

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING  
Friday, March 14, 2007  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Members Present**

Dr. Antonio Jorge; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Dr. Kenneth Lipner; Elisa Moncarz; Dr. Bernadette West; Dr. Leonardo Rodriguez; Mr. Reinaldo Azan; Dr. Robert Cruz; Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo; Pedro Pellet; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Dr. German Munoz; and Jesus Permuy

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

Shannon Summerset (County Attorney's Office); José Cintrón (OCED); Manuel Armada (Planning & Zoning), Robert Kirschbaum (OSBM), Ryan Elba (OSBM); Ray Scher (OSBM); Bob Schwarzreich (Planning & Zoning); Oscar Braynon (MDC Office of Advocacy); Ines Beecher (Office of Commission Auditor); Clint Conliffe (Urban Task Force); Mike Iturrey (OSBM); Dennis Wrinn (OCED); Elsie Douge (OCED); Marlene Blanco (MMAP).

**Members Excused Absences**

Dr. William Atkins; Dr. Juan Clark and Dr. Willie Williams.

**Members Unexcused Absences**

Mr. Michael Lavin and Dr. Dario Moreno.

**Call to Order – Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. Jorge called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. Dr. Jorge asked everyone to welcome Mr. Reinaldo Azan, the new member of the SEDC. Dr. Jorge indicated that he is very proud to have Mr. Azan on board and that the Committee will benefit tremendously from his background in the academic, professional and entrepreneurial area will bring substantial input to the committee.

Regarding the question of excused absences, Dr. Jorge informed the Council that Dr. Juan Clark has some family issues and will not be able to attend the meeting. Dr. Williams may not be able to attend future meetings due to health problem. Dr. Jorge informed the Council that he contacted all the members who have been frequently absent to find out if their obligations will allow them to participate in the Council as a member. Dr. Jorge said that they all agreed to continue as Council members. The only exception is Dr. Williams who will keep Dr. Jorge informed of his decision.

Dr. Jorge opened the floor to Dr. Cruz to make his presentation on the Guiding Principles for Economic Policy. Dr. Cruz referred to the page included in the meeting package that summarizes the SEDC guiding principles. Dr. Cruz said that the statement that captures the sentiment of the County is as follows: Miami-Dade County government economic development policies and investments shall strive to achieve local economic prosperity, improved quality of life, sustainable economic development and social equity. Recognizing that economic development is a long-term process and that prosperity is defined as a high quality of life for all Miami-Dade residents, the County's economic development policies

Dr. Cruz indicated that the key issue is to be able to set a mechanism to ensure that the guiding principles are followed and whether or not he County is abiding by these principles.

The second item that the Council was interested in, Dr. Cruz said, was the Global Agreement. After looking into the process, Dr. Cruz stated that the global agreement is essentially a packaging of a number of projects that are already in existence (or in the planning stage) that the Mayor of Dade County and the Mayor of the City of Miami would like to go forward with. Included in the meeting package, Dr. Cruz added, is the actual resolution from the BCC that enumerates a number of these projects and the type of funding that will be provided. A lengthy discussion followed where some of the council members asked if the projects were voted on by the citizens.

Dr. Lipner intervened to state that he would like the discussion to focus on page "471" - Guiding Principles for Economic Policy Evaluation: Background Information (included in the package).

First bolded paragraph – Dr. Lipner suggested that a modification be made to eliminate the words "**economic development**" in the first bolded paragraph to read "Miami-Dade County government policies and investments shall strive...." Dr. Jorge made a motion to vote on the modification. All were in favor of the elimination of these two words. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Pellet then questioned if it would be possible to create a system that could quantify all the goals included in the Guiding Principles.

The discussion continued regarding the list of bullets listed on page 471:

- First bullet - Dr. West suggested that she would like "**short term** perspective" to precede the words "long term perspective" in the first bullet.

The word "sustainability" was also discussed at length. The focus of the discussion was that the word "sustainability" should be replaced by the word "**development.**" The discussion went on where the members finally agreed to reword the sentence of the first bullet to read "**be formulated with a short and long term perspective that emphasizes socio-economic development**". The motion for a vote on the rewording of the first bullet was made by Dr. Jorge. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- The fourth bullet was discussed by Dr. Espino who suggested that "environmental quality" be substituted by "**the natural environment.**" A motion for a vote on the change was made by Dr. Jorge. All were in favor and the motion carried to substitute the words "environmental quality" with "the natural environment."

Dr. Jorge continued by informing the Council would like to invite at their next meeting the representatives of the Community Action Agency in order to report on the economic disparities in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Jorge indicated that an item will be added to the next SEDC meeting agenda regarding a presentation by Dr. Atkins and Dr. Capps on the criteria for identifying and measuring poverty in Miami-Dade County. The question of poverty is very important, Dr. Jorge said, and it is a fact of life that Miami-Dade County has a high rate of poverty. Therefore, Dr. Jorge made a motion to have "Poverty" incorporated in the Economic Policy guidelines and to ask Dr. Cruz to work on the appropriate language and include it in the Guidelines. All were in favor and the motion carried.

A discussion on the Work Plan where Dr. Cruz informed the Council of the various topics included in the Work Plan. One of the Council members asked if it would be possible to discuss at the next meeting if the County has any ways or plan of helping the homeowners that have not

been foreclosed yet. Dr. Jorge indicated that the Council does not have any resources to help on this issue.

Dr. Jorge then raised a question on the departmental business plans received by e-mail by the Council members. Dr. Jorge mentioned that he analyzed the documents and noticed that a lot of the categories in the documents are administrative in nature. He asked how it would be possible to reconcile all these materials with the budget and Strategic Plan and can all this information be worked into a more coherent, smooth and consistent process. He asked how all the general administrative categories can be reconciled into more quantifiable criteria to address the question of the impact on the social and economic conditions of the County so one can get a clearer picture on how the County money is being allocated. Mike Iturrey gave a lengthy explanation and stated that this is the budgetary process. He was followed by another OSBM staff member who gave a detailed explanation of how the budget and resource allocations are assigned to each department. Dr. Jorge asked if a diagram could be drawn to demonstrate all the verbal explanations given at the meeting. OSBM has scorecards that reflect the objectives the each department intends to achieve, the performance measures and how the departments intend to achieve these objectives. It was decided that a diagram can be drawn, as requested by Dr. Jorge, to make it easier to understand the process. Mr. Iturrey indicated that a list of the major revenue sources will also be provided to the Council. Some of the Council members indicated that they would like to have the requested information prior to the next meeting so they can analyze it.

Shannon Summerset, the Assistant County Attorney, was invited to the meeting to brief the Council on the sunshine laws. Ms. Summerset answered the questions raised by the Council. She explained how the sunshine laws apply to the Council members. She also talked about the ex-officio status of Dr. Cruz as a member of the SEDC. Mr. Summerset explained in detail the rules guiding the excused and unexcused absences and what is an acceptable or unacceptable excuse.

Ines Beecher from the Commission Auditor's Office briefly informed the Council that on the Agenda of the next Board of County Commissioners' meeting includes a proposal by Commissioner Jordan to add a new section to the Work Force Housing Development Program which relates to affordable housing. She also indicated that on April 8, the BCC by ordinance must have their budget priority. If there are any items the Council would like the Board to be aware of, to please let her know so that these items can be discussed at the public hearing.

After listening to all the implications of the sunshine law and how it regulates Board members, Dr. Jorge stated that he would like to have the SEDC Resolution amended to include the possibility of having some individuals on the Committee as ex-officio members and/or technical advisors. Dr. Jorge made a motion to vote on amending the resolution to reflect the change. All were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Before adjourning the meeting, Dr. Jorge brought one last item to the attention of the Board members. Due to the intricate regulations of the sunshine laws governing Board members, Dr. indicated that he would like to increase the number of Council members to include ex-officio members and/or technical advisors. He also indicated that his request can be also be part of the amendment to the SEDC Resolution. Dr. Jorge made a motion to vote on increasing the number of members. All the Council members were in favor and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Dr. Espino to vote on a time change for the future SEDC meeting. She suggested that the meetings start at 1:30 p.m. instead of 2:00 p.m. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Finally, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Dr. Espino reminded that the spelling of her last name is with a “regular n” and not ñ. The correction will be made to the minutes. All were in favor of the approval of the minutes and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.