

LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT

May 14– May 18, 2012

JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM (JHS)

On Monday, Jackson Health System reported that the month of April concluded with a net surplus of \$843,000. Notably, this is the first time that JHS has reported consecutive months without losses. Nevertheless, in March, JHS reported a surplus of \$6.2 million, but that was enhanced by a one-time \$4 million reimbursement from Miami-Dade County for bond funds and by a spike of \$3 million in sales tax revenue, which was greater than anticipated.

Chief Executive Carlos Migoya indicated that he is encouraged because the financial benefits of the layoffs of 920 employees will not be reflected until the May financial report.

Additionally, JHS, the leader in organ transplants (with over 500 per year), may soon face competition from other South Florida medical facilities, which have expressed interest in this specialized area.

The University of Miami, whose doctors perform the Jackson transplants, has filed a letter of intent with Florida regulators to perform adult heart, lung and kidney transplants at the University of Miami Hospital, adjacent to Jackson Memorial. While this may impact on-going negotiations between the two entities, both have indicated that they will work together to ensure that Jackson thrives and the partnership remains on solid ground.

The Cleveland Clinic, which has long performed transplants at its Ohio facility, has expressed interest in expanding its services to Florida, specifically, for heart and kidney transplants. Broward Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale is interested in adult kidney transplants.

CEO, Carlos Migoya has since reiterated his commitment to preserving Jackson's premier status in the field, as well as, his intent to expand services.

HIALEAH

This week, three City of Hialeah employees were fired as consequence of a crackdown by Hialeah Mayor Carlos Hernandez. According to reports, Hernandez hired a private investigator to observe several employees, which were caught in violation of their duties. One employee, Mario Figueredo, who worked with the License Department for seven years, was caught taking sick days in order to manage his pool maintenance business. Another two employees, Maritza Martinez and Carlos Rodriguez of the Water and Sewer Department, were fired after being filmed shopping during work hours in a

work vehicle and taking other liberties, such as, going home for breaks. The employees have blamed the firings on political retaliation for having supported former Mayor Raul Martinez in the last elections against Hernandez. Hernandez has refuted the claims.

MIAMI BEACH

This week it was reported that Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Gorgona, a 42 year old, openly gay politician who is contemplating a run for the mayoral seat in 2013, is pitching a reality TV show to E! Entertainment Television. Gorgona has indicated that he is interested in having a film crew follow him throughout the campaign process. So far he has been filmed at a condo board meeting, as well as, meetings with constituents. Miami Beach Commissioner Jonah Wolfson announced this week that he would be dropping his bid for the Florida House seat that once belonged to Richard Steinberg. (Formerly 106, now 113). Instead, his colleague on the Commission, Deede Weithorn has indicated that she will be running for the seat.

NORTH MIAMI

Early this week, the nephew of North Miami Mayor Andre Pierre surrendered to authorities on charges of grand theft and practicing law without a license. Ricardo Brutus, 32, turned himself in to Florida Department of Law Enforcement Agents after a warrant was issued for his arrest. Brutus faces two counts of unlicensed practice of law and two counts of grand theft and one count of organized scheme to defraud. He was released on \$25,000 bond.

CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE

On Thursday, the Charter Review Task Force (CRTF) held a meeting at the Miami-Dade County Main Library at 9:00 AM. As the meeting commenced, the following dates were offered for consideration for the next three CRTF meetings: Wednesday, May 23, Wednesday, May 30 and Wednesday June 6 (locations to be determined). The following issues were discussed, moved and passed: Charter discussion for a ballot question regarding technical amendments for "clean-up" purposes; proposal for term limits if retro-active; and inclusion of UDB in the charter, so voters will have a say in UDB issues. Annexation and incorporation was also discussed extensively. The taskforce agrees that a better process that is clear, equitable and consistent needs to be put in place. A great emphasis was placed in the ability for self-determination for those areas that desire to incorporate. These are the issues that Task Force is now committed to discussing and some of their items may make it for discussion by the BCC in July.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

In an effort to improve forecasts, the National Hurricane Center will create six- and seven-day forecasts to track storms this hurricane season. The forecasts will be part of four experiments to be carried out by the center for this season.

