

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

Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp.
8000 NW 21 Street
Miami, FL 33122

January 8, 2014
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

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CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MEETING AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
January 8, 2014

The Military Affairs Board (MAAB) convened in a meeting on January 8, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp., 8000 NW 21 Street, Miami, FL 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mario Alvarez; Anthony Atwood; Rosa Brito; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Thomas Davis; Diana Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Eduardo Lombard; and Joseph Martory.

The following voting Board members were absent: David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Kevin Humes; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Jorge Sibila; Don Slesnick II; and Keith Whitbeck.

The following non-voting Board members were present: GY Sgt. Eddy Fonseca, Jr.; Ed Haynes; Tim Norton for Major Brooke Cortez; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; and Mr. Paul Russo.

The following staff members were present: Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Gloria Garces, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz' Office; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

The following guests were present: Marina Aviles; Michael Giallambardo; Thomas Hastings; and Aldo Ruiz.

Chairman Martinez notified MAB members that Ms. Gloria Garces obtained full-time employment with a Spanish Talk Show and that she would continue working part-time in his office.

- **Welcome**

Chairman Diaz welcomed Board members to tonight's (1/08) MAB meeting.

- **Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence**

Mr. Joseph Martory led the MAB in the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by Mr. Manuel Gonzalez in a moment of prayer.

- **Board Member Roundtable**

Mr. Eduardo Lombard commented on the following programs and events: the Vietnam Veterans of America and American Legion are holding a fundraising event on January 8,

2014; the Medley Police Department and the U.S. Marine Corps. conducted a joint Toys for Tots event; the City of Doral has a brick naming campaign at their Veteran's Park; and that volunteers were needed to help serve food to residents of the Chapman Partnership's homeless shelter as part of the Veteran's Stand Down.

GY Sgt. Eddy Fonseca, Jr. commented that the Toys for Tots program did not collect as many donations for needy children in this community as they did in previous years, despite television and other media promotions. He explained that he believed they were approximately 2,000 toys short with 110 organizations receiving toys and another 30 that did not. GY Sgt. Fonseca said a complete report would be presented at the next meeting as to the number of toys.

Mr. Paul Russo noted that the expansion of the outpatient blood draw area from 600 to 1,600 square feet was completed; that the new parking lot will open on January 20, 2014 with 200 additional parking spaces; that the first floor main hospital outpatient areas and waiting rooms are currently being renovated; and that the average time to process claims was averaging 22 days, significantly ahead of the 30 day mandatory goal.

Chairman Diaz congratulated Mr. Russo on the tremendous improvements at the Veterans Hospital.

Mr. Joseph Martory commended Mr. Russo on the quality of care he recently received at the Veterans Hospital Emergency Room.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez was pleased that the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance received notification from the State of Florida that they would receive continuation funding. She said that she addressed the United States (U.S.) Senate Caucus on Defense Communities in Washington, D.C in December, 2013 and that U.S. Representative Joe Garcia agreed to join the House Caucus on Defense Communities as a result of the Golden Veterans Parade, noting that no other community in Florida was represented on the caucus. Ms. Gonzalez pointed out that the caucuses gave South Florida a greater voice on a national level for military issues. She mentioned a Miami-Dade Defense Alliance meeting would be scheduled within the next couple of months and programing would begin upon receiving grant funds.

Ms. Rosa Brito expressed her appreciation for being invited to participate on the MAB. She noted the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce and the Homestead City Council were working on the Third Military Appreciation Celebration beginning on May 17, 2014 and seeking sponsorships and other assistance. Ms. Brito explained that free meals would be provided to military personnel and an art and essay contest would be held in local schools. She said the Annual Excellence Awards nomination deadline was extended to February 10, 2014, and that first responders, military service person of the year, and hiring our heroes' military award were added as additional award categories.

Mr. Anthony Atwood noted Season's Greetings cards and calendars were distributed to all Florida Legislators. He distributed a copy of the card for MAB members to view. Mr. Atwood said that that U.S. Congressman Joe Garcia, State of Florida Senator Dwight Bullard, and State Representative Frank Artiles along with another 200 guests attended the December 7, 2013 holiday event. It was held inside the Military Museum in order to show visitors that additional funding was needed to complete interior renovations, said Mr. Atwood. He explained that the building was previously used to collect toys for the Toys for Tots program and offered the facility for future collections. Mr. Atwood informed MAB members that Florida International University (FIU) was considering placing an educational institute for the study of public history and heritage at the Military Museum. Mr. Atwood said a fundraising event was scheduled for May 17, 2014 at the Biltmore Hotel in conjunction with FIU's Veteran's Alumni Chapter.

Ms. Sandra Ruiz pointed out that the City of Doral was committed to support the MAB and the U.S. Southern Command. She said she was currently working on the 2nd Annual Women in the Military luncheon, noting that U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez from California would participate in this year's event and the date would soon be announced.

Chairman Diaz acknowledged Ms. Ruiz' and the City of Doral's support of the Golden Veterans Parade.

Ms. Ruiz expressed her appreciation to Martin and Sons for their assistance promoting the Golden Veterans Parade on local bus benches.

Mr. Timothy Daubert noted he had a conversation with Ms. Kathleen Kauffman, Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation and Archeological Resources Chief, where he was informed of the Military Museum's history, noting that it was relocated to its current location.

Mr. Mario Alvarez expressed his appreciation to everyone who helped make the Golden Veterans Parade a reality.

Mr. Thomas Davis commended Chairman Diaz and his staff for their exceptional accomplishments in bringing the Golden Veterans Parade to fruition in approximately sixty days. He also acknowledged Mr. Manuel Gonzalez for coordinating the aircraft and flyover component. Mr. Davis commented that the Chapman Partnership worked in cooperation with the Homestead Air Reserve Base and that airmen served Christmas Day meals at the homeless center for several years.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez pointed out that there was a magnificent team effort by everyone to produce the Golden Veterans Parade. He announced that the new military lounge was recently re-opened at Miami International Airport.

Chairman Diaz commented that the military lounge was appropriately named on behalf of Mr. Keith Whitbeck.

Mr. Tim Norton commented that approximately 300 soldiers from the Homestead Air Reserve Base would be deployed to Afghanistan within the next couple of weeks. He noted the retirement ceremony for Colonel David Davis would be held Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Base Fitness Center. Mr. Norton said \$9.8 million was authorized in the upcoming U.S. Defense Department budget to build a new entry control complex.

Chairman Diaz informed MAB members that he would introduce a resolution at the next MAB meeting that would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners, authorizing MAB and County support of the Toys for Tots program. He noted participation would be limited to Miami-Dade County boundaries.

Ms. Ruiz suggested that all cities and municipalities be asked to jointly participate, similar to the approach used for the Golden Veterans Parade.

- **Old Business**

- **Veteran's Day Parade Recap**

Chairman Diaz expressed his appreciation to MAB members and his staff, particularly Ms. Gloria Garces and Mr. Gustavo Cruz for contributing to the parade's tremendous success. He said that his goal was to make a difference in the lives of the veterans who were honored at the parade. Chairman Diaz commented that the veterans attending the Miami Heat event at the American Airlines met Mr. Pat Riley, Miami Heat President and Mr. Micky Arison, Miami Heat Owner.

Chairman Diaz acknowledged Mr. Mario Alvarez for his introduction to Hershey's Chairman of the Board who subsequently made a \$200,000 contribution to the parade. He noted that up to day of the event; various plans were set to be implemented based upon different funding and logistical scenarios. Chairman Diaz pointed out that military assets were taken away just one week prior to the parade due to the Congressional Sequestration. He said that Miami was the only parade in the United States that had its military assets returned by the Secretary of Defense after communicating with Governor Rick Scott and other officials.

Chairman Diaz indicated that Mayor Carlos Gimenez offered County resources to support the parade. He said that Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and her colleagues also offered their support. Chairman Diaz pointed out that President Barack Obama's decision to visit Miami the same day as the parade could have impacted the event; however, his visit was moved to later in the day with the assistance of U.S. Congressman Joe Garcia. He proceeded to acknowledge Ms. Diana Gonzalez for contributions.

Chairman Diaz indicated that the Golden Veterans Parade, honoring Vietnam and Bay of Pigs veteran's, was a one-time event; however, he expressed the opinion that the MAB

needed to adopt a signature event. He proceeded to ask the MAB to sponsor an annual military parade supporting all veterans along with active and reserve military personnel.

Discussion pursued among the MAB members over the scheduling of the parade.

It was moved by Mr. Manuel Gonzalez that a veteran's parade be designated as the MAB's signature event and that it would be held on a Saturday, the weekend prior to Veterans Day weekend, so that it would not conflict with any other community events. This motion was seconded by Mr. Timothy Daubert and upon being put to a vote passed by an unanimous vote.

Mr. Timothy Atwood pointed out that the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I was approaching, noting that units for the parade could be acquired from France, Britain and elsewhere.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez commented that there needed to be advance planning in order to secure grant funding.

Chairman Diaz suggested that an appropriate resolution be prepared to permit the MAB to pay a commission associated with a sponsorship.

Chairman Diaz said that a complete report on the parade would be provided to MAB members by the next meeting. He noted that bags would be available after the meeting for anyone who did not receive one the day of the parade.

- **New Business**

- **Three Kings Parade**

Chairman Diaz noted the importance for the MAB's participation in the parade.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said the parade was Sunday, January 12, 2014, beginning at 12:00 p.m.; that vehicles needed to be lined up at 8:00 a.m.; and that everyone should convene at approximately 10:30 a.m. He noted the parade headed westbound on SW 8th Street, beginning at SW 4th Avenue. Mr. Cruz asked MAB members to inform him of any veteran's organizations wanting to walk with the MAB.

Mr. Joseph Martory inquired about vehicle compliance issues.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that there would not be a charge for military vehicles; that other vehicles would be subject to a charge; and there was a \$150 fee for a convertible car. He commented that the spectators loved seeing the military in uniform at last year's parade. Chairman Diaz suggested contacting Florida International University and the University of Miami to see if they wanted to participate as well as asked GY Sgt. Eddy

Fonseca about whether there was any availability through the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Reserves.

➤ **70th Anniversary of D-Day**

Chairman Diaz noted he concurred with Commissioner Souto that it was important for Miami-Dade County to send a delegation to the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy. He said that preliminary information was being compiled about the costs and other arrangements; however, in the meantime, suggested MAB members identified individuals interested in attending. Chairman Diaz commented that France's Port of Heron offered to support and do something special for our delegation at this event.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz pointed out that U.S. President Barack Obama, Queen Elizabeth, the British and Canadian Prime Ministers and many other heads of state would be attending. He noted the initial plan would be to arrive a few days prior to the official ceremony. Mr. Cruz said that information would be available on the MAB website, once finalized.

Chairman Diaz asked MAB members for a vote of support to proceed with an exploratory planning process for this event; however, there was not a quorum present.

➤ **Sub-committee involvement**

Chairman Diaz said he would request the resignations of several MAB members who did not attend meetings.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez pointed out that the MAB Director could notify those individuals rather than Chairman Diaz, in order to comply with the Sunshine Law provisions.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz explained the critical role of the MAB's sub-committees, noting that MAB members needed to collectively identify and support issues pertinent to the MAB for the upcoming year through these committees. He said he was working with Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez to address changes to the MAB's by-laws.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez suggested the MAB convene a strategic planning session to determine committee structure and makeup as well as to develop a work plan. She said the issues associated with the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) was critical this year, noting conflicting information being disseminated from the state and federal governments. Ms. Gonzalez indicated that homelessness, housing and education issues needed to be addressed as well as a clear list of projects and initiatives to focus on needed to be developed.

Chairman Diaz concurred over the need to convene a strategic planning session. He said that the hiring of veterans should become a priority. Chairman Diaz noted the MAB needed to focus on the needs of our veterans and develop solutions to their issues.

Chairman Diaz reiterated that Mr. Cruz would be communicating with MAB members regarding their membership status. He asked Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez to schedule ethics training for MAB members as part of the strategic planning session.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez pointed out that the Commission on Ethics had a presentation for boards covering public records and Sunshine Law issues.

➤ **South Florida Region Homeless Veterans Stand Down**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz explained that Lt. Col. Antonio Colmenares from the American Red Cross was now working with the Veterans Association at the City of Miami. He noted they were in the process of identifying homeless veterans in the community in order to provide them with appropriate services. Mr. Cruz said he would invite Lt. Col. Colmenares to the next MAB meeting to address the Board.

➤ **Allocation of MAB Trust Fund money for an electronic tablet for the Director**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted the need for an electronic tablet in order to access the County's computer resources while away from the office. He said he would place this on next month's meeting agenda for approval since there was not a quorum.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez explained that Mr. Cruz did not need put the purchase out for bid after the item was approved and could go directly to the market to obtain the best deal.

➤ **Sunset Review**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz pointed out that County boards were required to annually submit a Sunset Review to the Board of County Commissioners. He said this was a questionnaire reporting the board's purpose and accomplishments over the previous year. Mr. Cruz encouraged MAB members to contact him should there be any questions or comments and that it would be presented at the next meeting for approval.

➤ **Creation of MAB logo**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted the County's graphics department could create a MAB logo for future use on the website, letterhead and other promotions. He proceeded to ask MAB members for input into the design.

It was mentioned by several MAB members that they believed the MAB already had a logo. Mr. Anthony Atwood provided a copy of a logo to Mr. Cruz.

➤ **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz commented that the minutes would be approved at the next meeting since there was not a quorum.

➤ **Next meeting date**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz informed MAB members that the next meeting date was February 5, 2014.

➤ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz encouraged MAB members to send him agenda items for the next meeting.

• **Guest Introductions**

Mr. Daubert introduced his guest, Mr. Michael Giallambardo, representing Heroes Entering Life's Opportunities (HELO) Foundation. Mr. Giallambardo explained that HELO helped to establish veteran's resource centers at universities.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz pointed out that the MAB was very interested in HELO's work. He informed Mr. Giallambardo that the Military Support Center at the University Park Campus of Florida International University (FIU) would be holding a grand opening on January 23, 2014 and that he would introduce him to the Center's Director. Mr. Cruz commented that FIU had approximately 2,000 enrolled veterans and that this would be the first veteran's center at a State funded university in Florida.

Ms. Sandra Ruiz introduced her husband, Mr. Aldo Ruiz, a retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant, noting he sponsored and underwrote last year's Women in the Military luncheon and that he obtained a physical therapy degree at FIU through a Veterans Administration program.

Mr. Cruz commented that FIU had an accelerated nursing degree program for medics and core men, where they received credit for previous experience.

Ms. Marina Aviles, Project Coordinator, The Miami Beach Coalition (MBC), explained that MBC worked to address gaps in veterans, homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues in conjunction with existing community based organizations. She noted that MBC had various resources to offer the MAB and could assist in community events.

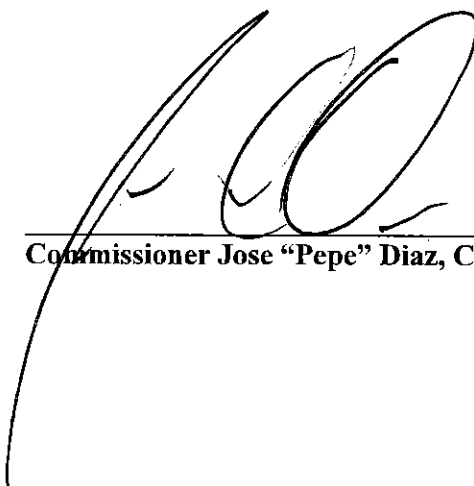
Mr. Thomas Hastings, Contractor, Homestead Air Force Reserve Base introduced himself.

Mr. Blair Sawyer, Special Assistant to General John Kelly, Commander, U.S. Southern Command, noted he was a guest of Mr. David Blake.

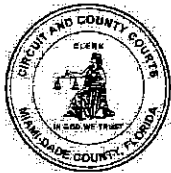
Ms. Sandra Sawyer, also a guest of Mr. David Blake, noted she was an attorney practicing V.A. Claims law.

- **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Military Affairs Board
January 8, 2014

Prepared by: Alan Eisenberg

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	1/08		Meeting Agenda
2	1/08		Meeting Minutes: October 29, 2013
3	1/08		The Miami Beach Coalition for a Drug-Free Community brochure
4	1/08		Sign-In Sheet
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2014
6:00 PM

FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL BUILDING
8000 NW 21 Street, Doral, FL 33122
AGENDA

- ❖ **Welcome**
- ❖ **Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**
- ❖ **Board Member Roundtable**
- ❖ **Old Business**
 - **Veteran's Day Parade Recap**
- ❖ **New Business**
 - **Three Kings Parade**
 - **70th Anniversary of D-Day**
 - **Identifying events for involvement in 2014**
 - **Sub-committee involvement**
 - **South Florida Region Homeless Veterans Stand Down**
 - **Allocation of MAB Trust Fund money for an electronic tablet for the Director**
 - **Sunset Review approval**
 - **Creation of MAB logo**

- ❖ Approval of Minutes (October 29th, 2013)
- ❖ Next meeting date is scheduled for February 5th, 2014
- ❖ Discussion items for the next agenda
- ❖ Adjournment

**CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MEETING AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
October 29, 2013**

The Military Affairs Advisory Board (MAAB) convened in a meeting on October 29, 2013 at 5:36 p.m. at the District 12 Office of County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, 8345 NW 12 Street, Doral FL 33126.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mario Alvarez; Anthony Atwood; David Blake; David Conley; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Thomas Davis; Diana Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Kevin Humes; Charles Johnson; Joseph Martory; and Christopher Miller;

The following voting Board members were absent: Mark Blumstein; Eduardo Lombard; Jorge Sibila; Don Slesnick II; Keith Whitbeck.

The following staff members were present: Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Gloria Garces, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz' Office; Antonio Crawford, Office of the Commission Auditor; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

The following guests were present: Louis Lalama, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Miami Chapter 620

- **Welcome**

Chairman Diaz welcomed Board members to tonight's (10/29) MAAB meeting.

The recently made Military Affairs Board (MAB) Challenge Coin was passed around for members to take a look at.

- **Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Diaz led the MAAB in a moment of prayer; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Joseph Martory.

- **New Business**

- 1) Implementing Order**

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez noted the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) gave contracting authority to the MAB subject to the BCC's approval of an Implementing Order establishing the policies and procedures for procurement by this Board. He said the BCC at its October 22, 2013 meeting approved Implementing Order 3-59 (Resolution No. R-868-13); which outlined the MAB's procurement power and

methods for purchasing goods and services based on their estimated cost. Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez pointed out that no bids were required for purchases up to \$250,000 and the MAB's Executive Director was required to obtain the best deal and maintain appropriate records; that the Executive Director was required to conduct a simplified competitive process for purchases between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000; and that a more formal process must be adhered to for purchases above \$1,000,000, with the cooperation of the County Attorney's Office and the Internal Services Department. He noted that the Implementing Order was created to identify vendors and contracts would be presented to this Board for approval, unless prior authorization had been granted to enter into a formal contract.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez proceeded to note that the Board could not spend money that it did not have in its trust fund and could not incur debts on behalf of the County.

Chairman Diaz commented that the MAB's Executive Director would present a monthly expenditure report to this Board; that a quarterly expenditure report would be presented to the BCC; and that he welcomed the oversight of the Office of Inspector General and the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.

2) Sponsorship Update

Chairman Diaz noted that Hershey's committed a \$200,000 contribution to become the Parade's sponsor. He proceeded to express his appreciation to Mr. Mario Alvarez for his introduction of Mr. James Nevels, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hershey's and to Mr. Drew Iddings, Promotions & Planning Director, Hershey's. Chairman Diaz proceeded to acknowledge Mr. Gus Cruz, Ms. Gloria Garces, Ms. Maria Cruz and Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez for their diligent work on finalizing the agreements and negotiating the contract. Chairman Diaz asked MAB members to express their personal appreciation to Hershey's representatives at the Parade.

