	
Referred By: <input type="checkbox"/> MDEAT <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Are you providing raffle items? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Contact Name: _____	
Position/Title _____	
Mailing Address:	Street Number: _____ Suite: _____
	City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone Number(s):	Primary: _____ Secondary: _____
E-Mail: _____	
Website Address: _____	

### MDEAT's Purpose:

As a part of its socioeconomic mission, MDEAT seeks to maximize participation of Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and small businesses in revitalizing communities. In so doing, please assist us in determining the following information.

Is your firm a Small Business? Yes ___ No ___	Small Women-Owned Business? Yes ___ No ___	Are you a state-certified Small Disadvantaged Business? Yes ___ No ___	Are you a state-certified Minority Business Enterprise? Yes ___ No ___
Is your firm: Miami-Dade Small Business Certified? Yes ___ No ___			

Please specify origin of majority ownership: Majority ownership (at least 51 percent- owned and controlled)

<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Woman	<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/> White, non-Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled

**Please indicate which size classification best describes your business.**

Annual Gross Receipts:	Number of Employees:
<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10
<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26-100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 million - \$5 million	<input type="checkbox"/> 101 - 500
<input type="checkbox"/> More than \$10 million	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000 - \$1 million	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1 million - \$2 million	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 million - \$10 million	

## Agency partners with the Commissioner Suarez's Office to connect teens and police



*Youth-Police Dialogue is a collaboration among the Office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez, MDEAT, and Miami-Dade Police Department.*

In an effort to advocate for youth justice and police sensitivity, Miami-Dade County Teen Court partnered with the Office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez to produce a series of youth-oriented conversations titled "*Youth-Police Dialogues*." Moderated by Florida International University Professor Antoine Hardy, the candid dialogues feature insights from police officers and local teenagers sharing their respective insights and personal experiences. The event partners hope to offer a platform for awareness and understanding. These dialogues are a part of MDEAT's long term commitment to youth advocacy efforts. MDEAT participated in two of these sessions and commence on the final Wednesday of each month.

# Teen Court

Providing Youth with a Second Chance

news

VI. C.

## Executive director tours Teen Court sites to gauge teens' perspectives on law enforcement

As a result of recent, highly publicized incidents involving police and the community throughout the country, MDEAT Executive Director John Dixon conducted a series of discussions with MDEAT Teen Court youth participants to hear their perspective on law enforcement, authority, and other related issues affecting them.

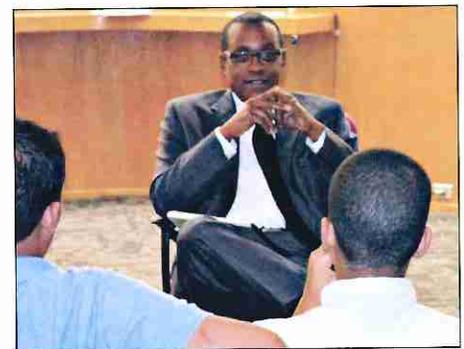
"Our youth are our community's greatest assets. I was thrilled to have had this opportunity to have an intimate conversation with them about their take on police and people in authority positions," Dixon said. "This was quite an interesting experience. We intend to build

a series of discussions that focus on the youth perspective."

"Teen Court is committed to advocating for the people we serve. These types of dialogues give us the necessary information and input needed to continue the connection between two of our county's most valuable assets: our youth and the law enforcement community," said Training Specialist Zachary Rinkins.

The discussions were held during tours of the four Teen Court program locations in Miami, North Miami Beach, Cutler Bay, and Hialeah.

If you would like to learn more about Teen Court and/or become a



MDEAT Executive Director John Dixon talks with Teen Court participants.

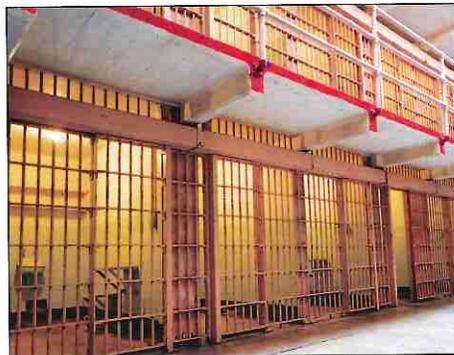
teen or adult volunteer, please see the ad in this newsletter or visit us at [www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust](http://www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust).

## Jail tour is "eye-opening lesson" for Teen Court participants

The clanging of electric metal doors and bars as they close behind you in jail has to be one of the most terrifying moments in anyone's life. Especially when that person's fate is unknown upon taking those final steps inside the cavernous room.

Precisely those scary sounds were heard recently by a group of 15 Teen Court participants from South Dade when they visited the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center and Boot Camp. Were they looking forward to making this visit? Highly doubtful, but such a tour is one of the sanctions imposed on Teen Court first-time offenders, and is a grim foreshadowing of what the future holds for those who do not uphold the law and make wrong choices instead.

The tour began with participants registering in the lobby, followed by realistic presentations from a cor-



rections officer about the jail population, inmates' intake and booking processes, descriptive criminal charges, and levels of custody.

The teens toured the various housing security levels, and then faced the most sobering part of their visit – meeting inmates who talked candidly about the situations that landed them in jail, such as bad decisions, wrong peer groups, drugs, and other negative behaviors

which altered their life forever – and what daily life is like while incarcerated.

"While the teens had some idea of what they would encounter at the jail, coming face-to-face with its ugly reality was a valuable, eye-opening lesson," shared Teen Court Juvenile Services Specialist Shirley Sieger. "It will hopefully remain with and help them make positive life decisions."

# Volunteer Corner

**Angel Gimenez, Esquire**  
**Gimenez & Carrillo, LLC**



Angel Gimenez, Esq.

For the past year, Angel Gimenez has unselfishly contributed to our community by volunteering as a Teen Court judge. His interest in the program was inspired by his daughter, who was a program participant, and whom he accompanied to a number of sessions. As he immersed himself in the proceedings, Gimenez, "found that Teen Court fulfilled a valuable role in making sure teens were given a forum outside the criminal court system to learn, grow, and find the right path." As a result of his involvement, he was asked to don the judicial robe in Teen Court and has been doing so ever since. Besides helping at-risk kids, he finds mentoring the young teens who participate in this program – including fu-

ture judges, lawyers, bailiffs, and courtroom clerks – a highly rewarding venture. Gimenez would like to see more lawyers in our community join the ranks of Teen Court judges because, "the time commitment is small when compared to the rewards of helping, mentoring, and shaping young lives."

Gimenez holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Miami, and graduated from Florida State University School of Law. He is a member of the Florida Bar, Bars of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Bankruptcy Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and Cuban-American Bar Association of Miami, Florida. He has practiced law in the areas of personal injury, insurance litigation, wage and hour litigation, and foreclosure defense litigation, among numerous others.

Thank you for being a true "angel" to Teen Court.

## Teen stat

The National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), in a December, 2014 report, states that, "This year's Monitoring the Future Survey of drug use and attitudes among American 8th, 10th, and 12th graders continues to show encouraging news, with decreasing use of alcohol, cigarettes, and misuse of prescription pain relievers; stable rates of marijuana use among teens; decreasing use of inhalants and synthetic drugs, including K2/Spice and Bath

Salts; and a general decline over the last two decades in the use of illicit drugs. However, the survey highlighted growing concerns over the high rate of electronic cigarette use and softening of attitudes around some types of drug use, particularly decreases in perceived harm and disapproval of marijuana use." To learn more, visit <http://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/monitoring-future/monitoring-future-survey-overview-findings-2014>.

# Judges • Lawyers • Legal Professionals Volunteer to Inspire!

Whether it's two hours a month or two hours a week, Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) is seeking professionals like you to invest a fraction of your time in encouraging local youth to grow into responsible citizens.

We need legal professionals like you to serve as volunteer judges for the

agency's Miami-Dade County Teen Court. As a volunteer judge, you will mentor young people and help them excel as youth attorneys for first-time juvenile offenders.

Join other South Florida attorneys and judges and volunteer with Teen Court today.



Court hearings begin at 5:30 p.m. and take place at the following locations:

Richard Gerstein Justice Building (Mondays)  
1351 NW 12 ST, Miami, FL  
Courtroom 1-5

South Dade Government Center (Tuesdays)  
10710 SW 211 ST, Miami, FL  
Courtroom 2-2

North Dade Justice Center (Wednesdays)  
15555 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL  
2nd Floor

Hialeah City Hall (2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursday of every month)  
501 Palm Ave, Hialeah, FL  
Commission Chambers

To learn more about MDEAT or how you can volunteer, visit [www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust](http://www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust)  
T 305.375.5661 • [MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov](mailto:MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov)

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**MDEAT**  
Miami-Dade County  
Teen Court

# TEENS REPORT

Teen Stories & Editorials

## Shakeyla Flores Teen Volunteer

As a Teen Court volunteer, I have met an array of students with great potential – both juvenile defendants and volunteers – who work together like a team! Members of the jury must come together to decide a verdict; prosecuting attorneys must compromise on a recommended sanction;



Shakeyla Flores

the defense attorneys must agree on the procedure in which they go about defending their client; and defendants must adhere to the prescribed sanctions.