This year, experts will experiment with extended tropical weather outlooks, creating advisories for disturbances before they are classified as tropical storms, and issuing watches and warnings when disturbances are threatening land masses.

In order to get better intensity forecasts, a computer model will get information from a Doppler radar coming from a hurricane hunter plane when it flies into the storms.

Miami-Dade League of Cities

What: MDCLC Board of Director's meeting

When: Thursday, June 7, 2012

Where: Melreese Country Club, 1802 NW 37th Avenue

Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT

May 21– May 25, 2012

MIAMI

On Tuesday, the Miami City Commission in a 4-1 vote, approved a 30 year lease between the Miami Exhibition and Sports Authority and the New Jersey-based Linden Airport Services. Linden won a bid to operate the facility, which will be known as the Watson Island Aviation and Visitors Center.

For the first two years of the lease, Linden will be charged \$2,200 per month or 2.5 percent of gross revenue, whichever is higher. Subsequently, the rent will rise to \$7,375 per month or 10 percent of revenues over the next 25 years. Additionally, Linden must also invest \$1.45 million into the venue of operation.

The city accepted Linden's bid for the heliport project in 2002. Construction was held up over the past decade, in part because the scope of the project kept changing. Carollo, who cast the only dissenting vote, questioned why the city hadn't sought new bids; and expressed further concern over the lease funds going to the semi-autonomous Miami Sports and Exhibition Authority, which will reinvest the money into the heliport, in lieu of the city's general fund.

PALMETTO BAY

At a special council meeting on Monday, the Village of Palmetto Bay voted 3-2 in favor of a four month moratorium on building permits for nonresidential uses in residential neighborhoods. The moratorium will not impact residential properties of 1 acre or less or the commercial or mixed use districts.

At issue, is the current land development code, which includes zoning guidelines for building commercial establishments in commercial areas and for residential properties in residential areas, but does not have guidelines for non-residential in residential areas (i.e. schools and churches).

And while not all councilmembers agreed, Joan Lindsay, who proposed the resolution, said the moratorium contained within her "neighborhood protection plan" was to simplify the process of imposing conditions on developments and to define criteria for items such as setbacks, buffers, construction staging, dust control, landscaping, traffic, noise and other concerns. The moratorium will be enacted until either, four months lapse or

the village's final adoption of revisions to the land development code (whichever comes first).

At odds with the decision were councilmembers Patrick Fiore and Howard Tendrich who indicated that the moratorium was targeted at Palmer Trinity School, with whom the village and Lindsay have been battling in the courts for years over the school's expansion plans.

MIAMI BEACH

In a crunch for time, Miami Beach Commissioners decided on a two-week search for an interim manager to replace outgoing Jorge Gonzalez, who resigns on July 8. The time table allows for one week to advertise and accept resumes and another week to interview the top applicants prior to making a decision at the June 6 monthly commission meeting.

Some of the names that have emerged include, Jorge Gonzalez (commission could ask him to stay for an extended time); W.D. Higginbotham, Jr. (emailed his resume and has decades of government experience. He served as administrator of the town of Surfside, Gainesville and Melbourne Beach); Emanuel Mayer (former special assistant to Gonzalez on multi-million dollar contracts); Peter Luria (formerly of showroom chain L. Luria and Son, Inc.); and Raul Aguila (deputy city attorney, who was asked to apply by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson). Other names that have been mentioned, include, former assistant city manager Christina Cuervo and former Miami-Dade County Administrator Merett R. Stierheim.

MIAMI GARDENS

On Tuesday, during the State of the City address, City of Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson not only spoke about the city's state of affairs but announced her bid for the District 1 Miami-Dade County Commission Seat, challenging incumbent Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordon. Gibson is backed by wealthy businessman and civic activist Norman Braman, who is also backing numerous challengers against other Miami-Dade Commissioners who are up for reelection this year.

MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

At a news conference on Tuesday, the Miami-Dade County teachers union announced plans to call for a tax amnesty program that would encourage residents illegally claiming a homestead exemption to come forward.

