

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Date: March 4, 2008

Agenda Item No. 1(D)1

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Sunset Review of County Boards for 2008 – Community Relations Board

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2-11.40 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am transmitting the 2008 Sunset Review of County Boards Report for the Community Relations Board. The Board approved the attached report at its meeting of November 14, 2007 and has recommended the continuation of its board.



Susanne M. Torriente
Chief Assistant County Manager

cmo07908

Memorandum



Date: January 7, 2008

To: George M. Burgess
County Manager

From: Dr. Harold Vieux
Chairperson, Community Relations Board

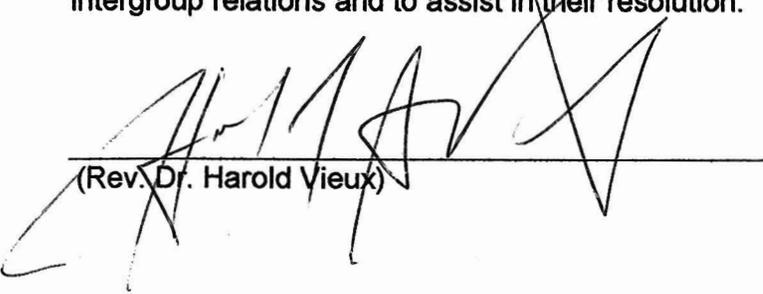
Subject: Sunset Review of Boards for 2008 - Community Relations Board

Pursuant to Section 2-11.40 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am submitting the 2008 Sunset Review of County Boards Report for the Community Relations Board for transmittal to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The Board approved the attached report at its meeting of November 14, 2007.

It is recommended that the BCC approve the continuation of the Community Relations Board.

BACKGROUND

The Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board was created in June of 1963. The primary mission of the Community Relations Board is to intervene and contain, as quickly as possible, community tensions. The secondary mission of the Community Relations Board is to: work proactively to identify and relieve intergroup conflicts before crisis arises; develop bridges of understanding, communication, and mutual respect; develop and support local or city based community relations boards throughout the County; and to assure that resources are in place to respond to community crisis. Given the tremendous cultural diversity that exists in our county and the community tensions that arise from time to time, it is in all our best interests to have a respected and diverse group of prominent community leaders with the authority to act independently to address issues impacting on intergroup relations and to assist in their resolution.



(Rev. Dr. Harold Vieux)

**SUNSET REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARDS
2008**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of Board reporting: Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board
2. Indicate number of board members, terms of office, and number of vacancies:
Number of Board Members: The number of members on December 31, 2007 is: 25.
Terms of Office: Three years.
Number of Vacancies: Five.
3. Identify number of meetings and members' attendance (Attach records reflecting activity from **Jan. 1, 2006** through **December 31, 2007**):
Number of Meetings: 20.
Number of Meetings with a Quorum: 19.
Attendance Records: See attached CRB Attendance Charts for January – December 2006 and January – December 2007.
4. What is the source of your funding? Miami-Dade County General Fund.
5. Date of Board Creation: June 1963
6. Attach a copy of the ordinance creating the Board (Please include all subsequent amendments). See CRB Ordinance attached.
7. Include the Board's Mission Statement or state its purpose:

The primary mission of the Community Relations Board is to intervene and contain, as quickly as possible, community tensions.

The secondary mission of the Community Relations Board is to:
 - work proactively to identify and relieve intergroup conflicts before crises arise;
 - to develop bridges of understanding and support programs in the community;
 - to foster understanding, communication, and mutual respect;
 - to develop and support local or city based Community Relations Boards throughout the county; and
 - to assure that resources are in place to respond to community crisis.
8. Attach the Board's standard operating procedures, if any. N/A
9. Attach a copy of the Board's By-Laws, if any. See CRB By-laws attached.

**SUNSET REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARDS
2008**

10. Attach a copy of the Board minutes approving the Sunset Review Questionnaire, including a vote of the membership. See November 14, 2007 CRB Minutes attached.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Is the Board serving the purpose for which it was created? (Please provide detailed information) Yes. See CRB Accomplishments attached.
2. Is the Board serving current community needs? (Please provide detailed information) Yes. See CRB Accomplishments attached.
3. What are the Board's major accomplishments?
Last 24 months See CRB Accomplishments attached.

