

Minutes for Black Affairs Advisory Board

October 1, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Stephen P. Clark Government Center

10th Floor Conference Room

Quorum: No

Present: Gerri Lazzarre; Jeff Cazeau; D. J. Fabien; Rene Gordon; Jihad Rashid;

Excused: Stephen Hunter Johnson; Priscilla Dames-Blake; Ronald Mumford; Dannie McMillon; Edgar Wright

Guests: Mr. Desmond Alufohai

Meeting opened at 10:20 a.m. Ms. Boone Fye gave the inspiration. Since Mr. Johnson was travelling, the Vice Chair, Ms. Lazzarre chaired the meeting. She requested that members review the agenda however we could not approve the agenda because we did not have quorum.

Chair's Report: In Mr. Johnson's absence, Ms. Boone-Fye gave an update on the status of the Sabadell Bank and BAAB Homeownership Initiative. Briefly, a news release was sent out and we will be forwarding potential homebuyers to the bank in the hope that the \$2 million allocated will be used.

Also, Ms. Boone-Fye shared a letter written by Commissioner Moss where he continued the dialogue on race and the status of Miami-Dade County's Black community. Commissioner Moss wants to discuss not just the race issue but the disparities noticed when procurement contracts are issued. She also talked about the School Board's School Bond report issued by Mr. Ronald Frazier which was discussed at a meeting called by the BAC, NAACP and the Urban League. Ms. McMillon is at a meeting today being held at the School Board and will hopefully provide an update at some point.

Ms. Lazzarre also mentioned that the Superintendent was not at the meeting and wanted to know the outcome. Ms. Boone-Fye gave an update and then reported on the four students who were arrested for having firearms at Brownsville Middle School. There needs to be a follow up on what happens to these students so that there is no disparity between how these Black students are treated as opposed to other non-minority students. The parents of these children are not sophisticated and there is the concern for the students and their parent's inability to navigate the system. There is the need to have the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) involved so that these students are treated fairly.

Mr. Cazeau is also concerned about the lack of certification among Black businesses when it comes to winning contracts. There was some discussion on how to rectify this situation. We will be investigating a method of doing so to help businesses with this issue. Commissioner Edmonson is still waiting on the Dade County Disparity Study outcomes as well.

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Program Officer's Report:

Ms. Boone-Fye reported that Mr. Milton Vickers will be coming to our next meeting to discuss the Stem Cell project.

MDC-CRT: the Office of Community Advocacy had a meeting yesterday regarding this issue. The outcome was that the Grief Counseling program proposed by the CRB will become part of the Black Affairs Advisory Board's MDC-CRT. The Grief Counseling aspect amplifies the intent of the MDC-CRT and we will be working with the CRB to fold this process in with the BAAB's MDC-CRT. The decision is to have the resolution amended to make that happen through Commissioner Moss' office.

Also on the table is the issue of felons being unable to attend affords travelling to Tallahassee for hearings and the possibility of hold local videoconferences for that process. Ms. Boone-Fye will ask that Attorney Rene Gordon work on this project.

Economic Development Project: Ms. Boone-Fye has requested that Dr. Cruz provide the BAAB with information on several high budget projects in the pipeline and that there are approximately \$70 Billion construction related funds that will be spent over the next five to ten years in Miami-Dade County.

The board needs to be in a position to help Black businesses mobilize to work on these projects. Mr. Cazeau stated that part of the problem is the scarcity of Black general contractors who can work on these major contracts. Ms. Lazarre commented that we need to increase the capability of our businesses so that they can compete. Our position should be to build bridges and create joint ventures aimed at increasing the capacities of these contractors so that minority owned businesses can effectively compete. Ms. Boone-Fye suggested that we contact minority contractors outside Miami-Dade County and encourage them to co-partner. Ms. Lazarre suggested that we find a way to know when these contracts are being advertised so we have advance notice and that we should make Commissioner Moss aware of our push to encourage businesses to become certified.

