

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting date: March 6, 2013, 1 p.m.

**Location: Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1st Street,
10th Floor Rear Conference Room**

Report date: April 10, 2013

Prepared by: Reinaldo Valdes, CRB Vice Chair / Amy Carswell, CRB Program Officer

**Attendance: CRB Members: Reinaldo Valdes, Vice Chair; Vickie Smith Jackson; Edward Shohat; Ronald Fulton.
CRB/OCA Staff: Amy Carswell**

Reinaldo Valdes convened the meeting and called for a moment of silence. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was adopted. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February CRB Executive Committee Meeting. The motion was adopted. Mr. Valdes reported that Dr. Richardson is unable to attend due to an unanticipated conflict.

I. Chairs Report:

Mr. Valdes reported the following:

- Edward Shohat, Co-Chair of the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board's Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Committee, took part in a live interview last week on National Public Radio's (NPR) "Talk of the Nation" program. Mr. Shohat spoke about the CRB's Action Plan to Promote Non-Violence in Response to the Trayvon Martin Murder Trial and Court Proceedings. He discussed the upcoming Youth Summit and other strategies being implemented to engage and empower Miami-Dade's young people.
- The CRB participated in two community meetings regarding immigration legislation. I attended a public hearing on Immigration Reform Sponsored by The Unions of the South Florida AFL-CIO, Florida Immigrant Coalition, We Count!, IMiami, Clergy, and Community. CRB member Lovette McGill was one of the organizers of the event. About two hundred people took part.
- On tomorrow the CRB will participate in an Immigration Symposium being held by the American Jewish Committee and Miami-Dade College. The event will take place at the Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus, Chapman Conference Center, from 8 A.M. – Noon. CRB member Brian Siegal, who is the Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee in Florida, is organizing this event.

- The Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, along with the consultant who is conducting the Miami-Dade County Disparity Study will hold three Community meetings this week. The meetings are being held to provide information and hear from local businesses and business organizations about contracting with Miami-Dade County. Members of the community are also being asked to complete a questionnaire that is in your meeting package. Community participation is key to the consultant being able to provide recommendations to improve small and minority business contracting in Miami-Dade County. The CRB has been asked to help get the word out about the meetings and encourage people to complete the questionnaire.

2. CRB Committees

- **50th Anniversary Commemoration Planning**

Mr. Valdes reported that two events will be held at the University of Miami on March 6 and March 7 which are a lecture on “The Origins and Early History of the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board” by Dr. Raymond Mohl and a panel “Engaging Diversity, Lessons from the 50 Year History of the CRB” featuring Dr. Mohl, CRB members Dr. Richardson and Rabbi Schiff, Dr. Dorothy Fields and student Tiffany Ford. Committee members and staff have met several times with staff from Miami-Dade College and are developing an agenda and program for a conference to be held at the Wolfson Campus on May 22 and a luncheon on May 23. The kick-off of the fundraising effort was held at U.S. Century Bank on February 28. I worked with bank officials to organize the event and several CRB members and past chairs attended. Thank you to all who participated.

- **Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement: CRB Trayvon Martin Action Plan**

Ms. Smith Jackson reported that the CRB and the Miami-Dade Youth Commission will convene a youth summit on March 28, 2013 in the Board of County Commission Chambers. A draft agenda is in your meeting package. Mr. Shohat reported that information will be shared about the legal issues, the Miami-Dade Police strategies, the Miami-Dade Schools strategies and the news media coverage. The majority of the event will be devoted to hearing from the youth about what we need to do in this community to promote non-violence and how do we engage the youth in non-violence responses and creating positive change. Youth organizations from throughout Miami-Dade County are being invited to participate.

- **Fair Immigration:**

Mr. Valdes reported that the Fair Immigration Committee will meet on April 8, 2013. The Director of the Office of Community Advocacy has proposed a series of forums be held in the community. The Committee will discuss the proposal and make recommendations to the CRB.

3. Discussions and Determinations

- **Approval of Expenditures for CRB Youth Advisory Committee:** Amy Carswell reported that there is a need to approve the expenditures of funds for the sandwiches, chips and drinks served to the youth and the youth organization leaders who attended the evening meeting. The participants provided input to the CRB about the agenda for the Youth Summit and the public information campaign as part of the CRB Action Plan to Promote Non-Violence in Response to the Legal Proceedings in the Death of Trayvon Martin. The expenditure was preliminarily approved by CRB Chair Dr. Walter Richardson.

Action Item: A motion was made by Vickie Smith Jackson and seconded by Edward Shohat to ratify the expenditure of \$330 from the CRB Trust Fund to purchase a deli lunch for thirty participants in the CRB Youth Advisory Committee meeting held Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 4 – 7 p.m., at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center in the Sixth Floor Front Conf. Rm. The motion was approved.

- **March CRB General Membership Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Valdes suggested that representatives of the firm that is conducting the Disparity Study for Miami-Dade County be invited to make a presentation to the CRB General Membership. Amy Carswell reported that representatives of Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd. have agreed to meet with the CRB to discuss the goals and objectives of the disparity study, the scope of services including strategies for community outreach and participation and how the CRB may be of assistance to ensure the efficacy of the initiative.

4. Issues Update and Roundtable: Critical and Pressing Community Relations Concerns

- **Community Members Report Youth Gangs at War:**

Amy Carswell reported that community members have contacted her about retaliation shootings and inter-gang warfare in the community near Brownsville Middle School. A community meeting is being considered by Miami-Dade School officials but has not been announced. There is a high level of community concerns and many students and parents are frightened for their safety. The CRB will continue to monitor developments and advise the board.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.