

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008
111 NW 1st Street – 6th Floor
1:30 p.m.**

Members Present

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Dr. German Munoz; Reinaldo L. Azan, CPA; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Professor Elisa S. Moncarz; Dr. George Salazar-Carrillo; Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez; Dr. Jesus Permuy; Dr. Larry Capp; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Francisco De Varona; and Dr. Bernadette West

Miami-Dade County Staff and Others in Attendance

Javier Bray (Guest); George M. Burgess (County Manager); Jennifer Glazer-Moon (OSBM); Ines Beecher (OCA); Dr. Robert Cruz (OSBM); Jorge Fernandez (OSBM); Robert Kirschbaum (OSBM); Elsie Douge (OCED); and Dennis Wrinn (OCED).

Member Excused Absence

Dr. William Atkins; Dr. Willie Williams; Dr. Ken Lipner; and Dr. Pedro Pellet

Members Unexcused Absences

Dr. Michael Lavin.

Call to Order – Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jorge opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. Dr. Jorge indicated to the Council that Mr. George Burgess, County Manager, will come to the meeting to make a brief presentation. A motion was made by Dr. Jorge for the approval of last month's meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

County Manager's Presentation

Mr. George M. Burgess, County Manager, made a brief presentation to the Council. The Manager indicated that a memo will be distributed to all County departments requesting their support for the SEDC. He also thanked Dr. Cruz for his outstanding work and said that he is a real asset to the County. The County Manager thanked the Council members for their support and how valuable they are in their guidance to the County. In summary, Mr. Burgess indicated in his presentation that there are a lot of social and economic challenges out there and the County is trying to better allocate funds. He congratulated Ms. Glazer-Moon, the Director of the Office of Strategic and Business Management, for the good job she is doing. The main focus point right now is how to better distribute funds at a micro economic level or regional level as opposed to a neighborhood level. The County Manager referenced the International Trade Consortium (ITC) such as the Greater Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Beacon Council which role is to attract businesses, retain and create jobs for our regional economy, various Chambers of Commerce, and the Port of Miami which helps preserve and grow cargo businesses. This Trade Consortium goes

around the world to develop business interests in other countries. The newly created office of Economic Development Coordination will be the liaison for the County to develop economic strategies to grow our economy and interact with the ITC. This new office will have one position which will report directly to the County Manager. Dr. Jorge thanked the County Manager for taking time from his busy schedule to talk to the Council and acknowledged Jennifer Glazer Moon who will be working closely with Dr. Cruz to oversee this new office.

Other Issues

- Dr. Jorge asked everyone to welcome Gustavo Roig, an Associate Engineer at FIU, who will soon join the Council as a new member as soon as the Board ratifies him at their next meeting.
- Dr. Jorge suggested that Dr. Cruz' work be a permanent item to be added to the SEDC monthly agenda. Dr. Jorge made a motion to approve this additional item. The motion was seconded by Dr. Moncarz and Mr. De Varona. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- Dr. Jorge indicated that Manny Armada (Planning and Zoning) and Robert Schwarzreich (OSBM) should make every effort to attend all SEDC meetings.
- Dr. Jorge indicated that Lourdes Rovira who was scheduled to make a presentation at today's meeting will not be able to do so because of unexpected family matters.
- Dr. Larry Capp said that he would welcome the members' input on the newly drafted diversity resolution that he distributed to the attendees. Dr. Capp gave his e-mail address so the members can forward their comments/suggestions to him.
- Dennis Wrinn (OCED) informed the Council on the status of Dr. Willie Williams' health.

Presentation by Javier Bray

Mr. Bray gave a thorough presentation to the Council on the Miami-Dade County public schools. The following are the main topics covered by Mr. Bray:

Miami-Dade County High School Enrollments
District-wide (Cross Sectional) Dropout Rates (from 1999 to 2007)
Number of Students not Promoted by Race/Ethnic Categories 2003/04 and 2004/05

Final Points

Dr. Jorge informed the Council that the next meeting will take place on October 17, 2008.

Dr. Jorge reminded the Council that they used to meet twice a month, and it was later decided that the meeting will take place once a month. He asked the members to make an extra effort to be present all the monthly meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.