



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board

City of Doral City Hall
8401 NW 53rd Terrace
Doral, FL 33166

September 4, 2013
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Mary Smith-York, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-1598



CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2013, at 6:02 p.m., in the City of Doral, City Hall, 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.

The following Voting Board Members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Dr. Anthony Atwood; David Conley; Eddy Fonseca, Jr.; Diana Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Kevin Humes; Charles Johnson; Joseph Martory; and Christopher Miller.

The following Voting Board Members arrived late: Mario Alvarez and David Blake

The following Voting Board Members were absent: Mark Blumstein; Councilman Timothy Daubert; Thomas Davis; Jorge Sibila; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Whitbeck.

The following Non-voting Board Members were present: Major Brooke Cortez, Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr; Colonel Morris Hatcher; Eduardo Lombard; and Paul Russo.

The following Non-voting Board Member was late: Ed Haynes

The following Non-voting Board Members were absent: Glorianne Amor; Captain Mark Jackson; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; and Joanna Sandstrom.

The following Staff members were present: Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; and Deputy Clerk Mary Smith-York.

The following guests were also present: Paul Hernandez, Miami-Dade Police Department/Board of County Commissioners; William Nicholas and Nervil Scheably, ABC Supply Mart; Scottie Moore, United States (U.S.) Army Garrison-Miami/USSOUTHCOM; and Angel Rodriguez, Armed Forces Service Center.

1. Welcome:

Chairman Diaz welcomed members and guests to tonight's (9/4) Military Affairs Board (MAB) meeting.

2. Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Kevin Humes to lead the MAB in a moment of prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Joseph Martory.

3. Board Member Roundtable

Chairman Diaz asked MAB members to introduce themselves and provide a brief overview of their organizations and current programs.

Mr. Paul Russo, representing Miami Veterans' Administration Healthcare System, distributed copies of a document on Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to Board members and noted that this information was designed to describe the ACA, explain the VA's role in it, and to address frequently asked questions. He explained that veterans currently in the VA were essentially enrolled in a health care program that met the ACA requirements and no further action was required, unless they chose a different option under the ACA. Mr. Russo advised that this information would be sent to Congressional Offices, Military Department of Defense partners, State Representatives, and Veterans.

Chairman Diaz asked that this information be provided to Director Gustavo Cruz so he could make it available on the MAB's website.

Mr. Joseph Martory, representing Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa-District 6, noted he would distribute information to MAB Board members later in the meeting and announced that the 16th National Vietnam Veterans of America (V.V.A.) Convention held in Jacksonville, Florida, August 13-17, 2013, was a success. Mr. Martory indicated that he had provided the provisions for the Veterans' Day Parade to MAB Director Cruz and noted he desired to see one of the veterans' organizations open the parade. He commented that the VVA, in Jacksonville, secured room rates of \$79 at the Hyatt for Convention attendees and asked that efforts be made to provide similar rates for parade attendees, particularly Professor Atwood's attendees. Mr. Martory announced that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10212, American Legion 326, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 620, and Cuban American Veterans Association would host the Veterans Valentine's Dinner Dance on February 8, 2014, at the Miami Elks Lodge #948, 10301 Sunset Drive, Miami, Florida and provided the information to Director Cruz for distribution to MAB members.

Mr. Manual Gonzalez, representing County Commissioner Javier Souto-District 10, noted Commissioner Souto wished to reiterate his previous discussion regarding the invitation for the County to participate in June 2014 celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion (D-Day).

In response to Dr. Anthony Atwood's repeating his offer made, at the last meeting, to volunteer his services for this event, in any capacity, MAB Director Gustavo Cruz advised that Commissioner Souto's office was working with Dr. Atwood to organize a Sunshine meeting in October 2013 to discuss this issue. He noted several angles were proposed for this event and that a delegation of World War II Veterans from Miami-Dade County, as well as the families of WWII veterans was being considered to represent the County at the event.

Chairman Diaz asked that a general discussion regarding the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion be scheduled in preparation for the forthcoming Sunshine meeting with Commissioner Souto.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez introduced himself and provided a synopsis of his educational and professional background.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez, Miami-Dade Defense Alliance Coordinator (MDDA), announced that the MDDA had just submitted two grants:

- 1) For ongoing operations of the MDDA, including funding to do a shared services tabletop exercise that would include Coastguard, Homestead, and SOUTHCOM, to discuss issues of mutual interest to determine how services could be shared with mutual benefit; the Air Force was implementing this initiative across country;
- 2) Applied to the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) for development of a strategic plan for advocacy on behalf of the military industry in Miami-Dade County that would engage the services of a lobbyist currently in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Gonzalez also noted this Saturday (9/7) the MDDA would participate in the Spouse Symposium event at SOUTHCOM, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and in October 2013, the FDSTF would hold its meeting at the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Mr. Christopher Miller, representing County Commissioner Xavier Suarez-District 7, reported that Building 8410 was secure and advised that he had begun dialogue with representatives of the Naval Reserve regarding personnel resources for the Veterans Day Parade.

Mr. Angel Rodriguez, representing the Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC), stated the AFSC was better known as the Military Hospitality at the Airport, and its goal was to provide relaxation and comfort for all servicemen and servicewomen travelling alone or with family. He commented that Chairman Diaz and other County Commissioners were responsible for the newly renovated facility and invited members of the MAB to volunteer their services at the AFSC.

MAB Director Cruz noted staff was in the process of developing the Grand Reopening Ceremony for the facility and once the date was established, he would inform all MAB members.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing County Commissioner Juan Zapata-District 11, advised that the "Toys for Tots" Program was scheduled to begin in September under the leadership of Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr. He expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Diaz for the names of veterans for special interviewing and asked that Board members provide Mr. John Phillips, a WW2 Veteran Marine, with their support for his wife, recuperating from a fall, at Baptist Hospital.

Mr. Martory commended Mr. Paul Russo for communicating personally with veterans who visit and/or call his organization and commented on the impact this type of personal interaction with veterans by a VA Healthcare System Director had on veterans. On behalf of VVA 620, he also distributed to MAB members wooden replicas of the triangular folded American Flag with contact information for the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration.

4. Old Business

a. Golden Veterans Parade Update

Chairman Diaz advised that Ms. Gloria Garces was absent today (9/4) in observance of her birthday. He reported that Resolution No. R-635-13, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of

the Vietnam War Veterans and supporting the November 8, 2013 Parade, was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on July 16, 2013. He recognized those MAB members and staff who contributed towards this effort and expressed his gratitude for their support. Chairman Diaz welcomed Mr. Mario Alvarez, representing County Mayor Carlos Gimenez. He commented on how this event seemed to be growing to new levels. Informing members that an informational package was completed and submitted to MAB Board members, Chairman Diaz advised that he was working to secure funding from a large, national organization as a sponsor, and emphasized the importance of acquiring funding at this time. He stated a response from that organization was expected by the end of this week and noted this would provide funding for a major group to perform a concert. Chairman Diaz summarized the planned activities, stating that a full-fledged ticker tape parade would commence around noon on November 8, 2013, and would culminate at Bayfront Park with a concert. He indicated that several groups and chambers of commerce were invited to help make this event a success; and that efforts were in progress to ensure the History and Military television stations provided coverage for this effort. Chairman Diaz stated that packages had been provided to Univision and Telemundo Latin Television Broadcasting Companies, requesting that veterans be recognized for their service to the country on the level as that given to the sports teams. He identified some of the entertainment groups being invited to perform and local sports teams tentatively scheduled to participate.

Director Cruz stated he had contacted Lieutenant Colonel Son P. Vo (phonetic) of the Army ROTC Programs at the University of Miami and Florida International University, as well as representatives at two of the County's top Junior ROTC programs: North Miami Beach High School and American High School. He advised a meeting was scheduled for this week with the Downtown Development Authority to request assistance with barricades for parade and noted that he contacted the Miami Parking Authority regarding the need to accommodate police officers and the use of Lot 14 alongside Bayside, as staging area. Mr. Cruz stated he obtained a quote for the additional port-a-potties needed for the amphitheater and surrounding the area.

Chairman Diaz noted that, in addition to the main stage, an additional stage would be donated and placed near the fountain in Bayfront Park, complete with an audio system, to accommodate the growing number of veterans, currently around 70,000.

Mr. Martory advised that, according to State of Florida's records, approximately 72,000 veterans currently resided in Miami-Dade County.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that the number of veterans within Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties was approximately 50,000, and noted that number would increase to include family members and weekend revelers. He informed members that one group consisting of all War Veterans agreed to provide a free performance for this event.