I have acted as prosecuting and defense attorney, court clerk, bailiff, and jury member. I am proud to have experienced and enjoyed each volunteer task – whether introducing the case, examining the defendant through questioning, or announcing the closing argument.

As a result of Teen Court and re-

ceiving feedback from judges and staff, I have upheld values of confidentiality and professionalism, and contributed to the rehabilitation of youths. The sentence hearings allow me to gain knowledge and experience of the judicial process, while also providing me with the opportunity to apply my own thinking and problem-solving skills to give youths a second chance. Being in such a professional setting truly fascinates me and I hope to pursue a career as an attorney.

Teen Court has definitely changed my perspective on life and taught me a great deal! Most important, I am grateful and proud to be able to call myself a Posse Scholar as well as to be attending Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the fall – a prestigious institution that seeks to develop future, well-rounded leaders. I will be sharing this wonderful experience with a posse of nine other talented and ambitious scholars who will be striving for success with me. Teen Court staff has absolutely provided me with unconditional support and served as a beacon of guidance throughout this entire process! My appreciation is endless.

## Bryan Calvo Teen Volunteer

I have spent the last four years volunteering for MDEAT's Teen Court program. All I can say is that it has changed my life. I quickly fell



Bryan Calvo

in love with Teen Court because I knew I was making a direct impact in the lives of the participants. I have served as a defense and prosecuting attorney at Hialeah City

Hall and Richard Gerstein courts.

Teen Court has shaped me as an individual and given me the skills that led me to success in high school. I have built strong public speaking confidence, developed the ability to think critically and creatively, and met great people who to this day form a part of who I am.

Teen Court afforded me the opportunity to participate in the summer YIPI initiative – a once-in-a-lifetime experience – which allowed me to intern with the Miami-Dade County Chamber of Commerce. This program serves as an inspiration and motivation for my life goal which is to dedicate myself to helping others.

Now at the end of my senior year, I begin a new chapter which will take me to Harvard University in Boston. Without my time in Teen Court I could not have achieved such a lofty goal. I hope to major in economics and government so that in the future I can return to my community and continue some of the same ideals that Teen Court advocates. Thank you for everything Teen Court. This is not a goodbye, just a see you later.

## Frank: You are greatly missed!

MDEAT is sad to announce the passing of Frank Tarrau, who retired last year from the agency after 25 years of service within the Florida Retirement System and more than 15 years with Teen Court. During his MDEAT tenure, Frank served as director of Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust's (MMAP) Martin Luther King Leadership Academy, an alternative program affiliated with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He completed his service as Training

Specialist for the agency's Miami-Dade County Teen Court program.

"Frank left an indelible mark on all the people he encountered," MDEAT Executive Director John Dixon said. "His enthusiasm and contributions to Teen Court were unparalleled. He will definitely be missed."

Tarrau earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in developmental counseling from the former Biscayne College (now St. Thomas University). He leaves behind his son, Michael; grandson,



Frank Tarrau with Teen Court participants

Jayden; and a host of friends, family, and former colleagues to cherish his memory.

## Miami-Dade County Teen Court

Miami-Dade County Teen Court (MDCTC) is an alternative sanctioning program for first-time youthful offenders who agree to allow their peers to determine sentencing instead of the juvenile justice system. Through youth participation, the program helps decrease juvenile delinquency by interrupting the beginning stages of criminal behavior. Unlike any other diversion program in Miami-Dade County, Teen Court serves a range of youth within its peer sanctioning process such as teens needing a second chance and youth looking for opportunities to serve their community.

