

'RESPECT LIFE!' VIOLENCE PROJECT ON TARGET



Members of the BAAB present "Respect Life! shirt to Senator Daryl Jones. Senator Jones partnered with the Board for its February 27, 2009 Village Dialogue on Housing held at Goulds Park along with the State Attorney's Office.

Standing left to right: Rev. Gregory Gay; Priscilla Dames-Blake; Senator Daryl Jones; Chair D. J. Fabien; Marie-Jose Ledan; Gerri Lazarre. Seated: Ronald Mumford; Edgar Wright; Dannie McMillon.

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Pillars Award & Young Pillars Scholarship Ceremony
Friday, Sept. 4, 2009

Newsletter Spotlight

VILLAGE DIALOGUES

The BAAB makes an impact by holding "Village Dialogues"—all aimed at making residents aware of services and issues. These Dialogues are highlighted on page 3.

The BAAB holds its regular meeting the first Wednesday of each month in the Stephen P. Clark Center

MEET THE BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR



D. J. Fabien, Chair
Comm. Joe Martinez (District 11)

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, **D. J. Fabien** chairs the Black Affairs Advisory Board (BAAB) after chairing the Black Heritage Planning Committee for several years, where he initially demonstrated his multiple talents, strong leadership and a commitment to community service. Appointed by **Commissioner Joe A. Martinez (District 11)**, he is also active in numerous other community oriented organizations such as Habitat for Humanity; the Haitian American Association Against Cancer (HAAC); and was recently appointed as Executive Director of the Haitian American Emergency Relief Committee (HAERC).



Priscilla Dames-Blake, Vice Chair
Comm. Audrey Edmonson (District 3)

As the longest serving member of the BAAB, **Priscilla B. Dames-Blake** is a nationally Certified Crisis Trainer, Conflict Resolution Practitioner, Educator, child and community activist with over twenty years of rich and varied experience. She was selected by the Anti-Defamation League to receive training as a Facilitator/Consultant and travels throughout Florida, the U.S.; Europe and Africa to address issues relative to racism and cultural diversity. The Mediation Training Institute International (MTI) certified her as a "Trainer of Trainers" and the Supreme Court of Florida has certified her in Court Mediation. Additionally, she is founder and President of Wingspan Seminars, which provides seminars on organizational relationships and crisis preparation and response.

Questions or comments? Email us at rboone@miamidadegov or visit our website at www.miamidadegov/baab. Or call Program Director Retha Boone-Fye at (305) 375-4606.

Black Affairs Advisory Board

Who We Are

The Black Affairs Advisory Board is one of eight (8) Boards within Miami-Dade County's Office of Community Advocacy (OCA) under the leadership of Executive Director, Dr. Larry D. Capp. All boards exist to advocate on behalf of their various constituencies and report to the Board of County Commissioners. Members are appointed and serve on a voluntary and non-compensatory basis.



Dr. Larry D. Capp
Executive Director



BHPC Members: L—R:

Carolyn McNeil (COC); Shirley Ellison (HUD); Sandra Lee; (COC) Theresa Smith(OGM) ; Pat Fadell; (GSA) Melissa Rolle-Scott (MDT); Robin Mims (MDT); LaWanda Scott (OCA) ; Patricia Thomas (ONC); Lisa Young (PA) and Regina Smith.(OCA).

The Black Heritage Planning Committee is comprised of Miami-Dade County staff members who represent a variety of departments and volunteer their time and efforts to “spread the word” about the contributions made by Africans in the American Diaspora. Their involvement and hard work make a major difference in the celebration of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance; Black History Month and the Annual Pillars Awards.



Edgar Wright

Edgar Wright currently chairs the Black Heritage Planning Committee and is the appointee of **Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan (Dist. 1)**. Since taking leadership of the BHPC, Wright has vowed to take the committee to a higher level. He commends the accomplishments of the past chair—D. J. Fabien and is proud of the fact that under Fabien’s leadership, the committee began giving out the first “Young Pillars Scholarships.” Wright has proposed to “further the committee’s outreach and work toward developing stronger business and corporate relationships.”



Ronald Mumford was appointed by **Senator Javier D. Souto (District 10)** after voluntarily attending board meetings when his schedule would allow for over two years. His dedication to the community is demonstrated through his hard work on behalf of foster and adopted children as an Adoptions Recruiter with the CHARLEE Program. Mr. Mumford, Edgar Wright and Rev. Gregory Gay recently participated in an extremely successful “Men to Men” Village Dialogue at the Dade County Young Men’s Preparatory Academy, which was co-sponsored by Wingspan Seminars.



Ronald Mumford

VILLAGE DIALOGUES: 2008-2009



Senator Daryl Jones provides individual attention to homeowners during the BAAB's "Village Dialogue on Foreclosures" February 27, 2009. The event was sponsored by the State Attorney's Office and chaired by Rev. Gregory Gay.

Pictured left to right: Senator Daryl Jones, BAAB members Gerri Lazarre and Chair D. J. Fabien (BAAB) and two homeowners who were given information on how to avoid or prevent foreclosures.



Ketlyne Alexis



Preserving Your Health & Assets Dialogues

Health Committee co-chairs *Ketlyne Alexis* and *Marie-Jose Ledan* have successfully held several health related **Village Dialogues** where they presented attendees with helpful information and a workbook aimed at helping them to record important information that would assist family members or caretakers in finding pertinent information in the event of a health crisis.

Alexis, who was appointed by *Chairman Dennis Moss (District 9)*, has extensive experience in the health and child care industry in addition to recently opening a plant nursery with her husband. Ledan, appointed by *Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle (District 2)* is a long time member of the BAAB and works with Planned Parenthood.

Since 2006, the Black Affairs Advisory Board has held a number of Village Dialogues—all aimed at increasing awareness and bringing attention to a number of issues of concern to the general community.

One of the BAAB's most successful dialogues was in the area of Teen Violence, featuring the "Anti-Violence Ambassador" *Robert Boseman*, and held in conjunction with the City of Miami Gardens. Recently, *Ms. Priscilla-Dames-Blake*, who chairs the Respect Life!/Crisis Intervention Committee. The Board has also begun collaborated with the City of Miami Gardens "Adopt-A-School" initiative in order to focus on ways to link with organizations that provide a network of services aimed at reducing truancy and violence among youth.



D.J. Fabien and Retha Boone-Fye present Respect Life! Shirt to Commissioner Joe Martinez (District 1) at his district office.

BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Carolyn Nelson-Goedert

Representing **Commissioner Sally Heyman (District 4)**, Carolyn Nelson-Goedert has been instrumental in keeping the BAAB's by-laws current. She was recently appointed Chair of the City of Miami Garden's Commission for Women.

Gerri Lazarre

In addition to operating a successful CPA firm—TriMerge Consultant Services—Gerri Lazarre, is active with several community organizations including Haitian American Women, and the Alonzo Mourning Charities. Lazarre, who was appointed by **Commissioner Rebeca Sosa (District 6)** joined the Black Affairs Advisory Board as a means of “giving back to her community.”



Reverend Joseph Gay (**Commissioner Carlos Gimenez (District 7)**) and BAAB Chair, D. J. Fabien at jacket presentation.

Recent appointee to the BAAB, **Rev. Gregory Gay (left)** is presented with his “official jacket” at one of the Board's meetings by the **Chair, D. J. Fabien**. Representing **Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez (District 7)**,

Rev. Gay is extremely active in the South Miami area, pastors the St. John AME Church in South Miami, is a Community Outreach Specialist with the State Attorney's Office, where he spearheads “Seal and Expunge” workshops among other activities. Rev. Gay has taken the helm of the Economic Development Committee.



Historic Hampton House Groundbreaking Held April 9th

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Hampton House project attracted over 200 participants. The \$4.7 million project promises to restore the historic buildings site using GOB funds.

Pictured at the Hampton House groundbreaking are left to right: Retha Boone-Fye and Dannie McMillon (Black Affairs Advisory Board) Commissioner Audrey Edmonson (District 3); HOT 105 Radio personality Rodney Baltimore and Historian Enid Pinckney.