Ms. Gloria Garces distributed a sponsorship list to Advisory Board members.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that the costs associated with the Parade was approximately \$500,000; including paid and in-kind expenses. He noted there might be additional sponsors added to the list that was just distributed. Chairman Diaz said that the amphitheater was not going to be used, and instead, a double sized stage would be built.

3) Approval of Hershey's Sponsorship Agreement & Granting authority to the Executive Director of the Military Affairs Board to enter into any agreements necessary for the Parade.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez pointed out that a financial contribution could be received from sponsors; however, he suggested that the MAB formally approved any

contributions that had conditions attached to those sponsorship agreements, such as in the Hershey's agreement.

It was moved by Timothy Daubert that the MAB approved a resolution granting MAB Executive Director the authority to enter into any agreements necessary for the Parade that would not cause the MAB to enter into debt and were consistent with the approved procurement authority under the Implementing Order 3-59. This motion was seconded by Manuel Gonzalez, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 13-0.

- **Parade Discussion**

Chairman Diaz commented and expressed concern that many veterans in this community were still unaware of the Parade even though it was only one and a half weeks away.

Ms. Garces pointed out that Clear Channel was providing approximately \$72,000 in promotional support; including 11 stationary and 3 digital billboards; public service announcements on all their stations; and radio host Doc Reno as the master of ceremonies. She said the combined media value was approximately \$140,000 from Clear Channel and other media sponsors.

Chairman Diaz noted that there was still time before the Parade to make a difference. He said more veterans were needed to participate in both the Parade and as spectators. Chairman Diaz noted that County staff was totally committed and now was the time for others to do so as well.

Chairman Diaz explained that the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Southern Command explained there was a conflict with their participation because the Parade included Bay of Pigs veterans.

In response, Mr. Timothy Daubert commented that a veteran was a veteran.

Chairman Diaz said enough was enough. He noted the nation was looking at what was being done in Miami and that there was a possibility that President Barack Obama might be in attendance. Chairman Diaz pointed out that other obstacles such as flyovers and military assets have been overcome. He said a parade of this magnitude would not happen again and that every veteran in Miami-Dade County should attend along with their families. Chairman Diaz encouraged MAB members to make telephone calls and to distribute flyers in order to continue getting the word out.

Mr. Joseph Martory said he recently met with the Veteran of Foreign Wars District Commander and discussed the Parade.

Mr. Louis Lalama said he delivered Parade posters to Mr. Paul Russo, Director/Chief Executive Officer, Miami VA Healthcare System (VA) and asked him to ensure they were distributed and placed on the walls of the hospital. He noted he was aware of over

300 veterans who were committed to attend and to walk with the Vietnam Veterans of America. He said he also delivered posters to local U.S. Post Offices and Home Depot's.

Chairman Diaz commented that Mayor Carlos Gimenez sent an email to all County employees stating that every veteran working for the County should be part of the Parade.

Mr. Daubert asked that a copy of this email be sent to the participating cities and municipalities, encouraging them to do the same for their employees.

Mr. Cruz noted the reluctance of department directors to release County employees for the day to serve as Goodwill Ambassadors to which Chairman Diaz responded that Mayor Gimenez had committed whatever support was needed and also offered to assist in fundraising efforts.

Mr. Kevin Humes said he would distribute Parade information at the International Brother Teamsters picnic this coming weekend.

Chairman Diaz and Ms. Garces expressed their appreciation to Ms. Diana Gonzalez for obtaining grant funding to help support the Parade.

Chairman Diaz commented that he was working with the Miami Dolphins to present a Veterans recognition during their November 17, 2013 home game. He said that the Miami Marlins contributed \$5,000 to the Parade. Chairman Diaz noted that the Miami Dolphins would be walking in the Parade with the Vietnam Veterans; that former Miami Heat players and the Bay of Pigs Veterans would be together on a double decker bus; and that the Miami Marlins would also be walking with other veterans. He pointed out that as a result of this effort, the MAB would continue its relationship with all three teams upon the completion of the Parade.

Chairman Diaz expressed his appreciation to City of Miami Mayor Thomas Regalado for his assistance, noting that each City of Miami Commissioner contributed \$2,000. He said Miami-Dade County contributed \$30,000 in out-of-pocket expenses. Chairman Diaz noted that a complete financial report would be distributed after the Parade.

Chairman Diaz explained that the Bayfront Park amphitheater was not being used because it only held 10,000 people and was not handicapped accessible. He noted that a more expensive alternative site was selected in Bayfront Park that would accommodate everyone; that several thousand chairs would be set up; that a double stage was being erected; that there would be a disc jockey; and that the Army band would be playing as everyone entered the park.

Mr. Thomas Davis said that the three planes from Wings Over Miami and Miami-Dade County helicopters would support the Parade with flyovers.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Manny Gonzalez to put Mr. Lonny Craven, Division Director of Airfield Operations, Miami-Dade Aviation Department in contact with Mr. Davis regarding the possibility of additional aircraft.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that there would be two flyovers; one during the Star Spangled Banner and the other following the sounding of Taps.