At this point Mr. Rashid joined the meeting. Ms. Boone-Fye asked that he provide the board with a comprehensive list of projects so we know what's available. Mr. Rashid said that it is important that we make sure that contractors be held accountable to utilize minority subcontractors. The bottom line is that our board will help by identifying Black general contractors as well as help to promote job training programs for Blacks in order to address the historical impact of Black disenfranchisement. The discussion then centered on developing a proactive plan supporting Commissioner Moss as well as Mr. Ramiro Ortiz—CEO of History Miami—who is working to develop a program that encourages partnerships between African Americans and Hispanics with a lending initiative based on the requirement that they partner. Ms. Lazarre also mentioned that in addition to construction projects there are other projects such as supplies and procurement contracts. Mr. Cazeau also asked about the FIU issue on the ballot. There is concern regarding FIU's stance on handling minority relations. Ms. Lazarre suggested that we become more proactive as a board and attend BCC meetings when an issue is raised relating to the Black community.

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Mr. Rashid will be contacting Mr. Knowles to facilitate collaboration between our board and the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce. We should also work with Commissioners Jordan, Edmonson and Monestime and keep them in the loop. By October 8<sup>th</sup> we should have some of these issues locked down. Mr. Rashid brought up the GOB issue and how it has been restructured. He commented that the GOB's allocation process is unclear and Commissioner Jordan questioned the \$3 million per Targeted Urban Areas' allocation. The suggestion was made to support her efforts to make sure that the funds are utilized in their correct TUA.

Expenditure Items: (Deferred due to lack of quorum)

Committee Reports:

Black Heritage Planning Committee: We will start planning for Black History Month. Ms. Boone-Fye and the co- chair of the Black Heritage Planning Committee are in the process of submitting a grant proposal to support a national recording artist for the South Dade Gospel fest to the Cultural Arts Department. Ms. Boone-Fye will be working with Mr. Rashid on scheduling a meeting to iron out further details on events taking place in Coconut Grove.

Education: Ms. McMillon is attending the School Board meeting today and will have a report at the next meeting.

Health Care: Ms. Bowen Bell submitted a report which was passed out to Board members. Ms. Lazarre mentioned that Valerie Lejeune would like to return to the board. Ms. Boone-Fye updated the board on the status of the Ordinance changing the BAAB's structure. It will be discussed in November.

Housing: No report—Mr. Mumford unable to attend, however Mr. Mumford confirmed that he will be attending the Homeownership workshop with Ms. Boone-Fye in the City of Opa-locka later this month sponsored by Vice Mayor Holmes. She also spoke to John Dixon's staff person Eric Johnson and she will meet with him regarding working with MDEAT on this issue as well.

Crisis Intervention/Respect Life: No report

Economic Development: Mr. Rashid reported on the status of the Sabadell Bank and BAAB Homeownership Initiative. The program is designed to bolster workforce housing and first time homebuyer's efforts to become homeowners.

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Budget & Finance: (Ms. Boone-Fye reported that we have paid all our outstanding obligations). Ms. Boone-Fye reported that the BAAB does not have a budget except for salaries and office supplies. All other funds must be done by fundraising efforts. We do not have the County employee support due to many restrictions as well.

Social Media & Marketing: Mr. Adrien will be working with Ms. Boone-Fye on this process which is ongoing.

Legislative Affairs: Ms. Gordon reported on pending legislation such as FIU; the Water and Sewer issue and how she will be working on getting contractors involved in the project. We need a "First Alert" so when projects are coming online and become proactive. If we don't have the capacity here, let's joint venture with other businesses. She also spoke on a pilot program to provide rental assistance to low-income people. We should place information affecting our constituency on our Facebook page as well. Mr. Cazeau also suggested that we have a "Black Calendar of events" so that we don't have a lot of conflicts with information getting into the community.

HAERC Update (501c3) Mr. Fabien had no report.

Budget: Ms. Lazarre reported that the budget was passed and that Office of Community Advocacy was funded.

Announcements/Discussion/Adjournment: Ms. Boone-Fye updated the board on the status of the Alternative Program and Mrs. Ayers. The program is being forced to evacuate the building they have occupied for years. She will monitor this and update the board as well.

With all business being covered, the chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was provided and the meeting ended at 11:52 a.m.