

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

January 16, 2013, 2 p.m.

Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1st St., 18-4

The CRB General Membership Meeting was called to order by the vice chair, Reinaldo Valdes.

The Roll Call was conducted and a quorum was affirmed.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Maria Artecona and seconded by Wilfredo Ruiz. The motion was approved.

A motion to approve the November 2011 Minutes was made by Reinaldo Valdes and seconded by Lovette McGill. The motion was approved.

1. Conversation with Board of County Commission Chairwoman

Presentation: Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa addressed the meeting: The chairwoman thanked Dr. Richardson and crb members and staff for dedication and all they do for community. It is time for the CRB to bring everyone together. Need to go into community and to educate youth. I want the CRB to act before the fact, not just react. I am focused on being family oriented and asking people what you can give to community, regardless of language, color of hair or skin, we are all the same. Regarding the upcoming George Zimmerman trial Chairwoman Sosa stated that we will have to all be involved in trial, irregardless of the outcome. We need to embrace and help community in whatever way we can. if you have opportunity, p[lease to review booklet "breaking the cycle" which includes recommendations, suggestions and ideas to change the correctional system and stop the revolving door. The Mayor and I are planning to work with that.

Questions and Answers: Dr. Richardson stated that the CRB will submit a report to the Chair highlighting what the CRB has done. We will be active in being proactive for community in preparation for George Zimmerman trial and CRB 50 anniversary celebration.

2. CRB Committees

Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement: CRB Trayvon Martin Action Plan: Vickie Smith Jackson reported that the committed is looking at next steps for youth summit and action plan to promote non violence and social action. We will meet tomorrow with the Youth Commission and will discuss a date. We have been consolidating support and reaching out to youth commission and other organizations. We will create website and develop more formal participation. We have received notifications from youth organizations expressing interest in involvement. – We will seek resources from the County Commissioners including

television air time and production services to share air information about the trial, public service announcements and non violence messages. Great time to get crb website to post information for the public.

Discussion: Need to update the CRB website and post information about the trial and the CRB. We will work with the county to post information. Want to post PSA's to the general public. Want the public to know to go to our website to get good information about the case. Website is now is outdated and it needed timely updates. We need to bring in social media advisory group. In the past it has been hard to get assistance to update the county website. Mr. Tavakoly created a web site for the community relations foundation which is up and running with no content and under construction. Mr. Tavakoly introduced a guest, Miriam Rony (phonetic), a recipient of the Asian advisory board scholarship and an FIU student, noting that she will be working with the office of advocacy as well as noted that another individual majoring in marketing might be working as an intern in the office of advocacy could assist with the website.

Fair Immigration: Mr. Valdes asked that the CRB Fair Immigration Committee convene soon and that a date be set for the meeting. It is important to demonstrate that the CRB is on the front of this battle. Thursday, January 24, at 1 p.m. was selected. Mr. Martinez, Mr. Tavakoly and Martha Gonzalez-Roviroso volunteered to participate. Dr. Richardson stated that the CRB executive committee decided to discuss the immigration summit at its next meeting. We are waiting for bills to come out. Ms. Carswell reported that Brian Siegal, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee has requested that the CRB serve as a participating organization for an Immigration Symposium scheduled for March. He invited crb to be listed as participant on Bridge of America Symposium for stakeholders on March 7. Dr. Richardson: advised Carswell to inform Mr. Siegal that the CRB will be there.

3. CRB Chair's Report

- Dr. Richardson reported that Commissioner Sosa is the new BCC chair and the vice chair is Commissioner Bell. There are a lot of people who don't know what we do. It is incumbent that we continually inform the Commissioners of what we do and how we do it so we have credibility and some insurance of continuation. The County is looking at ways to make cuts. We need to make people aware of what we do daily.
- We are working to ensure the Commissioners are aware of the CRB's Trayvon Martin Action. Dr., Richardson is working as the CRB's representative to the Homeland Security Task Force. We are recommending that the judge be sensitive to the timing of trial outcome as June 10 children are out of school. We are hoping that the date will be changed so we have control of school aged children regardless of the verdict. Ms. Jackson and Mr. Shohat will be invited to attend the next Task Force meeting.

A new member orientation held last month. You will be getting form (financial disclosure) form from elections department that is required from all board members. I urge all CRB members to complete and send back.

- Last week was the anniversary of the Haiti earthquake. Mr. Valdes and Mr. Fulton were present at the memorial service to represent the CRB.
- The Board of County Commissioners issued a resolution to President Obama urging Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform. CRB past Chair Adora Obi Nweze was named regional red cross director and responsible for volunteer services.
- Amy Carswell attended a meeting of the City of Miami CRB meeting to talk about what we do. Rabbi Schiff and Marjory York were also present along. We may have a joint meeting in the future.
- We received letter from Florida Lt Governor notifying us that no further meetings re: stand your ground law. Will be held by the Governor's Task Force.
- I was interviewed on Bishop Curry's radio program about an incident that has possible ramifications later. A black store owner's business (Green Shoe store) was torn down. The CRB was there to make sure did not further infuriate community.
- I have also been involved in another action impacting relations in the black community. The majority of members from local union involved in Dr. MLK Festival had difficulty with understanding some non communications as to the level of commitment for county's involvement. We think the issue has been resolved and that will promote better relationship with the union. Ms. McGill was instrumental in these negotiations.
- Ms. McGill was asked to report on her activities as a member of the Mayor's Task Force that is developing recommendations to improve elections in Miami-Dade County. She reported that we have met several times. We can fix some things here and others we cannot and must be addressed in Tallahassee. The number of early voting days was a major issue. Some preferred to use the maximum number of hours; however, the county election advisory board recommends 9 days, encompassing both weekends. We understood that the county's may not be able to accommodate 14 days due to their budget. So we wanted to stay in the middle. It looks like the state will now allow the county to have jurisdiction over the number of days of early voting. The mayor and our board suggested 14 days.