Chairman Diaz noted there would be brief presentations from the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, the Mayor of the City of Miami and himself. Singer Willy Chirino would perform in both English and Spanish, followed by the featured act, Grand Funk Railroad, said Chairman Diaz.

Ms. Garces commented that WWE professional wrestler Sheamus would be making a presentation as well as holding an autograph session. She noted that the Miami Dolphins cheerleaders would also perform.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that anything to do with the Parade was no longer considered to be covered under the Sunshine Law because it was already approved.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez noted he would not advise MAB members to talk to one another about the Parade.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez commented that he did not believe the previous motion specifically included the Hershey's contract.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez clarified that the motion included Hershey's.

Mr. David Conley commented that Parade information would be posted on the Red Cross' Facebook page.

Chairman Diaz noted that information on busses and parking lots would be available on the MAB website.

Mr. Cruz pointed out that he would provide MAB members by email the locations of County parking lots, noting they would be available on a first-come, first-served basis. He said that 200 parking spaces were provided in Lot 3 by the Miami Parking Authority that would be reserved for veterans bringing military assets and their families.

Mr. Cruz stressed the importance that MAB members arrived by 10:00 a.m. because they were one of the first groups to walk. He commented on the importance for groups to avoid gaps in the Parade progression because of a very tight schedule for the day's activities.

Chairman Diaz noted that the concert would end at sundown which would be at approximately 5:30 p.m. He said that veterans could wear whatever uniform or civilian

clothes that they felt appropriate and that MAB members would receive shirts to wear. Chairman Diaz pointed out that veterans would receive a tee shirt with the Veteran's Day Parade logo, a MAB Challenge Coin, and a historic document signed by the County Mayor and mayors from all 34 cities and municipalities within Miami-Dade County. He said he believed the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau would provide 1,500 plastic bags to hold these items.

Ms. Garces noted the ROTC was confirmed along with 5 marching school bands.

Chairman Diaz explained that should President Obama make an appearance, it would be toward the latter part of the event and all aviation in the area would cease in the area one hour prior to his arrival.

Chairman Diaz noted he needed everyone's support because the Parade was just one and a half weeks away. He reiterated that MAB members could engage in discussions only about the Parade, but no future business. Chairman Diaz said that these Parade discussions would not be in violation of the Sunshine Law because it was to clarify something already approved by the board.

Ms. Garces noted lodging arrangements were made for the American Legion Riders; however, they decided to contact another hotel directly to get a better rate.

Mr. Daubert asked that MAB members received the Parade flier by email.

Chairman Diaz asked that all MAB members received copies of pertinent emails related to the Parade.

Mr. Mario Alvarez inquired whether there was a deadline to receive additional sponsorships.

Chairman Diaz responded that there was no deadline to receive donations, noting that additional funding was needed to support future MAB programs in addition to covering the costs associated with this Parade. He said the MAB would collectively select legitimate organizations to support in the future and decide upon the appropriate use of these funds.

Mr. David Blake suggested that the Parade route be posted in the Miami Herald. He also asked whether information was available for MAB members to post on social media sites.

Ms. Garces responded that the route and street closure information was recently provided by the City of Miami. She noted this information would be included in a press release distributed to local media.

Mr. Daubert reminded MAB members that the Parade information was already posted to Facebook.

Mr. Cruz pointed out that the Parade would impact downtown traffic flow and public transportation routes. He noted that there would be message boards with notification of street closures, including Biscayne Boulevard. Mr. Cruz said that the Parade route would be cleaned and intersections opened as the Parade progressed toward Bayfront Park, in order to minimize the impact to traffic. He informed MAB members that he would send them traffic, parking and marketing materials that were requested by email.

Mr. Blake commented that non-governmental employers should be encouraged to allow their veteran employees to attend.

Chairman Diaz responded that Mayor Carlos Gimenez had provided his authorization to allow veterans and other County employees participate in the Parade.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez suggested that the Coalition of Chambers distribute a request to their members encouraging private businesses to allow the participation of their veteran employees.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Thomas Davis to distribute Parade flyers at the Homestead Air Force Reserve Base (HAFRB).

Ms. Gonzalez commented that she electronically distributed Parade information to Mr. Tim Norton, Homestead Air Reserve Base, and that she personally gave posters to Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and to the (HAFRB).

Chairman Diaz commented that there would be ten convertible cars for the Gold Star Mothers.

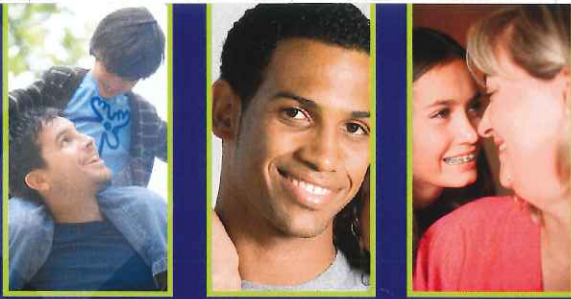
Mr. Joseph Martory suggested that local medical centers be asked to bring retired members the Parade with their busses.

Ms. Garces commented that there would be 3,300 chairs at the concert; 3,000 for general seating and 300 for sponsors.

- **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Since 2004, MBC has worked passionately to reduce underage drinking and other drug use by children and adolescents. By partnering with leaders on all fronts of these issues, we have learned a great deal about substance abuse and are better equipped than ever to share these findings with youth, parents, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, the medical community, law enforcement, government, the media and all local, state and federal community leaders, civic and volunteer groups and interested organizations.

MBC facilitates trainings, important information exchange, events, activities and many other initiatives to create a more knowledgeable, cohesive and ultimately healthier and safer Miami Beach for all. The challenge is great — we know, but the basic human desire to live a happy and healthy life is universal.

We firmly believe that human beings want to choose healthier lifestyles. We have found that by convening and facilitating resources, assistance, positive, fun and purposeful activities and enhancing partnerships, the pendulum begins to move.

MBC is committed for the long term. We will continue to champion and push for continuous information dissemination targeting the different populations that research shows us we need to focus our activities towards. Volunteers and members to MBC are certainly welcomed and encouraged to get involved. After all, we are only as good as those with which we are in partnership.

what WE do

MBC organizes, funds and partners to bring prevention and awareness activities and events to Miami Beach. The end goal is always to bring a specific audience together to broaden the imagination as to what is possible and what we know about alcohol and other drug use and the wide array of likely consequences.

Since its inception MBC has facilitated many targeted events all with the goal of strengthening the movement to keep children and teens drug-free. They include:

- > Media Training for its partners and members
- > Parenting Sessions at various schools throughout Miami Beach
- > Project Sticker Shock
- > Multi-Media Prom/Underage Drinking Campaign
- > Mock DUI at Miami Beach Senior High
- > Broward Youth Coalition & Miami Beach Police Department's Youth Director's Council and Police Explorers
- > Youth Leadership Arts in Prevention Training
- > Safe Festivals Training
- > Family Day
- > Last Chance (Juveniles at Risk Program)
- > Mayors on the Move
- > ArtWorks Forum
- > Sobe Sober Annual Campaign
- > Environmental & Social Marketing campaign
- > Anti-Tobacco and Anti-Drugs campaigns all year-round, in addition to Underage Drinking

why Young People DRINK and/or do drugs

- > Risk-Taking: An adolescent's brain doesn't fully develop until they are about 23-25 years old. This is a time of heightened risk taking for many.
- > Loneliness
- > To handle pressures and meet demands
- > Boredom
- > To belong and fit in - to be a part of something
- > At home, there is no guidance, quality time, companionship, nor clear communication on the subject of alcohol, drugs and tobacco use.



tips for PARENTS

We know it's not easy, but we also know that youth self report in surveys time and time again that the "#1 influence in their life is their parents." There are many little things parents can incorporate into their everyday lives to help keep their kids healthy and drug-free:

- > Eat together as a family 2-3 times per week. The conversations fostered at the dinner table keep all family members abreast of what is going on in each other's lives. It is family strengthening at its best.
- > Check your liquor supply at home. The #1 place children and teens get their alcohol is at home.
- > Model respectful and consistent behavior and walk the talk. They are watching you; lead by example.
- > Communicate your value systems.
- > Know your children's teachers, friends and their parents.
- > Be their parent, not their friend.
- > Communicate at their level.
- > Familiarize yourself with the places your children frequent.
- > Talk to your children often and LISTEN to them.
- > Listen to their music.
- > Stay current — learn how to text & stay connected to your children.
- > Set clear and firm parameters.

If there is one thing we have learned at MBC it is that the havoc wreaked on families with a child who uses alcohol or any other drug, is simply tragic. The effect of a person who is ill on the family is immense and very negative.

We have found that many parents just don't know where to begin. Whether your child is a "good" kid and "would never use drugs," or whether you're suspicious that they may already be experimenting or even if your child is fully immersed in alcohol or other drug use, it's critical that you, the parent, arm yourself with knowledge. And know, that you are not alone.

Become educated. Become current. Have a solid understanding of alcohol and other drug use, the symptoms, common side effects and other social issues that are closely related.



It's our sincerest hope at the Miami Beach Coalition (MBC) that you will use the following information to make good choices for yourself.

We know it's not easy because lots of kids appear to be using alcohol and other drugs. It may seem that some aren't even suffering consequences. Others may seem like they are much happier people when they are high. But, regardless of your observations or experiences with drugs, there is no doubt, that they are harmful to your body.

Our hope is that somehow we can help you meet your true potential. And, we know without a shadow of a doubt, that using alcohol or other drugs, is a sure way to get derailed and never meet your potential.

We all have different ideas on drug use and different ways of dealing with friends who offer it to us.