### How to qualify for Teen Court

- ☛ Youth must be under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of the offense
- ☛ Must NOT have a prior record of a criminal (misdemeanor or felony) offense
- ☛ The State Attorney's Office or another designated approving agency must first refer the youth for consideration
- ☛ The juvenile must admit his/her guilt
- ☛ The juvenile and parent/guardian must sign a "Waiver of Speedy Trial" form

### Teen Court locations

Monday–Thursday evenings beginning at 5:00 p.m. (except holidays)



- **Richard Gerstein Justice Building**  
(1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Monday of every month)  
1351 NW 12th Street, Miami, FL - Courtroom 1-5
- **South Dade Government Center (Tuesdays)**  
10710 SW 211 Street, Miami, FL - Courtroom 2-2
- **North Dade Justice Center (Wednesdays)**  
15555 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL - 2nd floor
- **Hialeah City Hall**  
(2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursday of every month)  
501 Palm Ave., Hialeah, FL (Commission Chamber)

## Volunteering for Teen Court youth opportunities

Become a youth volunteer; teens can participate as a defense or prosecuting attorney, juror, clerk, and/or a bailiff. It is a beneficial hands-on experience showing the reality of what happens in a courtroom. This volunteer program is wonderful for teens who are interested in careers associated with the judicial system.

### Adult opportunities

Guide our youth by becoming a volunteer and impact their future and our community in a positive manner. Adults can volunteer as court monitors. If proper requirements are met, an adult with a legal background may volunteer as a judge. This rewarding volunteer experience will make a difference in the life of a youth and set an example for them to follow.

For more information on volunteering, please contact LaVerne R. Carlile-Dean at 305-622-2592 or email her at [LAV@miamidade.gov](mailto:LAV@miamidade.gov).

## Teen law fact



A curfew is a law enacted by a local or state government that restricts certain people from being in public places at specified times of the day. Many cities and towns have a curfew law in place to prevent teenagers from being out at certain times, typically spanning the late hours of the night or school hours during the day. Any teenager caught out after curfew can face a fine or even jail time, depending upon the specific laws of the town... Every curfew law is different as is every penalty associated with breaking this law. Some areas simply issue a warning, while others may escort the curfew breaker home. Parents may face charges if their child is caught out past curfew, and in some cases a fine or even jail time may be enforced.

Source: [http://www.ehow.com/list\\_7722391\\_curfew-laws-teenagers.html](http://www.ehow.com/list_7722391_curfew-laws-teenagers.html)

## Teen Court news

### Miami-Dade County Teen Court

111 NW 1 Street, Suite 2032  
Miami, FL 33128  
Main Office: 305-375-5661  
North Office: 305-622-2592  
<http://www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust>

Teen Court is a Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) program.

**MDEAT Mission:** To ensure the equitable participation of Blacks in Miami-Dade County's economic growth through advocacy and monitoring of economic conditions and economic development initiatives in Miami-Dade County.



# MDEAT

## Miami-Dade County Teen Court

Providing Youth with a Second Chance

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George Ray, III	1
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIRPERSON</b>	
Sheldon Edwards	7
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIRPERSON</b>	
LaTonda Johnson	7

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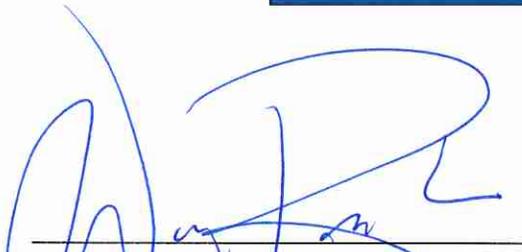
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LaTonda Johnson	✓

  
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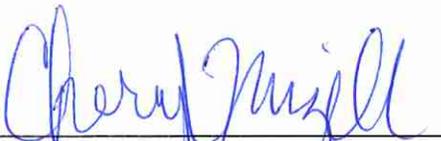
  
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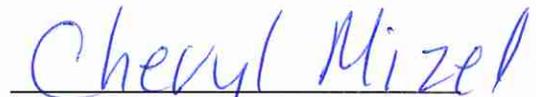
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Sheldon Edwards	<input type="checkbox"/>
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LaTonda Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

  
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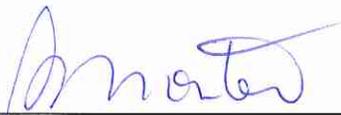
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LaTonda Johnson	✓



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<b>2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIRPERSON</b>	
LaTonda Johnson	✓



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LaTonda Johnson <i>AMEJ</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

  
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*LaTonda Johnson*  
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LaTonda Johnson	



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LaTonda Johnson	



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SHELDON EDWARDS

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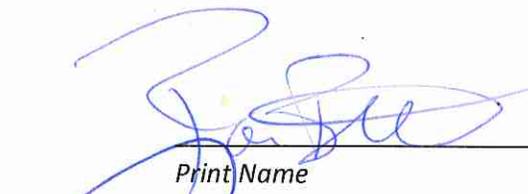
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LaTonda Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

  
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Butler