Ms. Diane Gonzalez advised that at the last Chamber South meeting, approximated three different groups expressed an interest in participating in the parade physically and via sponsorship. She advised that she would provide sponsorship packages to those groups at the next Chamber South meeting to obtain their official commitments. Additionally, Ms. Gonzalez advised of the potential for participation by the Junior ROTC programs at Homestead and South Dade High Schools; however, this could present a slight scheduling conflict as a parade was scheduled in Homestead a few days later than this event. She stated she would be meeting with

Ms. Rose Brito, Executive Director, Greater Homestead Florida City Chamber of Commerce regarding the organization's level of involvement in this event.

Discussion ensued among Board members and Director Cruz regarding various other entities that would provide support and participation for the parade, including Miami-Dade Police and Florida Highway Patrol providing motorcycles and Mounted Patrol to enhance the level of safety and security.

Dr. Atwood advised that the American Legion Riders had motorcycles and would participate if asked and noted he concurred with the earlier comment regarding hotel rooms being provided at a discounted rate being a good incentive for participation.

Colonel Hatcher informed members that two Reserve Units were willing to participate by providing equipment and stated he would request a lieutenant to submit photographs of the types of equipment available to Chairman Diaz.

Chairman Diaz noted he met with several veterans of the Bay of Pigs and informed of the entire group's willingness to participate and encouraged MAB members to continue working to make this a successful event.

5. New Business

a. Resolution to BCC to Add 2 Board Positions for Chambers of Commerce

Chairman Diaz announced that the County Commission adopted on first reading the proposed ordinance (Agenda Item 14A1; Legislative File No. 131720) amending membership of the MAB to include one appointed member from each, the Chamber South and the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Gonzalez for her assistance in getting these two Chambers involved with the MAB and stated he would request the BCC Chairwoman to waive the BCC's rules to expedite the final adoption process.

b. Remembering our Fallen Heroes Ceremony

Chairman Diaz commended Mr. Cruz, MAB Director, on his initiative to bring forth a great idea and asked him to provide details.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz, Director, MAB, informed members that in an effort to promote the MAB from the County level, the idea to have TAPS played one Friday each month at 12:00 noon to provide exposure of the sacrifices the men and women of the military had made for this Country. He listed several veterans who attended and noted he would make provide copies of the video recorded by the Miami-Dade's Communications Department (MDTV) as soon as it was available. Mr. Cruz stated this event would recognize a different branch of the military each month, except September, when the Police Benevolent Association displayed an exhibit honoring fallen police officers. He expressed confidence that the event was well-received and expressed his appreciation to Dr. Atwood and Mr. Martory for their assistance in making this a great success.

Chairman Diaz recognized Ms. Debbie Zimmerman, Chief of Staff for U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

c. Coca-Cola Boot Camp Program

Chairman Diaz noted the Coca-Cola Boot Camp Program was funded by a grant donated by the Coca-Cola Company, in the amount of \$500,000, to help fund the hiring of military veterans to work at the County's Parks. After stating that this grant was unsolicited, he advised that a large number of grants were available and indicated that many companies would be very willing to help our veterans. Chairman Diaz commended Ms. Gonzalez on the work she did along the line of securing grant funding and stated she was doing a great job.

Mr. Cruz informed members that Mayor Carlos Gimenez would announce, in a ceremony tomorrow (9/5) at 10:00 a.m. at Gwen Cherry Park, the details of the Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness Program. He explained that a grant from the Foundation and the National Recreation and Park Association to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade would be used to fund 13 recreation centers throughout the County to hire veterans as instructors at fitness boot camps in those parks. Mr. Cruz provided members with handouts containing additional information regarding the ceremony.

In response to Chairman Diaz' inquiry about the hiring process for the veterans, Mr. Cruz advised that he would research and provide that information the following day to MAB members for dissemination to the veteran community. He confirmed that currently the grant was a one-year renewable grant.

Mr. Humes advised that his organization would be meeting with the Health Foundation of South Florida at the Veterans Administration Hospital to discuss a collaborative grant funding effort for its new Geriatric Program. He also asked that information regarding the Community Health Institute's (CHI) veterans' succession planning be disseminated at the Boot Camp Fitness Grant Program Ceremony on tomorrow (9/5).

d. Presentation by Kevin Humes

Mr. Kevin Humes, County Commission District 1, appeared before the MAB members along with Mr. William Nicholas, on behalf of ABC Supply Mart and stated his presentation was focused on jobs. Mr. Humes described ABC Supply Mart as a disabled veterans' procurement contracting company, with Executive Order 13360, an affiliate of AbilityOne Network, and with the same ability to hire disabled veterans as the Goodwill Industries.

Mr. William Nicholas appeared before the MAB and provided a brief overview of the ABC Supply Mart organization and noted it was a veteran-owned dedicated to hiring veterans. He noted the organization partnered with other organizations to manufacture medical equipment, office supplies, aircraft parts, industrial parts and products. He stated this was a pilot program being launched in Miami-Dade County and once established, would be implemented nationwide. Mr. Nicholas advised that this program was seeking the support of the Veterans Administration and the Federal Government.

Mr. Humes presented a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the working relationship between ABC Supply and several of its partner businesses through which employment for veterans was obtained. He described the organization's primary focus on providing jobs regarding County Commission District 1 and the Opa-locka Airport. Mr. Humes spoke about the Ability One

Program and commented that organizations were interested in bringing manufacturing opportunities to Miami-Dade, pointing out that this could be an opportunity for veterans to be hired. He advised that veterans were made aware of the job opportunities through notices posted at various American Legion Offices, Veterans of Foreign War facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, and other venues frequently visited by veterans.

Chairman Diaz acknowledged the arrival of Mr. Ed Haynes, representing Congresswoman Frederica Wilson and Mr. David Blake, representing Commissioner Monestime (District 2).

e. CAVA Project at the Miami Military Museum

Mr. Gustavo Cruz, Director, MAB, provided a brief overview of the Cuban American Veterans Association (CAVA) Project, stating that the organization was planning to display a monument at the Miami Military Museum in recognition of the different branches of the military. He stated that upon receipt of written approval from the Miami-Dade Park, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Department, CAVA would begin fundraising efforts and noted this would take approximately three years to get this finalized.

Dr. Atwood was approached by representatives of CAVA regarding an approximately 10-acre footprint surrounding the structure, which provided for a plethora of monumental designs encompassing any military group. He explained that, because this was an historic site in a public institution, the following criteria must be adhered to: 1) the monument must reflect credit upon the Armed Forces of the United States; and 2) the monument must be safe and suitable for public display to all members of the community.

Chairman Diaz noted he would contact the Director of the PROS Department the next day (9/4) regarding the approval of this project.

Dr. Atwood stated that the first monument erected at the museum illustrated “The U.S.S. Biscayne and its crew,” a warship in World War II that was named after Biscayne Bay and which fought in six battles. He advised that a diagram of the proposed monument was currently being circulated for MAB members review.

6. Approval of August 7th, 2013 Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Diane Gonzalez that the August 7, 2013 Military Affairs Board meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was seconded by Dr. Atwood, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 12-0.

7. Next meeting date is scheduled for October 2nd, 2013

Chairman Diaz stated, and members agreed, that the next MAB meeting was scheduled for October 2, 2013.

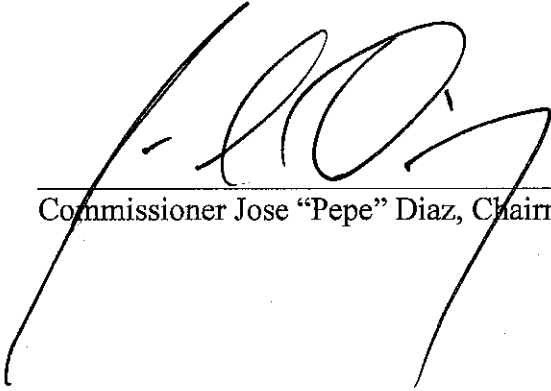
8. Discussion items for the next agenda

Ms. Mignon Moore noted the Florida Governor's Chief of Staff requested some staff members to research where state-owned parcels existed in an effort to ensure the Base remained in Florida in the event of a threat. She stated she was awaiting the findings and would contact the Governor's office to request this information as soon as possible for use as military housing.

Chairman Diaz noted a developer who purchased several parcels in the Doral area, contacted him regarding information about the need for military housing. He stated he would look into this issue further and upon determining it was viable, he would direct the developers to contact Ms. Moore and representatives at SOUTHCOM. Pertaining to the Normandy issue, Chairman Diaz stated he would meet with Commissioner Souto and discuss bringing the findings before the Board of County Commissioners.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Military Affairs Board, the meeting adjourned 7:23 p.m.



Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Miami – Dade Military Affairs Board September 4, 2013

Prepared by: Mary Smith-York

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	9/4/2013		Military Affairs Board Agenda
2	9/4/2013		Veterans Valentine's Dinner Dance Event Flyer
3	9/4/2013		Media Advisory Re: Coca-Cola Company Troops For Fitness Program
4	9/4/2013		VA Health Care and the Affordable Care Act Newsletter
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2013
1800 HOURS

City Hall, City of Doral
8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL

AGENDA

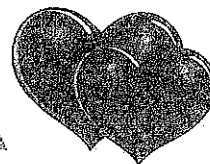
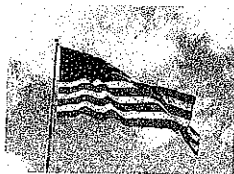
- Welcome
- Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance
- Board Member Roundtable
- Old Business
 - Golden Veterans Parade update
- New Business
 - ~~resolution~~ to BCC to add 2 board positions for chambers of commerce
 - Remembering our Fallen Heroes Ceremony
 - Coca-Cola Boot Camp Program
 - Presentation by Kevin Humes
 - CAVA project at the Miami Military Museum
- Approval of Minutes (August 7th, 2013)
- Next meeting date is scheduled for October 2nd, 2013
- Discussion items for the next agenda
- Adjournment

Subj: **Fwd: ... VSOs Valentines Dinner Dance Saturday February 8, 2014 @ Elks Lounge**
Date: 8/29/2013 12:34:24 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: JMartory007@aol.com
To: guscruz@miamidade.gov
CC: bobmolleda1@bellsouth.net

>>>>>> ...yes very early BUT... would like to be mention it @ our next meeting Sept. 4th. location TBA ?

Thanks,
joe

Gustavo L.
Director
Military



Veterans Valentine's Dinner Dance Event

Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Miami Elks Lodge #948 located at 10301 Sunset Dr., Miami, Florida 33171. Formal Attire. **All are welcomed.**

Plan ahead and save the date, we do not want anybody to miss out. Scheduled time will be from 7:00 PM to 12:00 AM. Cost will be \$50.00 per person (all you can eat Buffet Style starts at 8:30 PM). Tickets are available, just let us know how many you need. We are going all out and pulling all the stops. Reserve your table early and bring your family and friends. There will be a cash bar available. We will have a Live Band that plays music from the 50s, 60s, 70s, on up, you name it they have it! Arlene Roves, the lead singer sang at our Valentine Day party at the VA Hospital last year and everybody loved her and wanted her back.

Come and support the veterans, enjoy great food, music, in beautiful facilities with ample parking. We are committed to making this the biggest event ever and to remember the good old days. So come and share with family and friends a night of total entertainment, (telling stories, eating, dancing or whatever tickles your fancy). All Hosting Organizations (American Legion 346, Veterans of Foreign Wars 10212, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 620 & Cuban American Veterans Association) are welcoming everybody. See Bob Molleda for Tickets 305-552-1048, email: bobmolleda1@bellsouth.net or any of the Post Commanders Jorge Montes American Legion Post 346, Oswaldo Perez VFW Post 10212, Luis Lalama VVA Chapter 620 or Frank Penela CAVA can also help you out as well.

Menu: Saved the best for last.

Hot D'Oeuvres: Ham Croquets, Meat Balls, Mini Crab Cakes, Chicken Empanadas, Papas Rellenas, & Tostones con carne. (Save room for ...).

Entrees: Chicken Marsala and Pot Roast sauteed in a wild mushroom & wine sauce, Moros, Maduros and House Salad with dressing.

Dessert Station: Chocolate Mousse, Cheese Cake, Key lime Pie, & Carrot Cake.

Freshly Brewed Regular or Decaf Coffee & Hot or Cold Tea.



MEDIA ADVISORY

miamidade.gov

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MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS TO GET BOOT-CAMP FIT THROUGH COCA-COLA TROOPS FOR FITNESS PROGRAM

Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez to Announce Details of Grant to Hire Veterans and Inspire Healthier Living

(MIAMI, August 30, 2013) – Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces will hire veterans to enhance fitness and recreation programming throughout Miami-Dade County. The wellness programs are possible with a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade.

Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez will announce details of this unique partnership which will pair former members of the armed forces with residents in neighborhoods most in need of wellness services. The announcement will occur on **Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013 at 10a.m. at Gwen Cherry Park, 7090 NW 22nd Avenue, in Miami.**

More than 200 Miami-Dade residents will gather to experience a variety of activities, including military-style fitness classes, Fitness Zone® instruction, Zumba, yoga, healthy cooking and more. The Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness grant will support nutrition and physical activity programs offered at 13 Miami-Dade County recreation centers, and will include a new military-style fitness program led by U.S. military veterans.

What: Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness Program Launch in Miami-Dade County

When: September 5, 2013
9:30 a.m. -- Media Check-In
10:00 a.m. -- Event Begins

Where: Gwen Cherry Park
7090 NW 22nd Avenue

About The Coca-Cola Foundation

Since its inception, The Coca-Cola Foundation has awarded more than \$500 million to support global sustainable community initiatives, including water stewardship, community recycling, active, healthy living, and education. For more information about The Coca-Cola Foundation, please go to www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/foundation_coke.html.

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 30,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

About The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that supports the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department's effort to further develop Miami-Dade County's world-class parks system for residents and visitors. Its mission is to create a healthier, more livable and sustainable Miami community by ensuring the implementation of the Parks Open Space Master Plan and the development of year-round park and recreation programs for local children, adults and people with disabilities.

About the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

Nationally accredited, a three-time winner of the NRPA National Gold Medal Award, winner of the 2013 Florida Governor's Sustained Excellence Award and the 2009 Florida Governor's Sterling Award for excellence in management and operations, Miami-Dade County Parks is the third largest county park system in the United States, consisting of 260 parks and 12,825 acres of land. It is one of the most unique park and recreation systems in the world. Made up of more than just playgrounds and athletic fields, it also comprises out-of-school, sports-development, and summer-camp programs; programs for seniors and people with disabilities; educational nature centers and nature preserves; environmental restoration efforts; arts and culture programs and events; the renowned Zoo Miami, Deering Estate at Cutler and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden; the Crandon Tennis Center, home of the Sony Open; golf courses; beaches; marinas; campgrounds; pools; and more. For information about Miami-Dade County Parks call 3-1-1, or visit www.miamidade.gov/parks/.

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To request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or sign language interpreter services (7 days in advance), call 305-755-7848.

MIAMI-DADE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT

275 NW 2nd Street, Third Floor, Miami, FL 33128
(305) 755-7800



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

What you should know about VA Health Care and the Affordable Care Act



What is the Affordable Care Act?

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the health care law, was created to expand access to affordable health care coverage to all Americans, lower costs, and improve quality and care coordination. Under the health care law, people will have:

- health coverage that meets a minimum standard (called “minimum essential coverage”);
- qualify for an exemption; or
- make a payment when filing their taxes if they have affordable options but remain uninsured.

In 2014, Health Insurance Marketplaces will be a new way to find health coverage. On the Marketplaces, some people may be eligible for lower costs on premiums and out-of-pocket costs based on their income.

At a glance

- VA wants all Veterans to get health care that improves their health and well-being.
- If you are enrolled in VA health care, you don’t need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards.
- The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans’ out-of-pocket costs.
- If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.

If I’m enrolled in a VA health care program, do I meet the requirement for health care coverage?

Yes. If you are enrolled in any of VA’s programs below, you have coverage under the standards of the health care law:

- Veteran’s health care program
- Civilian Health and Medical program (CHAMPVA)
- Spina bifida health care program

What are the benefits of VA health care programs?

- Medical care rated among the best in the U.S.
- Immediate benefits of health care coverage. Veterans may apply for VA health care enrollment at any time.
- No enrollment fee, monthly premiums, or deductibles. Most Veterans have no out-of-pocket costs. Some Veterans may have to pay small copayments for health care or prescription drugs.
- More than 1,400 places available to get your care. This means your coverage can go with you if you travel or move.
- Freedom to use other plans with your VA health care, including Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE or private insurance.
- You have met the new requirement to have health care coverage.

If I'm not enrolled in a VA health care program, how can I apply?

You can apply for VA health care at any time by visiting www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or visiting your local VA health care facility.

Where can I get more information?

Visit VA's website at www.va.gov/aca, or call us at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. or Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., eastern. For more information about the Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov.