

## **MINUTES**

### **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Friday, May 15, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.**

**111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Miami, FL 33128**

#### **Members Present**

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez; Dr. Francisco De Varona; Dr. Ken Lipner; Dr. Pedro Pellet; Dr. Pedro Diaz; Rosendo Castillo; Reinaldo Azan;

#### **Members Excused Absence**

Dr. Brian Peterson; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Dr. Elisa Moncarz; Dr. Bernadette West; Jesus Permuy; Dr. Michael Lavin; Dr. Maria Espino; Dr. Willie Williams; Dr. Gustavo Roig; Javier Marques; Dr. Larry Capp; Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo; Dr. German Muñoz.

#### **Miami-Dade County Staff**

Dr. Robert Cruz (OEDC); Hardai "Dai" Junor (OEDC); Maria Abreu (OCA); Manual Armada (DP&Z); Bob Schwarzreich (DP&Z).

#### **Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Jorge, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. and a quorum was met. Members of the Council and guests introduced themselves.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Jorge called for the approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2009 meeting. Dr. Ken Lipner moved a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Frank De Varona. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **Chairperson's Report**

Dr. Jorge addressed the issue of having a meeting with Chairman Moss and referred to the letter that was sent to the Chair. He reminded everyone that the Chair had given his commitment to work with the SEDC, and stressed the importance of establishing and maintaining contact with him. He stated that the effectiveness of the SEDC work is dependent on the development of a productive relationship between the Council and the BCC.

Dr. Leonardo asked about the proposed May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with BCC. Dr. Cruz said there was no response as of yet. Dr. Lipner asked if the Agenda was out for the 19<sup>th</sup> and wanted to know who was in charge of that particular sub-committee. Dr. Cruz said the draft Agenda comes out two weeks prior, and that Commissioner Edmonson is the Chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee. Dr. Cruz suggested that

the Board could request a meeting with the HCDC Committee prior to meeting with the Chair.

Dr. Jorge stated that the Board as a whole should meet with the Chair as was done in the past; and if there is no timely response then they should go before the BCC. He reminded members that the SEDC was created by the BCC and the Mayor. He stated that the SEDC has a duty to perform and that every possible effort must be made to carry out those obligations.

Dr. Cruz referred to the Attendance record for 2009 and discussed the rules and what constitutes an Excused Absence referring to the Ordinance (handout). He stated that the Ordinance creating the SEDC has no specific reference to Attendance requirements; However, in the absence of any such rules the County Code Article 1B. Standards for Creation and Review of Boards Generally will apply. Dr. Cruz read into the records Section 2-11.39. of the Ordinance pertaining to Attendance Requirement. Dr. Jorge said there should be a more clear definition of Attendance Policy for this Board.

Dr. Jorge said Dr. Atkins resigned verbally as he had reported at the March 20th meeting but did not send his letter of resignation. He also mentioned Dr. Lavin who was absent for more than a year, stated that it is obvious that he is unable to devote time to attend to business of this Council. He said he had e-mailed Mike Lavin but had no response from him, and mentioned that Dr. Willie Williams is sick and has been out for a year. Dr. Jorge said the Board should declare the positions of Mike Lavin and Dr. William Atkins vacant.

Dr. Cruz said that Mandana Dashtaki, Assistant County Attorney will be at the next meeting to discuss the Ordinance and answer any questions the Board may have. He suggested that if the Board wants to adopt an Attendance Policy they should discuss it that time.

Rosendo Castillo moved a motion stating that in compliance with Section 2-11-39 of the Standards for Creation and Review of Boards Generally, the Council approves the removal of Mike Lavin and Dr. William Atkins from the membership of the Council. Motion seconded by Dr. Frank DeVarona. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Reinaldo Azan motioned that after three unexcused absence in a fiscal year that a letter should be sent to the person informing them that at the following meeting they will be automatically removed from the Council. Motion seconded by Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Dr. Cruz said that Ms. Shally Jones-Horn, Director of Community and Economic Development was scheduled to present today to the Council an overview of her department and the economic development priorities of the County; but due to a low attendance the Chair decided it would be better for her to be at the next meeting.

Dr. Jorge motioned for Dr. Cruz, Chief Economist to invite those county core departments that were required by the Manager to attend these meetings, urging them to send an appropriate representative to report, attaching the memo from the Manager; and copied to the County Manager. The core departments mentioned in the Manager's memo are: Planning and Zoning, CAA, Human Services, OEDC, OCED, CA, SBD, and MMAP. Motion was seconded by Dr. Frank De Varona. All were in favor and the motioned passed.

### **Education Sub Committee Report**

In the absence of Dr. Peterson, Dr. Cruz submitted the revised draft of the report prepared by Dr. Peterson. After reviewing the report, Dr. Varona suggested some changes and said, if accepted, it should be incorporated in the language of the report:

- Some of these charter schools should offer Vocational/Technical courses and programs.
- Change to read M-DCPS/Pre-K-12 and Adult Education
- Add full service school model in (e) of last page
- If appropriate trade Unions and Industry/Business representatives should participate in an Advisory Committee.

Dr. Cruz said he will make the appropriate changes and incorporate a table with updated 2007 Income and Education Attainment figures of Miami-Dade County.

Rosendo Castillo motioned to accept the report with the changes. Motion seconded by Dr. Pellet. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Report on Social Equity Efforts**

Dr. Lipner reported at their last meeting Dr. Capp suggested there were some difficulty at the commission level in this endeavor. He gave a brief on the issue of Social Equity which is based on a set of recommendations and indicators that were developed in King County in Seattle, Washington, in terms of inclusiveness both in government and government agencies in providing services in an equitable manner. In an effort to set up the same kind of indicators in Miami-Dade County, the SEDC voted unanimously to support this issue. He does not have the details and asked to defer the issue of Social Equity to Dr. Capp.

Dr. Lipner moved a motioned reiterating that Miami-Dade County government utilize social equity indicators; and should be used for the prioritization of county public works projects, public investment and social services in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Pedro Pellet seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on Economic Impact REMI Analysis**

Dr. Cruz reported he had a meeting last week with Dr. Salazar, Manny Armada and Bob Schwarzreich and that they will continue to proceed with the economic impact analysis study. He mentioned there are more areas of interest they would like to explore but is limited to the initial scope which is to look at different industries and their impact over time. He explained that REMI is a model of the economy that basically looks at inter-relationships between industries, and that Dr. Salazar wanted the County to have an Economic Model in order to evaluate different economic policies. Dr. Salazar also pointed out the need for more investment of financial resources for this kind of research activity.

Dr. Jorge suggested that the REMI report should be a standard item at these meetings.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.