

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008
111 NW 1st Street – 6th Floor
1:30 p.m.**

Members Present

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Reinaldo L. Azan, CPA; Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo; Dr. Kenneth Lipner; Dr. Larry Capp; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Frank De Varona; and Dr. Bernadette West

Miami-Dade County Staff and Others in Attendance

Ines Beecher (OCA); Dr. Robert Cruz (OSBM); Robert Kirschbaum (OSBM); George Fernandez (OSBM); Robert Schwarzreich (Planning and Zoning); Oscar J. Braynon (Community Advocacy); Elsie Douge (OCED) and Dennis Wrinn (OCED).

Member Excused Absence

Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez, Dr. Willie Williams; Dr. Jesus Permuy; Dr. William Atkins; Dr. German Munoz; and Dr. Pedro Pellet; Dr. Raul Moncarz and Professor Elisa Moncarz.

Members Unexcused Absences

Dr. Michael Lavin.

Call to Order – Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jorge opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

A couple of corrections should be made to the July meeting minutes.

- The rate of dropouts (page 2) should be changed to 28% to 29% overall among minorities.
- The word interfered (page 2 - fourth paragraph) should be changed to intervened.
- Delete line “Dr. Espino was of the same opinion...” at the end of the second paragraph on page 2.

Note: Dr. Espino commented on the format of the meeting minutes. She indicated that the minutes do not have to be so detailed. They should reflect the topics discussed at the meeting and not necessarily specify (word for word) what each attendee said. By summarizing the main topics, the minutes will be more accurate and directly to the point. Dr. Espino’s suggestion was not put to a vote, but all were in agreement.

A motion was made by Dr. Jorge for the approval of the corrected July meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Jorge asked the members if they had reviewed Dr. Gustavo Roig’s resume, included in the package. Dr. Roig is a new candidate who has agreed to join the Council. Dr. Jorge gave a brief overview of Dr. Roig’s background and his qualifications. A motion was made by Dr. Jorge to

present Dr. Roig's resume to the Board of County of Commissioners for approval. All were in agreement and the motion carried.

Ms. Glazer-Moon briefed the Council on the proposed budget which includes the creation of a new Miami-Dade County department – the Office of Economic Development Coordination. This department will interact and support the SEDC. The main focus of this new department will be to improve the relationship with external organizations, such as the Beacon Council, the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, The Visitors Bureau, the Airport and many non-Miami-Dade Government organizations. This interaction will help improve the economic coordination issues in the County. This department will have a more established relationship with these external organizations so the County can move forward. The QTI and TJIF initiative will be an integral part of this new department. Dr. Jorge said that the Council should be proud of having played a big role in the creation of this department.

Robert Schwarzreich of Planning and Zoning briefed the Council on a series of reports on economic and social issues available. The reports, he said, can be of great interest to the Council members. They cover a wide range of issues such as population, income inequality, poverty, housing affordability, wages, employment, income earning in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Schwarzreich took note of the members who would like to receive the reports via e-mail. It was decided that Mr. Wrinn will e-mail the link to the members.

Other Issues

- The September meeting will be postponed and will be held on October 3 and it is anticipated that the County Manager will attend this meeting.
- Presentation by Dr. Larry Capp of issues that came up as a result of the Office of Advocacy's Social Equity Summit of Miami-Dade County. Dr. Capp indicated that the next two steps in the development of a social equity emphasis in county government include: (1) an expanded leadership from the County Commissioners and the Mayor and (2) the development and adoption of a Resolution establishing a Social Equity Council to study the feasibility of implementing appropriate strategies for Miami-Dade County and making recommendations to the Mayor and the BCC. The Council will be staffed by the Office of Community Advocacy.
- Brief presentation by Dr. Cruz on the status of the U.S. economy. He covered the rate of foreclosure nation wide, the energy crisis and unemployment rate. Dr. Cruz also explained how Miami-Dade compares with the national level.
- Mr. De Varona will call Lourdes Rovira to invite her to one of the Council's meetings to make a presentation on issues pertinent to the Miami-Dade School system.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.