

# **LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT**

**April 11 – April 15, 2011**

## **Jackson Health System (JHS)**

On Wednesday, April 13, JHS' Public Health Trust chose Carlos Migoya as the public hospital's new chief executive. Migoya is expected to take over the system on June 1, 2011. Migoya was a banker for more than 30 years and spent a 10 month stint (unpaid) as Miami's city manager. After much debate, it was determined that Migoya's relationships, knowledge of the community and strong business background are the key to finding solutions to Jackson's problems. The governing board members who voted in favor of hiring Migoya included: Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Joe Martinez, Incoming Trust Chair Marcos Lapcuic, Mark Zilber, Angel Medina, Jorge Arrizueta, Joe Arriola, Ernesto de la Fe, Abraham Galbut and Stephen Nuell.

The new chief executive will face many challenges from the onset. The system is projected to run out of cash in July and stands to lose up to \$200 million next year in state funding if severe cuts to Medicaid are enacted by the Florida Legislature. Through the first five months of this fiscal year, Jackson has lost \$42.2 million. As cash reserves continue to deplete, Jackson executives are expecting a major financial crisis this summer. Healthcare experts have urged major reduction in labor costs, revisiting Jackson's \$130 million annual contract with the University of Miami (UM), finding new revenue generating services and creating a new governance structure.

Migoya indicated that he has ideas for raising \$300 million quickly to fund capital improvements and help the system reverse its course. Migoya stated that he had been speaking with hospital executives nation wide and found that the overwhelming majority of a hospital CEO's job involves non-healthcare matters that he understands well. Migoya also indicated that he plans to quickly hire an experienced hospital administrator as his chief operating officer.

## **Miami- Dade County League of Cities (MDCLC)**

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities held its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, April 14 at the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron Restaurant. The meeting was well attended and participants included Miami-Dade County Commissioner Lynda Bell (MDCLC Liaison designate) and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Hayman (Public Health Trust member).

The meeting included the following updates and presentations:

An update was given by MDCLC President Juan Carlos Bermudez, Mayor, City of Doral regarding Senate Bill 1180, which amends previous provisions in a 2009 FI statute to require Miami-Dade County to provide funds to newly-created cities, including those created since the transit half penny tax went into effect. President Bermudez said that the bill would be heard by the Florida Senate sometime next week.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman and Public Health Trust Chairman Marc Lapcuic made a presentation regarding the Jackson Health Plan. They explained that Jackson Health Systems (JHS) has embarked in an aggressive growth campaign that will support the JHS by contributing increased profits and ensuring as many South Floridians utilize the facilities of the JHS.

The Jackson Health Plan is calling upon all local officials in arranging meetings with every city and municipality in Miami-Dade County to discuss the possibility that the Jackson Health Plan becomes the sole provider of each city and municipality employee's health benefits.

Resolution(s) adopted:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC. RE-EMPHASIZING OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN CIVILITY IN THE CONDUCT OF THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS.

## **Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

On Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Miami-Dade County School Board voted to cut more than 200 jobs from its facilities department and give hundreds of maintenance workers a 20 percent pay cut. The school board has estimated a savings of approximately \$27 million as a result of the layoffs. However, the district is still in the midst of a reorganization plan that will include many more cuts. With federal stimulus dollars running out and less funding from the state, the school district expects that its \$ 4 billion budget will decrease by about \$100 million. Superintendent Alberto Carvalho indicated that he will focus on protecting teachers, counselors and arts and music programs, but severe cuts are still imminent.

## **Coral Gables**

On Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the City of Coral Gables elected its new mayor and two commissioners. Mayor elect Jim Cason defeated incumbent Mayor Don Slesnick and Tom Korge. Cason won with 39 percent of the vote, Slesnick garnered 34 percent and Korge 27 percent. Commission Seat 5 was reclaimed by incumbent William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr., who defeated challenger Richard Namon with more than 77 percent of the

vote. Commission Seat 4, was won by Frank Quesada, 31, a maritime attorney with Fowler, Rodriguez, Valdes-Fauli. The seat was vacated by Wayne "Chip" Withers, who retired after holding the seat for 20 years. Quesada garnered 49 percent of the votes and beat out four other candidates including, Brad Rosenblatt with 23 percent and Gonzalo Sanabria with 16 percent.

The swearing-in ceremony for newly elected Mayor and Commission members took place on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Coral Gables City Hall in the Commission Chambers. The Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable Frank A. Shepherd from the Third District Court of Appeal. The Mayor will serve for two years, while the Commissioners will serve in their roles for the next four years. A special tribute was paid to out-going Mayor Don Slenick. Other elected officials in attendance included Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez and City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado and Commissioner Francis Suarez.

## **Miami Shores**

On Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Village held its elections with four of five seats contested. The election results were as follows: Former Mayor Jim McCoy led with 808 votes (18%), incumbent Hunt Davis 739 votes (16%), incumbent Stephen Loffredo 736 votes (16%) and newcomer Jess Walter 681 votes (15%). Incumbent Prospero Herrera came in fifth out of seven candidates and did not win a council seat. The top two vote recipients will serve four year terms and the others will serve two. The mayor is appointed by the council but usually the top vote recipient is selected.

The newly elected Village Council will be sworn in on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7:30 PM on the steps of Village Hall located at 10050 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. An Inaugural Reception will follow at the Miami Shores Country Club located at 10000 Biscayne Boulevard.

## **Hialeah**

Former City Mayor Raul Martinez announced on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> that he will run again for Hialeah mayor in November, 2011. Two-term Hialeah Mayor Julio Robaina is running for the county mayoral seat and must resign prior to the May 24 election. Robaina's resignation would put Hialeah City Council President Carlos Hernandez in charge of the city's government until November. Others planning on running for the city's mayoral seat include: City Council President Carlos Hernandez, State Representative Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez and George Castro, political newcomer. Still pending an official decision to run is former State Senator Rudy Garcia.

Martinez said in a televised announcement that he wanted to seek the seat where he could have the biggest and fastest impact. He also stated that the problems that the city faces range from the budget to the trash collection.

## **Aventura**

On Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, in a special election, residents overwhelmingly voted against amending the charter to expand term limits. The ballot read as follows: The City Charter currently allows a person to serve up to 8 consecutive years as Mayor and Commissioner, regardless of whether that person serves as Mayor or Commissioner or serves separately in both capacities. It is proposed that the City Charter be amended to allow a person to serve a combined total of 12 consecutive years, for any person who serves as Mayor and Commissioner.

Voters decided against the measure 82 percent to 18 percent.

## **Cutler Bay**

Cutler Bay's Vice Mayor Ernie Sochin and Councilwoman Sue Ellen Loyzelle are running unopposed and will automatically keep their seat on the Town Council. Both were appointed temporarily in December. Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> was the last day for opponents to qualify to run in a special election on May 24. With Sochin moving to the vice mayor's seat from his District two council position, the council chose Loyzelle out of nine candidates to fill the vacant spot. Both will serve until 2012, at which time they will have to run for reelection.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

What: Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board (CRB)  
Housing and Economic Issues Committee  
*Mr. Reinaldo Valdes, Chair*

When: Tuesday, April 19, 2010, 10 a.m.

Where: Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street,  
Tenth Floor CITT Conference Room

*You are invited to join with members of the CRB, Overtown residents and community activists, as special guest, Miami City Commissioner Rev. Richard Dunn discusses the Community Redevelopment Agency's role in newly developed Life Science & Technology Park by University of Miami and Wexford Science + Technology,.*

For more information or to RSVP please contact Oscar J. Braynon, CRB program

officer at (305) 375-4493 OR [ojbr@miamidade.gov](mailto:ojbr@miamidade.gov)

Miami-Dade County League of Cities:

Save the date:

What: MDCLC Board of Directors Meeting

Where: TBA

When: Thursday, May 5, 2011

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM