

Chairman-elect - Commissioner Dennis C. Moss
Nomination Acceptance Speech
November 20, 2008

It is an honor to be considered for the position of Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

I want to thank and commend our current Chairman and Vice-Chairwoman and their excellent staff for the leadership that they have provided.

Today, in our County, we are facing tremendous challenges, some known and some unknown.

Some of the known challenges include a collapsing housing market that displaces our residents and lowers the property values of entire neighborhoods.

Our people are losing their homes and their jobs

We have a transit system that is underfunded and needs restructuring, if we are to properly maintain our current system and expand in a financially feasible way as we promised.

Our financial systems are on orange alert as our borrowing and investments need careful monitoring and oversight.

We need to continue to overhaul our water and sewer system so that responsible growth can continue.

We need to implement the financially feasible and necessary elements of the corrections master plan; build the new animal shelter; make good on the parks and community improvements in the GOB;

We need to address the issue of maintaining a viable Fire District; ensure that public safety is a priority; help Jackson continue to carry out its mission; complete the North Terminal at MIA and the projects that make us competitive at the seaport.

As so, you get a flavor of what some of the challenges are.

But with challenges come opportunities and I believe that I have shown that I have the ability to lead the commission through the challenges and to the opportunities.

I would like to have a monthly financial position report developed for presentation the board.

I would like to see the role of the Vice-Chair expanded.

I would like to have goals established for each committee in conjunction with committee chairs that will set targets for committees to accomplish.

I would like to create the ability of the MPO to form committees to vet our agendas and issues prior to the regular MPO meetings.

I would like to tie advisory boards into the committee process in a more meaningful way and recognize all of our volunteers in some type of an event for all their committed work over the years.

I would like to see a transit working group that will take advantage of the momentum from the transit summit and that can help us come up with a plan to move our system forward.

I would like to see better communication between the County and the League of Cities.

I would like to put an end to the conflict between the County and the cities over our fire district.

I would like to compile a cooperative list of economic stimulus plan projects comprised of County and City projects for submittal and pursuit in Washington, in addition to continuing our local expedite program; look at additional ways to use new technology as texting, robo calls, etc., to better communicate with our residents; develop ways to better use our office of intergovernmental affairs and commission auditor.

I want to work with the Board to find ways to keep our people in their homes, on their jobs and in our County.

Finally, I believe that any one of us can lead this Commission.

I hope that my role on the board has shown each member that I am ready, willing and able to lead this Commission as Chair through the challenges and to the opportunities, both known and unknown.

Thank you for your consideration.