According to figures provided by a former Miami-Dade police major, there is approximately \$280 million in uncollected taxes, about 40 percent which would go to education.

It was reported that the state of Washington implemented a similar amnesty program last year and received \$320.7 million.

The teachers union says the revenue is needed to provide teachers with competitive salaries without raising taxes. The amnesty would include an advertising campaign linking tax evasion with the effect on school children, and would be followed up with higher penalties.

KEY BISCAYNE

Last week, the Broward Sheriff's deputy who helped save the life of an injured officer after she had been shot by a gunman on Florida's Turnpike in Hollywood was hailed a hero by local and federal officials.

Deputy Osvaldo Petitfrere was credited with saving the life of Key Biscayne Police Officer Nelia Real. Real, a 16 year Key Biscayne Police veteran was off duty when she stopped to assist in what she believed was a simple car crash near the Hollywood Boulevard exit. Instead, Real encountered David Bradley, of Miami Gardens, who had been involved in a crime spree earlier that day. Bradley shot Real in the neck. Petitfrere, who was enroute to work, stopped to help. Petitfrere opened fire on Bradley and rushed Real to the hospital. Real is now recovering and thankful she survived.

MIAMI LAKES

On Thursday evening, Town of Miami Lakes Mayor Michael Pizzi delivered the State of Town Address. Mayor Pizzi spoke of the successes and challenges faced by the town and ensured the residents that in spite of challenging economic times, the town would continue to prosper. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez was also in attendance and gave a brief speech, demonstrating how his implemented reforms have amounted to substantial savings for county residents. District 13 Miami-Dade County Commissioner Esteban Bovo was also in attendance.

CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE (CRTF)

On Wednesday, the CRTF met and discussed a number of issues, including: Incorporation and Annexation; Salaries / Outside Employment for the Miami Board of County Commissioners; Petition Process; and Mayoral Vacancy –Instant Run-Off Elections.

Although various topics were discussed, the CRTF members only took action on the issue of salaries and outside employment for MDC commissioners. A motion passed to draft ballot language that would ask voters to give a salary equivalent to the median income of county residents to county commissioners, effective 2016. A separate ballot question would include language excluding elected county officials from being employed in any capacity by any business or entity that is involved or has a business relationship with Miami-Dade County. The draft language will be presented at the next CRTF and will vote on whether to forward the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS REVIEW COMMITTEE (CBRC)

On Thursday, the CBRC discussed recommendations that were compiled based on extensive research and cooperation with the various MDC departments, including, Human Resources, General Services Administration, Office of Strategic Business Management and the Office of the County Attorney, along with other stakeholders within Miami-Dade County.

The meeting was well attended and included Board of County Commissioners Barbara Jordon (committee chair), Jean Monestime (committee member) and Esteban Bovo (committee member). Board of County Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz (committee member) was not available to attend. Aside from the committee, the meeting had representation from the various commission offices, including the Commission Auditor and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as many county departments and labor unions, such as, the AFSCME director and division heads.

The targeted areas that were studied for recommendation and briefly discussed, included, Health Plan Design, Compensation, Pay Plan Structure, Senior/Executive Benefits and Compensation and “Terminal” Leave Provision. The CBRC decided to dedicate a separate meeting for each topic, given the complexity of the issues. The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 31.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND CITY MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (MDCCMA)

On Friday, the MDCCMA held its final meeting prior to installing its new president. Outgoing MDCCMA President Yocelyn Galiano Gomez, Manager, Village of Pinecrest will make way for incoming MDCCMA President Mark Taxis, Assistant Manager, City of Doral.

The meeting included guest speaker Diana Gonzalez, who currently serves as the chairperson of the General Administrative Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is working closely with Miami-Dade County’s Office of Emergency Management. Gonzalez made a presentation on the TAC’s initiative to formulate a Miami-Dade County Post-

Disaster Redevelopment Plan. The objective is to get input from all municipalities and collaborate on identifying policies, operational strategies, and roles and responsibilities for implementation that will guide decisions that affect long-term recovery and redevelopment of the community after a disaster. A meeting will be held via conference on June 14 to kick start the process. The details of the meeting are forthcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PORT MIAMI

Press Release

Miami-Dade County, FL) -- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has issued the permit allowing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with the deepening of PortMiami's channel to -50 feet. The project will be put to bid this summer with construction expected to start in early 2013 and is scheduled to be completed at the same time the expanded Panama Canal opens.

"The Deep Dredge is critical to our future growth," said Port Director Bill Johnson. "PortMiami will be one of only three U.S. Atlantic ports to be at -50 feet when the expanded Panama Canal opens."

The deeper depth will allow PortMiami to accommodate new, larger Post-Panamax vessels that will be traversing the Canal. As the closest U.S. deepwater port to Panama, PortMiami expects to benefit from new trade opportunities with Asian markets.

As part of the dredging program, extensive environmental protection protocols have been put in place including a full-time environmental manager to provide oversight during all dredging activities. The project will utilize the same extensive resource and sedimentation monitoring protocols as established for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, making it the first Florida port dredging project to implement the highest environmental protection monitoring protocols outside of a national marine sanctuary.

All hard coral colonies greater than 25 cm and up to 1300 hard coral colonies between 10 and 25 cm will be relocated, 16.6 acres of new sea grass beds will be created, and 9.28 acres of artificial reef will be created as part of our commitment to minimize impacts to existing resources.

"This project meets the highest standards for environmental protection," Johnson said.

"We are committed to a safe and environmentally sound project that ensures the protection of Biscayne Bay and the surrounding ecosystem."

For more information about PortMiami please visit: www.miamidade.gov/portofmiami.

SAVE THE DATE:

Miami-Dade League of Cities

What: MDCLC Board of Director's meeting

When: Thursday, June 7, 2012

Where: Melreese Country Club, 1802 NW 37th Avenue

Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT

May 28 – June 1, 2012

JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEMS

After heavily criticizing the University of Miami's contract proposal, the board of Jackson Health System voted unanimously on Thursday, to approve a memorandum of understanding to initiate a new relationship with the University of Miami.

As reported, the memo calls for Jackson to pay UM a base of \$99.5 million for the coming year, with an additional "transitional payment" of \$36 million each month as the entities iron out the details of a more complex agreement in which Jackson would hire or lease UM doctors to run centers of excellence at Jackson for transplants, trauma and women –and-children's services.

To read the full report, please click the link:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/05/31/2825683/irate-jackson-board-reconsiders.html>

MIAMI

Former police chief Miguel Exposito appeared in court on Thursday at a hearing before three judges. He contends that Miami City Commissioners wrongfully fired him in September 2011. The city argues that Exposito acted insubordinate when he demoted three officers. According to reports, Exposito countered that he did not demote anyone and the position changes of the three officers were lateral moves.

If the judges rule in Exposito's favor, he would be eligible for back pay and benefits. Nonetheless, a decision could take weeks or months.

MIAMI SPRINGS

On Tuesday, the Miami Springs council hastened to fill a seat vacated by Councilman Dan Espino, who resigned two weeks ago to run for a Miami-Dade School Board seat.

Per the city code, someone must be appointed within 30 days, or June 16.

Each council member made a recommendation for the seat. The nominees were as follows:

Mayor Zavier Garcia: Grace Bain, Marla Alpizar and Mark Townbridge.

Councilman George Lob: Grace Bain

Councilman Bob Best: Jim Claude

Councilwoman Jennifer Ator: Richard Wheeler, Marla Alpizar and Mark Trowbridge.

A vote to fill the seat was postponed because City Attorney Jan Seidan advised the council in order to give public notice and announce the names to allow for citizen participation.

A final decision is expected at the next council meeting on June 11. The appointee will serve as interim council person until the special election on August 14. The winner of that election will serve out the rest of Espino's term.

CUTLER BAY

Last week, Mayor Ed MacDougall called a special council meeting that will be held within the next two week to discuss the performance of Town Manager Steven Alexander. MacDougall said that he called the meeting due to concerns voiced by the public regarding the manager.

Alexander, who has served as the town's manager since its incorporation in 2006, indicated that the town is in excellent fiscal condition and any concerns can be cleared up by providing additional information.

The council also discussed hiring a firm to search for a new town clerk and agreed to set the criteria for the search. Additionally, the council voted to allow residents to apply for building permits on current renovations to single family homes, in order to comply with new land-development regulations currently under discussion.

After the meeting the council held a workshop to discuss charter amendments created by the Charter Revision Commission. The proposals included the following:

New language that would allow other council members to provide leadership if the mayor or vice mayor is incapacitated.

- Ending terms for council members when they resign for another position and language clarifying term limits.

- Addition of maps to the town charter that would include annexations being considered by the Miami-Dade County Commission.
- Language defining causes for removal of council members.
- Language defining the town clerk and town manager's positions.

SWEETWATER

The City of Sweetwater has already banned the sale of synthetic marijuana and is now working towards banning bath salts. Sweetwater Mayor Manny Marono plans to amend a city ordinance passed on May 21st to include bath salts due to the "Miami Zombie" incident over the weekend. Rudy Eugene, who reportedly took part in a cannibalistic attack on a homeless man, is speculated to have been high on the drug.

Marono wants to ban salts that are packaged in gram containers, citing that no legitimate bath salt is sold that way. Additionally, Marono wants to place restrictions on potpourri because he received a fake marijuana marketing package where the drug was marketed as potpourri.

CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE (CRTF)

On Wednesday, the CRTF met and discussed a number of issues, including:

The Office of the Inspector General: Christopher Mazzella asked that the taskforce consider an amendment to the charter, making the Inspector General (IG) permanent, along with a designated funding source. While the IG was discussed at length, no vote was taken.

Mayoral Vacancy: Mayor Carlos Gimenez was present and initiated the discussion on filling a mayoral vacancy. The CRTF was asked to consider language that would address the issue of a mayoral vacancy in the event of a recall, incapacitation or other unforeseen event. The proposal includes delegating limited powers to the interim mayor in order to fill the temporary gap in governance. The CRTF agreed to have the Mayor submit a memo with his recommendations for consideration.

Annexation and Incorporation: The CRTF asked the county attorney's office to draft language that would address the "penalty" for annexation, franchise fees and prorated PTP funds, as well as boundary issues to eliminate "donut holes" in communities. The CRTF also requested language for consideration, looking at Miami-Dade County in the form of "regional governance".

Governance of Jackson Memorial Hospital: The CRTF initiated a discussion concerning the governance structure of Jackson. However, after a question and answer session with the SEIU representative, it was determined that it was still premature to address the hospital's governance structure until it gained back its financial footing.

Intergovernmental Affairs: a brief discussion took place regarding the inclusion of Intergovernmental Affairs in the MDC charter as part of the Mayor's responsibilities.

None of the language that has been requested is yet available but will be provided once finalized and approved by the County Attorney's Office.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE (CBRC)

On Thursday, the CBRAHC continued to discuss recommendations and analyses provided by the Compensation and Benefits Review Committee members.

The Internal Services /Human Resources Division presented its analyses on County Overtime Policy, Supplemental Pay, Longevity Bonus and Off-Duty Payments. The committee continues to study the information and will formulate a strategy to deal with compensation issues more effectively. The following meeting will be held on June 14th to continue to discuss supplemental pay; union representatives have been invited to participate in the discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SAVE THE DATE:

Miami-Dade League of Cities

What: MDCLC Board of Director's meeting

When: Thursday, June 7, 2012

Where: Melreese Country Club, 1802 NW 37th Avenue

Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

New Miami Forum

What: The Cities vs. Miami-Dade County

Reexamining the Relationship between City and County Government

Featured Speakers

Honorable Juan Carlos (J.C.) Bermudez

Founding Mayor, City of Doral
Immediate Past President, Miami-Dade League of Cities

Honorable Ruth Shack

Miami-Dade County Commissioner (1976 – 86)
President, Miami Foundation (1985 – 2009)

When: Thursday, June 7, 2012

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton / MACC (Miami Airport Convention Center)
711 N.W. 72nd Avenue, Miami

Luncheon:

Members and Guests - Hosted by DoubleTree

Non-members - \$30

RSVP to: Cali@GDBMiami.com