

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1:30 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Dr. Elisa Moncarz; Dr. Ken Lipner; Dr. Brian Peterson; Francisco De Varona; Jesus Permuy; Pedro Pellet; Dr. German Munoz; Dr. Larry Capp; Dr. Bernadette West; Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez; Reinaldo Azan; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Dr. Jorge Salazar Carrillo; Rosendo Castillo (for Gustavo Roig).

**Miami-Dade County Staff and Others in Attendance**

Dr. Robert Cruz (OEDC); Ines Beecher (OCA); Harold Young (MMAP); Keith Connor (OCA); Manuel Armada (DP&Z); Jorge Fernandez (OSBM); Robert Kirschbaum (OSBM); Tracie Auguste (Mayor's Office); Elsie Douge (OCED).

**Member Excused Absences**

Dr. Williams

**Members Unexcused Absences**

Dr. Michael Lavin, Dr. Atkins

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**Call to Order – Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Jorge called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m.

The members of the Council introduced themselves. Dr. Jorge stated that he would change the order of the Agenda because Dr. Capp has to leave early. Dr. Jorge would like Dr. Capp to participate in the discussion which is about to take place.

Dr. Jorge called for the approval of the last minutes. Dr. Cruz indicated that the minutes were drafted from memory and notes due a malfunction of the recorder. Dr. Cruz suggested that if any items are missing from the minutes, they can be inserted and the minutes corrected accordingly. Dr. Espino and Frank De Varona mentioned that they have been listed twice. The corrections will be made and the minutes finalized.

**Motion:** Dr. Jorge offered a motion for the approval of the minutes of the last meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Dr. Jorge's Report**

Dr. Jorge welcomed Dr. Brian Peterson who, he said, is a great addition to the Council and hopes that he will find the Council to his liking. The Council was created about six years ago and many qualified people have been members during these years. He cited a few names of those who were part of the Council and for one reason or another could not continue their membership. Dr. Jorge recommended that Council members who have not read to Resolution creating the Council to get a copy and be familiar with it. The Council, Dr. Jorge added, was created with a broad mission as follows:

- Help in the formulation of the economic development strategy of the County
- Suggest measures to decrease the inequality in the income distribution of the County
- Suggest measures to increase employment and the number of small and medium-size enterprises
- Suggest strategies to make Dade County economy stronger and less dependent on tourism and foreign trade.

Our mission is to formulate suggestions and advise the Board of County of Commissioners and the Administration of the County. The Council initially met twice a month, but many of our members found that meeting twice a month was too inconvenient for them. The current monthly meeting schedule does not give the Council much opportunity to do actual detailed work. The Council's work is more of a conceptual and general nature.

In the early years following the Council creation, it worked more closely with the County Administration because it could more easily facilitate the Council with their support and services. The Council's accomplishments were explicitly recognized by the two County Managers, Mr. Shriver and Mr. Burgess. The Council's accomplishments were:

- ***County's Master Plan:*** We were very instrumental in the formulation of the economic component of the County's Master Plan and our version is the one that was adopted.
- ***Strategic Plan:*** Most of the economic component of the Strategic Plan was based on the Council's suggestions. The Council met with various departments of the County to review their budget and adopt policies that would promote growth and better economic conditions.
- ***Mission:*** We met with the County Manager, Mr. Burgess, to suggest that our mission will be focused more on suggestions to promote a more coherent Strategic Plan, the budgetary process and the business plan of the various departments of the County.
- ***Office of Chief Economist:*** The SEDC was instrumental in the creation of the Office of the Chief Economist.

- ***Office of Economic Development Coordination:*** The Council was instrumental in the creation of this department.

(See memoranda from Mr. Burgess to Dr. Jorge as a proof that we did our work and accomplished our goals.)

### **New Mission**

Dr. Jorge concluded by informing everyone that the main goal of the Council is now to work directly with the Chief Economist, Dr. Cruz, who is the Council's official liaison to the Administration and interact with the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Jorge suggested that all members read the job description of the Chief Economist.

The Council will now revert to its original mission which was to work directly with the Board of County Commissioners. The Council members will make an effort to be present at the Commission's meetings and report on the social and economic matters affecting the County and the community at large.

**Mix of Qualified Members:** Dr. Jorge mentioned that he talked to a former CEO of Dow Chemical who has strong corporate business experience and willing to come on board as a regular member. At the next meeting, Mr. Javier Marquez, former Chief of Staff for Commissioner Joe Martinez, will be nominated to become an *ex officio* member. Mr. Marcus will be a great asset to the Council and help the Council's relationship with the Board of County Commissioners.

We count on the support of Commissioner Moss to move in this new direction and strengthen the Council's relationship with the Board of County Commissioners.

### **New Directors**

Dr. Capp indicated that two new directors are coming on joining the County - Mr. Cintron in the public housing area and Ms. Shalley Jones Horn in the Office of Community and Economic Development. Dr. Capp recommended that these two directors be invited to a Council's meeting to give advice and direction on financial inclusion and other economic opportunities.

### **Motion**

*Moved by Dr. West and read by Dr. Cruz as follows:* Motion to request that the appropriate representative of OSBM attend the SEDC meetings on a regular basis to keep the SEDC informed and report on the progress on the Strategic Plan. Motion was seconded by Dr. Jorge and Dr. Moncarz. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Stimulus Package**

Dr. Jorge agreed with Mr. Azan who suggested that the Chief Economist keep the Council's abreast on the stimulus package. **Dr. Lipner** said that it is a good idea because "money" is coming and it will be very beneficial to the County. If there is some local flexibility part of the stimulus package, the Council will be much involved.

### **Housing**

Mr. Permuy briefly informed the Council that his main concern is housing. He questioned how does housing relate to the Strategic Plan that was discussed earlier. What can the Council do about housing? We have a large population in need of housing - how can the County make sure that the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and other money the County received for housing are properly managed. Dr. Cruz referred to the Scott Carver (Hope VI) project as an example and one that is a very high priority for the new Director of Public Housing. Dr. Jorge suggested that Dr. Cruz get in touch with the Housing Director to invite him to one of the Council's meetings. Dr. Permuy requested that he be allowed to meet first with Dr. Cruz and Manny Armada in order to brief them on his ideas before creating any sub-committees. Dr. Jorge agreed.

### **Other Issues**

Dr. Peterson made the following points that he would like the Council to discuss at a later date:

- Establishing municipal charter schools.
- County Manager's oversight of school system with County Mayor in control of system
- Establish joint programs between MDCPS and local universities like the biomedical school in Miami
- Money for research at FIU and the University of Miami and linkages with development of new businesses

Dr. Jorge suggested that any items the Council members want included in the next agenda should be submitted to Dr. Cruz.

Before adjourning the meeting, Dr. Jorge asked members to welcome with appreciation, friendship and respect Dr. Salazar Carillo and Dr. Raul Moncarz.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.