

DRAFT Minutes BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2013 SPCC-10th Floor

Chaired by: Priscilla Dames-Blake

Board Members Present: Priscilla Dames-Blake; D. J. Fabien; Edgar Wright;

Excused Absences: Ms. Dannie McMillon; Stephen Hunter Johnson; Gerri Lazarre-Odiwo; Tracey Bowen, Edgar Wright

Unexcused Absences: Valerie Jeune

Staff: Retha Boone-Fye and Yvans Morriseau

Quorum: No

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. with Mr. Wright providing an inspirational message.

Chair's Report: Ms. Dames—Blake gave the Chair's report—since at the time we didn't have a quorum, she would give a briefing on community issues. There was no Council of Chairs meeting prior to this one however, there are lots of issues that impact the general community as well as our constituent base that she would be following. She has urged BAAB members to attend the various meetings in the community so that we can be kept abreast. The CRB has an action plan to address the Trayvon Martin situation and the BAAB should be more involved since it directly impacts our community. Ms. Dames reported too that she had attended two Beacon Council meetings representing the BAAB during the holiday break and she would like to have the board more involved in the "One Community One Goal" process. Since then she has become more involved in their committee meetings however she is more interested in having more involvement from our community from the economic standpoint. A "Village Dialogue" on economic development will be held February 7th at the Fountain of New Life Church. Village Dialogues are also being considered for the Liberty City and South Dade areas. There was a meeting with Chief Osorio from the City of Miami Police Department as well and she will continue to collaborate with the City of Miami Beach for Urban Beach Weekend.

Program Officer's Report: Ms. Boone-Fye read a letter addressed to Mr. John Dixon (MDEAT'S Executive Director) that the BAAB sent to the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) which requested greater collaboration between the two entities. Following this, she welcomed new members for the 2013 year, informed them that we now have a new BCC chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and new vice chairwoman-Lynda Bell. She passed out copies of the new BCC and a new Property Appraiser—Carlos Lopez-Cantera. As for our membership, we are in the process of recruiting new members and she is requesting that the board assists by providing viable candidates and we should invite the new Chairwoman's and Vice Chair's Chief of Staffs to attend our meeting in the near future. At this point, Ms. Dames indicated that she would still like to invite Adora N'weze to one of our meetings soon. Ms. Boone-Fye announced that there are several "Hot" community issues such as: the Greene Dreams Shoe Repair/Transit Village issue. Briefly, the Greene's have decided to file a lawsuit through their attorney-Rod Vereen. There is the possibility that this issue will be wrapped around a larger issue—that of gentrification of Black owned businesses throughout the country especially through the National Action Network headed up by Rev. Al Sharpton and locally by Bishop Victor Curry.

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She gave an overview of the Transit Village's history and the County's involvement in the relocation process and the accompanying court fight that ensued. The Greene's assert that there was collusion between the City of Miami's Safe Structures Board and Miami-Dade Transit (Miami-Dade County), to force them to leave the building. The County Attorney will present an offer and wait for an answer from the Green's. Yvans Morisseau was in several of the meetings and also gave some input.

The second issue is the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. There is a situation of friction between Miami-Dade Transit and TWU/Transit employees participation in the parade. A meeting is being set up between Miami-Dade County's Mayor's office, TWU representatives and Transit. The Office of Community Advocacy has been invited to participate.

The next issue is the brownfield/contamination issue in the area near Broadmoor and the Amtrak station. Renita Holmes was in attendance and updated the BAAB on this issues impact on the Black community—not just in the Broadmoor area, but in several. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been apprised of this situation and she has been working with them. Ms. Boone-Fye will keep the board informed and follow up with Ms. Kinchens from the City of Miami.

The last issue is the trolley station proposed for location in the West Grove. Citizens in the neighborhood are contemplating filing a lawsuit to prevent the station from being placed in their community instead of in the City of Coral Gables.

As far as the Training Levy project is concerned, Ms. Boone-Fye updated the board on the status. The Training Levy will have a significant impact on the future of the hospitality industry—particularly as it relates to retaining and improving those who decide to go into the industry. She is requested permission to move forward on this project. The Chair requested that a subcommittee be appointed to study this project and provide an update at the next meeting.

Ms. Boone-Fye also gave an update on the MDEAT collaboration issue. She met with Traci Pollock, who is working with MDEAT and they will come up with a process by which the two entities can effectively work together. She is also seeking guidance on sending a letter of support to Congresswoman Gabby Gifford's foundation promoting gun control and non-violence.

Committee Reports:

Black Heritage Planning: Mr. Wright reported that he had a good meeting with the staff at the South Dade Cultural Arts Center in reference to the plans for Black History Month's second Gospel fest. He will again be meeting with the BHPC members to continue successful planning for the month. We will have displays by Kinad, the Dade County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as well as art from students at Miami Jackson Senior High in the SPCC lobby. Ms. Boone-Fye requested the board's permission to expend funds in connection with Black History Month 2013 such as vendors for Gospel Fest, the Extravaganza and other expenses. The Board voted to allow the expenditures provided all supporting documents were presented for payment. Finally, employee members of the Black Heritage Planning Committee made the recommendation that the Pillars Awards be moved to May or early June in order to provide scholarships earlier to students who will be attending schools either in the summer or fall.

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Haitian American Emergency Relief Committee (HAERC): Mr. Fabien reported that he had made another trip to Haiti with Channel 10 news anchor Calvin Hughes on an updated news report on Haiti. He is also working on a future project to provide support to the residents and establish a funding mechanism for the HAERC's Miami-Dade County efforts. Mr. Fabien will send his photos to the BAAB Facebook page to update the page.

Housing: No report

Budget and Finance: Report by Gerri Lazarre, January 9, 2013

Miami Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board – Budget and Financial Report No expenses or income reported by Mrs. Boone. Awaiting report on the final figures of the revenue and expense for the Pillars Award from Mrs. Boone, during the November 28, 2012 meeting, Mrs. Boone noted that we should have the final figures by the next board meeting.

Health Care & Social Services: No report

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life: (see Chair's Report)

Economic Development: Mr. Hunter Johnson gave his report via telephone commenting that he is working on two projects and will have the update at the next meeting.

Marketing: No report

Legislative Affairs: No report

Social Media: Ms. Bowen-Bell will submit a written report.

Old Business: None

Announcements: Following announcements, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

