



**SOUTH | SUCCESS**  
**DADE | PLAN**

**YEAR ONE**

**MID-YEAR REPORT**



## OVERVIEW

In June 2015 community leaders from South Dade gathered at the invitation of our two South Dade County Commissioners, Daniella Levine Cava and Dennis Moss, to review some of our major challenges and opportunities. The first ever **South Dade Solutions Summit** was an enlightening and productive day of facilitated learning and problem-solving. Participants knew that working together we could help our community thrive. We set priorities for action and agreed to stay involved to turn our goals into reality.

Since June, a leadership committee has been regularly meeting to develop strategies and share progress. Participants include the offices of both Commissioners along with the Mayors and Managers of Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay, Homestead and Florida City.

This is our first report to the community of progress made over the first six months since our Summit, in three key areas: parks and environment, economy and transportation.

We encourage input and participation from the public, and invite you to join us at future gatherings. We are planning a summer 2016 Summit to focus on marketing the unique assets of South Dade. Please let us know if you would like to be included on our mailing list.

## GOAL 1: ENHANCE OUR PARKS; PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACE

### OBJECTIVE 1: EDUCATE THE PUBLIC.

Knowledgeable residents working with elected officials are the key to creating and maintaining an excellent park system and healthy environment.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- County Commissioners Moss and Levine Cava held several events to educate and engage South Dade residents: tree planting (around the Leisure City Water and Sewer facility and Rockdale Pine Rockland), “Adopt-a-Tree” giveaways, and park clean-up events (Larry and Penny Thompson Park and Hattie Bauer Hammock Park). Commissioner Moss as Chairman of Neat Streets Miami convened a group of key community leaders to help elevate Million Trees Miami.
- Commissioner Levine Cava authored an article on climate change and sea level rise which was published in the Miami Herald and participated in numerous national, state and local planning events.
- Commissioner Levine Cava drafted a resolution co-sponsored by Commissioner Moss, and passed by the Commission, urging the Florida Legislature to enact SB 166 or similar legislation prohibiting hydraulic fracturing in the State of Florida. Commissioner Levine Cava persuaded members of the Dade Delegation to oppose fracking.



## OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCE URBAN SPRAWL.

South Dade includes beautiful open space and family-friendly neighborhoods. Retaining these unique characteristics will protect our quality of life and special allure.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioners Levine Cava and Moss fought to keep development out of farm land and to preserve the urban development boundary to help prevent urban sprawl with the denial of two proposals to amend the land use master plan.
- Commissioner Moss successfully championed legislation expanding agriculture innovation and agritourism. Commissioner Levine Cava convened area agricultural leaders to explore ways to expand support for agriculture.
- Commissioner Levine Cava successfully championed legislation that preserves transferable development rights to protect farmland.

## OBJECTIVE 3: PROTECT AND ENHANCE EXISTING ASSETS.

We have much to build upon in South Dade and need to assure that these assets are maintained and enhanced.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioner Moss championed increased funding in the 2015-16 County budget for a tree canopy study, increased funding for trees county wide, and a match program for communities to partner with the County to plant additional trees.
- Thanks to a coalition of engaged residents led by two South Dade County Board Appointees, John Quick and Justin Wales, we were able to achieve a 20% increase in funding for parks, restoring numerous programs and completing badly needed deferred maintenance of buildings and grounds.
- Parks improvements include: restoration of seven operating days for Sadowski Park; \$2.5 million for aquatic facility at South Dade Park; funds for Fruit and Spice Park master plan and construction of a new community center and playground at Live Like Bella Park; park improvements at Devon Aire, Kevin Broils, Castellow Hammock parks, Camp Owaisa Bauer and Black Point Marina, all programmed for this year. A conservation easement at Deering Estate guarantees that donated property will remain forested and used as an environmental research station. Commissioner Moss sponsored a resolution to reflect the “legacy” nature of certain parks by renaming them as the “Richmond Heights Legacy Park,” “Ben Shavis Legacy Park,” “Lincoln Estates Legacy Park,” and “Naranja Lakes Legacy Park.”
- Commissioner Moss championed the current construction for the West Perrine Aquatic Center and future construction of a SouthRidge Aquatic Center.
- We celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the two national parks in South Dade, Everglades and Biscayne National, with marketing displays at Miami International Airport and on Miami-Dade Transit, and support for Everglades National Park to reopen access to Chekika, and the Homestead Everglades Bicycle Greenway.



- Commissioner Moss sponsored a resolution directing the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department to install aesthetic improvements including sustainable vegetation, xeriscaping and other Florida-Friendly landscaping at administration buildings, pump stations and treatment facilities.

## GOAL 2: IMPROVE SOUTH DADE'S ECONOMY

### OBJECTIVE 1: CREATE JOBS IN SOUTH DADE.

Creating more jobs in South Dade can reduce the number of commuters wasting time in traffic, improve our quality of life and stimulate our local economy.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioners Moss and Levine Cava are providing Mom & Pop small business grants to dozens of area businesses through a competitive application process, including incentives for energy conservation and sustainable practices.
- Commissioner Levine Cava provided training, capacity building and technical assistance to nonprofits and small businesses serving South Dade through "Impact Grants" and training Academies.
- Commissioner Levine Cava worked with Mayor Gimenez to establish the County's "Office of New Americans" to help legal permanent residents gain citizenship and increase their economic prospects.
- Commissioner Levine Cava sponsored an "open data" policy for county information to insure greater transparency and support business development.
- Commissioner Moss worked with Mayor Gimenez, CareerSource South Florida, Neighbors and Neighbors to develop qualified skilled employees in the field of construction with the Employ Miami-Dade Program at South Dade Technical College.
- Commissioner Moss sponsored a resolution approving allocation of \$4.5 million from Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond program project number 326 - "Acquire or construct multi-purpose facilities" to fund development of Richmond Heights Shopping center by Miami-Dade County.
- Commissioner Moss sponsored a resolution passed by the Board directing the Mayor to organize the South Dade Regional Charrette and facilitate preparation of a Report for Three Lakes, Richmond Heights, Palmetto Estates, Richmond West, West Perrine, South Miami Heights and Goulds census designated places
- Commissioner Moss successfully sponsored two resolutions related to the Homestead Air Reserve Base: one directs the Mayor to implement a maintenance plan and program to remove debris and other obstacles at former Homestead Air Reserve Base to enhance marketability and economic development of the property; the second approved the sale of a portion of the property for the creation of a FedEx distribution center with an appraised value of almost \$5 million.



- Commissioner Moss successfully sponsored a resolution urging the U.S. Department of Commerce and the United States Patent and Trademark Office to establish a U.S. Patent and Trademark satellite office in Miami-Dade County.
- Commissioner Moss sponsored a resolution passed by the board to fund the Miami Wilds/Zoo Miami project through Economic Development Funds (EDF). Both commissioners championed the funding through EDF funds for the Larkin Health Science Center.

## OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTE AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is Miami-Dade's second economic driver, so it needs our support, in an increasingly competitive environment, to stay strong.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioners Moss and Levine Cava brought Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau and Tomorrow South Dade leaders together to discuss marketing South Dade as a tourism destination. We decided that our second annual South Dade Success Summit should focus on marketing the unique assets of South Dade.
- Commissioner Levine Cava championed a preference in County contracts for locally grown produce and inclusion of local products in dining establishments within County government buildings, that is being implemented at the zoo and within the Corrections Department.
- Commissioner Levine Cava pressed for a plan to combat the avocado-killing Laurel Wilt disease and secured County funding toward disease control.
- Commissioner Moss and Commissioner Levine Cava co-prime sponsored two resolutions urging the Florida Legislature to pursue Federal Assistance to support farmers affected by the Oriental Fruit Fly, one of the world's most destructive pests and supporting H.R. 4226 or similar legislation that would provide financial relief for farmers impacted by the Oriental fruit fly.

## GOAL 3: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION

### OBJECTIVE 1: CREATIVE FUNDING FOR TRANSIT.

New funds are needed to improve our public transit.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioner Moss and Commissioner Levine Cava were appointed as Chairs of the newly created Transit Solutions and Fiscal Priorities Committees of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the county transportation planning body. The two commissioners will develop recommendations in their respective committees for accelerating mass transit development which will be jointly presented to the full MPO for approval this winter.



- Commissioner Levine Cava obtained MPO funds to update the South Link Study which will include assessment of feasibility for construction of light rail in addition to improvements on the South Dade Busway.
- Commissioner Levine Cava participated in monthly ChamberSouth Transportation Committee meetings included discussions with new Miami-Dade Transportation and Public Works Director Alice Bravo, and Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust Executive Director Charles Scurr to discuss transportation needs and funding options for South Dade.

## OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE TRANSIT OPTIONS.

The best solution for reducing traffic is to reduce the number of cars on the road.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioners Moss and Levine Cava championed the acquisition of new 60-foot “bending” buses to provide immediate relief on overcrowded routes, and continue to press for improvements on the Busway in signal synchronization, reduced boarding time and more parking, such as the Quail Roost Park and Ride. These improvements will also serve light rail, the preferred choice of area officials.
- Commissioner Levine Cava helped Miami-Dade become a partner with the national bike event called “WHEELS” with many events in South Dade to promote cycling, bicycle safety and promote awareness about options for commuting by bicycle.
- Commissioner Levine Cava sponsored County policy allowing “Neighborhood Electric Vehicles” and certain golf carts on County roads where they are permitted by Municipal ordinance. Municipal circulators now have access to the Busway, providing greater connectivity, thanks to policy she sponsored.

## OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVE ROADS, BIKE PATHS AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Existing roads, bridges, bike paths and other amenities need enhancement and maintenance.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commissioner Moss, Chairman of Neat Streets Miami, and Mayor Gimenez launched the Safer People, Safer Streets Taskforce to tackle Miami-Dade County's high incidence of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities, and hosted a forum to explore safety improvements as well as road beautification. He also championed increased frequency of roadside and median maintenance on county roads.
- Cutler Bay completed several major road projects and is developing a new pocket park with County support. Commissioner Levine Cava secured funding for the final portion of Caribbean Boulevard. Commissioner Moss supported road improvement projects along SW 176th Street in Perrine, SW 147th Ave. (Circles), Lucy Street Road Improvements and the SW 152nd Street Corridor Study.
- Commissioners lobbied for funding for bicycle trails, and area mayors are working with County planners to integrate existing bicycle routes.