To make an informed decision, MBC believes wholeheartedly that you need to know the facts based on truths:

- Using drugs affects your physical, mental and spiritual health.
- Using drugs adversely affects your drive for life.
- Most of all it affects your potential.
- Drugs are illegal, harmful when used & abused and too often, they are deadly.
- Addiction doesn't ask you for anything before it becomes who you are. And turning back, once you are an addict, is one of the most difficult journeys anyone can take.
- Age matters because the younger you are when you experiment, the greater your chances of becoming an addict.
- Your brain doesn't fully develop until you are about 23-25 years old. If you make the choice to use drugs on your still underdeveloped brain, there can be serious consequences to the physiology of your brain. The one consequence most widely discussed and studied is the impact of drugs on your frontal cortex, the part of your brain where emotions are developed.

our Partners

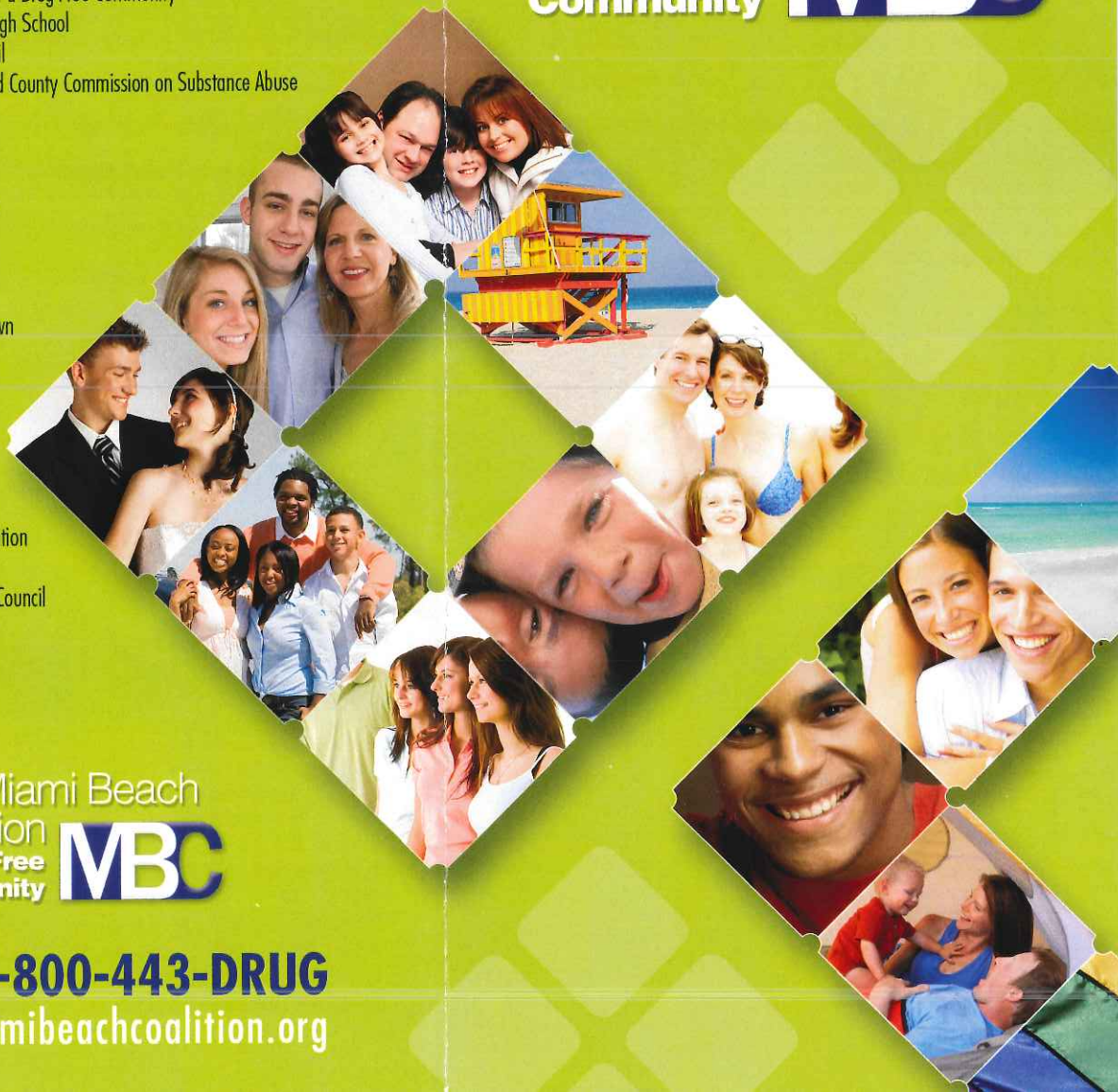
- City of Miami Beach Mayor & Commissioners Offices
- Miami Beach Teen Club
- City of Miami Beach Police Department
- Jackson Memorial Hospital
- Switchboard of Miami
- The Miami Coalition for a Drug-Free Community
- Miami Beach Senior High School
- Youth Director's Council
- United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse
- Miami Herald
- SunPost
- Miami New Times
- Clear Channel Outdoor
- It's All in the Journey
- The Village South
- Westcare Foundation
- Drug-Free Youth in Town
- Miami-Dade County Juvenile Assessment Center
- The National Guard
- Informed Families
- The South Miami Coalition
- M.A.D.D.
- Broward-Dade Safety Council
- Police Athletic League
- Miami Beach TV
- CAC
- CVP

The Miami Beach
Coalition
for a Drug-Free Community **MBC**

Contact us: **1-800-443-DRUG**
www.miamibeachcoalition.org

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January 8th, 2014

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