

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING  
Friday, February 15, 2007**

**Members Present**

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Dr. Bernadette West; Dr. Robert Cruz; Dr. German Munoz; Dr. Frank de Varona; Dr. Loly Espino and Mr. Jesus Permuy

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

Jennifer Glazer-Moon (OSBM), Manuel Armada (Planning & Zoning), Robert Kirschbaum (OSBM), Bob Schwarzreich (Planning & Zoning); Oscar Braynon (MDC Office of Advocacy); Ines Beecher (Office of Commission Auditor); Keith Connor (Office of Commission Auditor); Clint Conliffe (Urban Task Force); Mike Iturrey (OSBM); Dennis Wrinn (MDC-OCED); Elsie Douge (MDC-OCED); Armanda Jayska (OSBM); Marlene Blanco (MMAP).

**Members Excused Absences**

Dr. Juan Clark; Dr. William Atkins; Dr. Kenneth Lipner; Dr. Willie Williams, Dr. Pedro Pellet.

**Members Unexcused Absences**

Mr. Michael Lavin, Dr. Dario Moreno; Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez; and Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo.

**Call to Order – Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. Jorge opened the meeting at 2:15 p.m. He welcomed the Council members and County staff in attendance. Dr. Jorge asked the attendees if they had a chance to review the minutes of the last meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Jorge then asked Ms. Glazer-Moon to present the items on the agenda that she will discuss.

Ms. Glazer talked at length about the County Departments' Business Plans, the departments' Resource Allocations and the County's Strategic Plan Rewrite. As far as the Strategic Plan is concerned, it was adopted by the Board five years ago. It is required that the Plan be reviewed and rewritten every five years to reflect the changes in the community and the community priorities. OSBM staff is also reviewing the information submitted by the departments to put their budget together. The departmental budget hearings will start the third week in February and Ms. Glazer-Moon provided the hearing dates for the upcoming budget meetings with County departments.

Small Business Development	February 27 <sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m.
Seaport	March 10 <sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.
Aviation	March 14 <sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.
Transit	April 14 <sup>th</sup> - 2:00 p.m.

The Council will be made aware of the different steps to be taken to finalize the Strategic Plan and the budget, so they can offer guidance and recommendations. Ms. Glazer-Moon then talked about the draft Work Plan for the SEDC that has been prepared.

As requested at the last SEDC meeting, the link to the department business plans was forwarded to the members prior to the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. By accessing the business plans

on line, the members will have the opportunity to review the departments the Council wishes to focus on during the upcoming budget cycle. A list of the upcoming budget meetings was also provided to the members prior to this meeting.

Dr. Cruz talked about his Work Plan, the workload and assignments.

Dr. Espino commented to the Council members that her last name was previously misspelled in the previous meeting minutes. She clarified that her last name is Espiño and not Espinosa.

Dr. Jorge informed the Council that Dr. Reinaldo Azan, a well-known auditor and accountant, is interested in joining the Council as a member. He asked the members to review his resume included in the package. Dr. Jorge made a motion to vote on the nomination of Dr. Azan as a new Council member. All were in favor and the motion carried. Dr. Azan's nomination will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Dr. Jorge pointed out to the attention of the members the report on absences included in their package. Dr. Jorge indicated that he could understand the fact that a member may be absent from one or two meetings, but he realized that some members have been absent frequently. Dr. Jorge is of opinion that if the absences are frequent, it is obvious that the member is no longer interested and his membership on the Council should be declared vacant.

Frequent absences do place a burden on the effectiveness of the Council. The report on absences and action to be taken will be an item of discussion on the agenda at the next Council's meeting. Dr. Jorge also stated that he wishes to speak to each member personally to find out about their commitment to the SEDC for the entire year. By having a firm decision from each member, the Council will be able to move in the right direction and count on the member's contribution.

The Council made a request to have their assigned County Attorney attend the next Council's meeting to address some of their concerns. The concerns raised by the Council were as follows:

1. Sunshine rules and how they apply to the SEDC. The Council is of the opinion that the rules do not apply to them and would like a verbal and written legal opinion.
2. Excused absences – The Code on excused absences was discussed. The Council would like a legal opinion as to what the code entails and if they can use their judgment to determine if a member's excused absence is acceptable.
3. Ex-officio for Dr. Cruz – The Council would like a verbal legal review/confirmation on whether or not Dr. Cruz can be an ex-officio member. A discussion followed where the members voiced their concern on Dr. Cruz being a member and if the current ordinance allows him to also be ex-officio.

The Commission Auditor Office stated that they will include in their budget priorities a suggestion that the SEDC present to the BCC their specific budget priorities to be included in the budget process. The Council requested additional reprints of the publication on the Overview of the Socio-Economic Condition of Miami-Dade County.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.