4. Discussions and Determinations **CRB 50th Anniversary Commemoration**

Dr. Capp reported that an overview of activities planned and proposed are provided in the meeting package. Activities will be both commemorative and educational. Now is the time to determine doable activities with the level of significance that will allow us to accomplish our goals 1) The university of Miami is sponsoring event with Dr Raymond Mohl who will be speaking on origins and early history of Miami-Dade CRB. 2) Looking at 2 day conference, May 22, 23, event. At Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus. Day 1 will be a series of workshops and discussions with high school and college students and workshops and training for municipal crb members and other municipalities interested in establishing a CRB. We also hope to involve the dept. of justice partners and others to help facilitate workshops. Also planning a . commemorative luncheon featuring a keynote address by nationally recognized speaker and will recognize previous CRB leadership at that event as well as highlight prominent activities. Mr. Tavakoly has put together a website to post information and begin to get the word out. We have established a nonprofit corporation; the foundation for community relations. Wish to acknowledged the A. Phillip Randolph foundation and Ms. McGill for the first check for \$1,000. Dr. Schiff said that he had given Ms. Carswell a copy of a Miami Herald article that was written 3 days before establishment of the CRB. The late .Archbishop Coleman Carroll called leaders of various faiths together and established document calling for fair treatment for all people in housing, employment, etc. and calling on county to establish a crb. Rabbi Schiff has been asked to sponsor an interfaith Sabbath weekend to be chaired by rabbi schiff. Other items need additional work such as public relations and outreach activities.

Dr. Richardson: when do we know what we will/will not do and how can board help other than financially? Dr. Capp stated that a final report is anticipated at the February CRB meeting. We will determine support items at the committees next meeting probably within 2 weeks. The budget for the events is estimated at \$30,000 - \$40,000. Mr. Valdes stated that he is working to encourage members of the Board of County Commissioners to contribute. Each has received a letter and Mr. Valdes will contact them directly for cash or in-kind donations.

Action Item:

It was moved by Rabbi Schiff and seconded by Vickie Smith Jackson that CRB members be encouraged to make every effort to give, or to get a \$1,000 contribution. The motion was adopted.

5. Issues Roundtable: Critical and Pressing Community Relations Concerns

Removal of Greene Dreams Shoe Care Center, Inc : Dr Richardson reported that Mr. Green owned a family business for over 50 years near 62 st/7ave. , a shoe repair business. The building is owned by the county is slated for a transit

village in the area. Tenants have been encouraged to leave and relocation has been offered. Everyone left but Mr. Green. He was offered concessions and to move business across the street but wanted to remain. The City of Miami condemned the building as an unsafe structure and he was encouraged to leave as soon as possible. The building was demolished two weeks ago. Mr. Green not happy with outcome. The community saying foul and others saying other businesses understood what was going on. The unsafe structure designation was the deciding factor over his leaving, even though lease was through may 2014. Dr. Richardson will be a meeting with Bishop Victor Curry, local president of local network founded by reverend Al Sharpton and there may be plans for a confrontation later this month. Staff represented the CRB at the site on the day of demolition.

Miami-Dade Transit Participation in Dr. MLK Jr. Parade and Festival

Lovette McGill reported that for 30 years the county allowed employees to be booked off to participate in the MLK parade and provide older historical vehicles and drivers. The Transit Director notified the union that only 6 drivers and 6 busses would be provided and not booking off labor. We tried to come up with an agreement regarding booked off employees (county pays them for the day). The Transit Director said that holiday leave must be used if employees wanted to participate in the parade. Previously up to 50 employees were booked off for the parade plus 18 fulltime employees with the union. Discussions went back and forth. I asked for 20 rather than the 50 and was told no. I called Amy Carswell and asked for help. Dr. Richardson, Priscilla Dames Blake and others then got involved. Due to the diligence of these efforts, the union made some concessions and the union agreed to pay.

Environmental Justice / Health Issues in Broadmore Community

Amy Carswell was asked to report on a statement issued by Commissioner Monestime's office concerning the Broadmore community in north Dade. The recycling plant that changed its activities and concern about possible cancer cluster. The Health dept did not find a cancer cluster but found disturbing stomach cancers and others not at a level greater than expected. Commissioner Monestime is working with dept of environmental resource management to do further study of area. Dr. Richardson asked that if it becomes an issue, we could bring the health dept to speak to us. Ms. Dames- Blake asked for information in writing to forward to her board and her constituents in the black community. Dr. Richardson asked that we get with Commissioner Monestime to see if they are satisfied with investigation and if not, we will get involved. Ms. McGuire stated that it would be in best of our interest to involve the EPA since they have resources to conduct an investigation.

Miami-Dade Gun Violence Legislation and Local Initiatives

Amy Carswell reported that Commission Barbara Jordan had submitted legislative proposals to the Board of County Commissioners encouraging local and state laws aimed at reducing the prevalence of high powered guns and ammunition and calling for background checks and identification of gun purchasers. The items will come before the BCC on January 28th.

Action Items:

Dr. Capp made a motion and Dr. McGuire seconded the motion that the CRB issue a statement in support of the Resolutions proposed by Commissioner Jordan to reduce the availability of guns and their use in violent crime.

Mario Artecona made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by George Yap. The motion was adopted.