

BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD  
10:00 a.m.  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

March 5, 2008 Meeting

Board Members Present: Mr. D.J. Fabien; Ms. Priscilla Dames; Ms. Ketlyn Alexis; Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert; Ms. Dannie McMillon; Ms. Gerri Lazarre.

Excused Absences: Mr. Brian Person; Ms. Marie-Jose Ledan; Rev. Gregory Gay

Unexcused Absence(s): Mr. Edgar Wright

### Meeting Summary

- I. Meeting began at 10:15 a.m. Approval of Agenda: The Program Officer called for approval of the agenda, which was done. Next, the chairperson called for a motion to approve the agenda, which was passed by unanimous consent.

### Program Officers' Report

- I. Sunset Review was passed at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BCC. Mr. Fabien attended the meeting. Also, the meetings with the individual Commissioners are proceeding. Several BAAB members have met with their Commissioners and reports will be updated. Each member will have an informational packet available at their respective meetings. Mr. Fabien requested assistance from Commissioner Martinez at his meeting and advised other members to do the same. The Black Heritage Planning Committee has in the past been more active in fundraising, but the BAAB members have become more proactive in that arena.
- II. BAAB By-Laws/Membership/Absences/ Vacancies: Mr. Fabien and Ms. Dames briefly discussed attendance and stressed the importance of attending meetings.

**Action Items:** Ms. Boone will contact all members to determine their status and willingness to attend meetings so that quorum requirements will be met as well as follow through on events or activities by the next meeting. Ms. Ketlyne Alexis will follow up on holding an event at Galata for next month. Ms. Nelson-Goedert will be working on the By-Laws and Ms. Boone will give her a copy of the Mason Procedures Manual at the next meeting.

- III. School Truancy Hotline/Miami Edison:

An update was given regarding the Miami Edison Senior High School incident. There was some discussion on the BAAB and its role. Ms. Boone said that she had a brief discussion with Dr. Gallon in reference to the School Truancy Hotline and that we should follow through on our activities. Ms. McMillon also informed the BAAB that there is a situation with voters' registration not being conducted at several schools and that some organizations were investigating this issue. Ms. Dames indicated that we should inform the general public of our activities such as the Village Dialogues that have been held in the areas of health, education and youth such as the Truancy Hotline.

**Action Items:** Ms. Boone will be sending a letter to the Editor at The Miami Herald in reference to the Miami Edison incident and attending meetings or receiving reports from other BAAB members who are following the voter's registration issue.

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- IV. Black World Profile: An Economic Engagement & Inclusion Forum will be held on Friday, May 30, 2008. This forum is the result of Commissioners Edmonson, Moss and Jordan requesting that the information contained in the Black World Profile be used as a starting point for opening the door for economic development. Updates will be given as the date moves closer.
- V. Metrorail North Corridor/Orange Line: an editorial was included in members' packages for informational purposes.
- VI. Respect Life! Initiative and Proposal: Ms. Boone updated members on the status of the proposal which was given to Ms. Wanda Finnie. Essentially, the proposal was not funded and a meeting is being requested to determine if the BAAB can collaborate with the Violence Intervention Project initiative. Our Anti-Violence Ambassador is currently dealing with some personal issues, but once these are resolved, he will be working with our board by going out to schools or other organizations to spread the word about our non-violent Respect Life! Program.
- VII. Fundraising: The BAAB and the BHPC have been actively seeking funds through a variety of means such as our Black History month vendors, our Valentine's Cruise, etc. As a result, we have successfully funded all our Black History Month activities, paid all accounts and look forward to raising funds for our Young Pillars Scholarship. Some discussion was also held on whether the BAAB's funds could be used to support other community based organization events. The decision was made to consider them on a case by case basis. A donation was approved for the Haitian Women's Foundation—Ms. Lazarre, Ms. Dames and Ms. McMillon will be attending on our behalf. A discussion was held on the need to collaborate more closely with the various factions within the Black World Community such as the Haitian, Trinidadian, Jamaican and other communities.

#### Committee Reports

***Black Heritage Planning Committee:*** Mr. Fabien gave a brief update on the activities conducted by the BHPC during Black History Month. Ms. Boone supplemented the report by going through each of the activities listed on the calendar. She also reported that all expenses *for the month were covered through vendor's fees.*

***Immigration:*** Mr. Yvans Morisseau reported that the CRB's Immigration Committee was sending a letter to President Bush requesting TPS for Haitians and that a County delegation along with several community based organizations would be traveling to Washington, D.C. within the next few weeks to lobby for immigration reform. There is also a delay/backlog in immigration processing. The Jubilee Act was also discussed which is aimed at debt forgiveness for several economically depressed countries, including Haiti. Ms. Boone requested that Mr. Morisseau set up a meeting with Ms. Nadia Pierre.

***Education:*** Ms. McMillon informed the BAAB that she will be attending a meeting being called by Superintendent Rudy Crew as part of his community outreach efforts. The Joint Coalition, which is comprised of the original Black High Schools, has brought to the attention of the School Board that several schools within predominantly Black feeder patterns were not afforded the opportunity to register to vote. The Coalition will be closely following this issue and Ms. McMillon will keep us informed as well.

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It was suggested by Ms. Dames that the Elections Department be involved in our youth oriented events to increase youth involvement in elections. Ms. McMillon also reported that the impact of budget cuts on the school district is also of concern since jobs and the quality of education will be affected.

**Health Care:** Ms. Alexis and Ms. Ledan are working on scheduling a Village Dialogue in the South Dade area at Galata for April 19.

**Housing:** At this point we do not have a Committee Chair for housing.

**Crisis Intervention/Respect Life!:** A Youth Summit is being planned for Saturday, May 3. A location and time will be discussed.

**Economic Development/Budget & Finance:** Ms. Lazarre could not make the meeting.

**Action Items:** Ms. Boone will confirm a location for the Youth Summit and Ms. Alexis and Ms. Ledan will confirm the location for the Village Dialogue on Health in April. Mr. Fabien requested "Save the Date" palm cards for future events and that we insert them in publications.

***New Business:***

***Old Business:*** Ms. Nelson-Goedert was requested to relay the cost of the bracelets to Ms. Boone.

***Announcements/Discussion/Adjournment:***

Ms. Nelson-Goedert invited women who live in the City of Miami Gardens to a March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at which the ordinance forming a Commission for Women in that city would be discussed. Also, Eta Phi Beta Sorority will be holding two events on April 12<sup>th</sup> and the Board is invited. Ms. McMillon announced that on March 24<sup>th</sup> the NAACP will be holding a Town Hall meeting at New Birth to which Mayor Alvarez has been invited.

With all business being completed, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.