Since established:

- Intervened to reduce and contain community tensions during civil disturbances throughout Dade County.
 - Created and oversaw an effective Crisis Prevention and Response Team.
 - Intervened on behalf of disenfranchised communities through an ongoing multi-agency conference approach.
 - Conducted numerous community forums and events that identified emerging problems and promoted intergroup harmony and understanding.
 - Provided a catalyst for the development of important county-wide initiatives including: Metro-Miami Action Plan, Partners for Youth and Independent Review Panel.
4. Is there any other board, either public or private, which would better serve the function of this board? No
 5. Should the ordinance creating the Board be amended to better enable the Board to serve the purpose for which it was created? (If "Yes", attach proposed changes).
Yes. See attached Proposed Amendments to CRB Ordinance.
 6. Should the Board's membership requirements be modified? No
 7. What is the operating cost of the Board, both direct and indirect? (Report on FY 2006 and FY 2007).

**SUNSET REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARDS
2008**

FY 2005-06: \$7,712.00 Direct, \$121,891.65 Indirect. FY 2006-07:
\$7,712.00 Direct, \$128,307.00 Indirect.

8. Describe the Board's performance measures developed to determine its own effectiveness in achieving its stated goals.

The measurement of Board performance is determined by comparing actual performance with the achievement of its primary mission as defined in the County Code Article XXIII, Section 2-208 that was amended in FY 2000. The Code states that:

The primary mission of the Community Relations Board is to intervene and contain, as quickly as possible, community tensions.

The secondary mission of the Community Relations Board is to: work proactively to identify and relieve intergroup conflicts before crises arise; to develop bridges of understanding, communication, and mutual respect; to develop and support local or city based Community Relations Boards throughout the County; and to assure that resources are in place to respond to community crisis.

Also: Include a diskette, saved as ASCII or Rich Text Format (RTF), of the County Manager's transmittal memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners with the Board's recommendation.

CRB Members Attendance Chart January - December 2007

NAME	JAN	FEB	MAR (RETREAT)	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Adora Nweze	E	E	P	UN	E	P	E		E	E	E	
Vickie Smith Jackson	E	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Carolyn Boyce	E	E	E							E	P	
Mario Artecona	P	P	P	P	E	UN	E		P	P	P	
Marjorie York	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Valerie Davis-Bailey	E	P	P	P	P	UN	UN		UN	P	UN	
Steven Brodie	E	E	E	UN	E							
Dr. Helen McGuire	P	E	E	E	P	P	P		E	E	E	
Farrel Owens, Jr.	E	P	E	E	UN	E	P		UN	P	E	
Francina Bolden	E	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN		UN	UN	E	
Rev. Harold Vieux	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Joanne H. Koren	P	P	P	P	P	P	E		P	UN	P	
Ahmed Kabani	P	P	UN	P	P	P	UN		P	P	P	
Farzana M. Tapia	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Rev. Walter Richardson	P	P	P	E	E	P	UN		E	E	E	
Lester Rosenberg	E	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Ralph Kéno	UN	UN	UN	P	UN	UN						
L. George Yap	P	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	P		P	P	P	
Reinaldo Valdes	P	P	P	UN	P	P	P		P	P	P	
L. Ann Cumbie	P	UN	P	E	P	UN	P		P	E	E	
Vincent Delgado	P	P	P	P	UN	UN	P		UN	UN	UN	
Sofian Zakkout	P	P	UN	E	P	E	UN		UN	UN	P	
Rabbi Solomon Schiff												
Saif K. Ishaof (AAAB)							UN		UN	UN	P	
Didier Fabien (BAAB)		P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Joan Sampieri (CFW)	E	E	P	E	E	E	E		E	E	E	
Mariil Cancio, (HAAB)		P	P	P	P	P	P		UN	P	E	
Kwong-Cheng Wong (AAAB)												
Jose Fuentes (AAAB)	E	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN					P	

LEGEND

P = Present

UN = Unexcused

 = No Meeting

E = Excused

 = Not a Member

CRB Members Attendance Chart January - December 2006

NAME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Adora Nweze	E	E	E	E	E	E	E		P	E	E	
Vickie Smith Jackson		P	P	P	P	P	P		E	P	P	
Carolyn Boyce	UN	E	P	E	UN	UN	E		P	UN	UN	
Mario Artecona	P	P	E	E	P	E	E		P	P	P	
Paul Yavis	E	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Valerie Davis-Bailey	P	P	P	P	E	E	P		E	E	P	
Pedro Freyre	E	UN	UN									
Farrrel Owens, Jr.	P	P	E	P	E	E	P		P	P	P	
Francina Bolden	P	P	E	P	P	P	P		UN	E	E	
Rev. Harold Vieux	E	P	P	P	P	P	E		P	P	E	
Joanne H. Koren	P	P	P	P	P	E	P		P	P	P	
Ahmed Kabani	P	E	E	P	P	E	P		E	P	P	
Dr. Helen McGuire												
Farzana M. Tapia	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Rev. Walter Richardson	P	P	P	E	P	E	E		P	E	E	
Nancy Powell	P	P	E	E	E	E	E		E			
Lester Rosenberg	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	E	
Steve Brodie	E	E	P	UN	UN	UN	E					
Ralph Kénol	P	P	P	P	E	P	P		UN	E	E	
L. George Yap	P	P	P	P	E	P	P		P	P	E	
Ralph Rosado	E	E	E	E	P	P	P		UN	E	E	
L. Ann Cumbie	E	E	P	E	P	P	E		P	P	P	
Jorge Mursulli	UN	UN	UN									
Vincent Delgado												
Jose Fuentes (AAAB)	UN	UN	UN	E	UN	E	UN		UN	P	P	
Dr. Franklin Sands (BAAB)	P	P	P	UN	P	E	P		P	UN	P	
Joan Sampieri (CFW)												
Reinaldo Valdes (HAAB)												
Rose Naccareto (CFW)	E	UN	UN	P	P	P	P		UN	E	E	
Manuel Benitez (HAAB)	UN											

LEGEND
 P = Present
 E = Excused
 UN = Unexcused
 = No Meeting
 = Not a Member

Article XXIII. Community Relations Board

Creation of Board.

There is hereby created and established in Miami-Dade County an advisory Board to be known as the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board.

Membership; qualifications; terms.

This Board shall consist of thirty (30) voting members. The membership of the Board shall be broadly representative of the various social, racial, religious, linguistic, cultural, economic, national origin and geographic groups comprising the population of this County. Each member shall be a resident of Miami-Dade County with an outstanding reputation for community pride, interest, integrity, responsibility, and business or professional ability and a documented commitment to intergroup relations.

Each Commissioner shall appoint a member to the Community Relations Board who is duly qualified under this ordinance and the criteria provided by a special nominating committee. The special nominating committee shall consist of: the Mayor or his designee, as chair; the County Manager; one person appointed by the Board of County Commissioners; and six past chairs of the Community Relations Board appointed by the Mayor. The special nominating committee will appoint thirteen duly qualified at-large members assuring diverse representation from among gender, ethnic and national origin groups. Four additional members shall serve by virtue of their election as chairpersons by the respective community advisory boards which are: Black Affairs Advisory Board, Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, Asian American Advisory Board and the Commission for Women. The advisory board chairpersons shall serve as voting members of the CRB during the period each holds that elected position. The remaining twenty-six (26) members of the Community Relations Board shall be appointed for an initial one-year term.

Thereafter, the Community Relations Board shall consist of thirteen duly qualified members appointed by each Commissioner, thirteen at-large members appointed by an ad hoc nominating committee designated by the CRB and four members elected as chairpersons by the community advisory boards.

After one year, the twenty-six appointed members will serve staggered terms chosen by lottery as follows: nine (9) members shall be appointed for terms expiring on the second anniversary of their appointment, nine (9) members shall be appointed for terms expiring on the third anniversary of their appointment, and eight (8) members shall be appointed for terms expiring on the fourth anniversary of their appointment. Subsequent appointments shall be for terms of three (3) years except that appointments to fill any vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. Former chairpersons of the Board, who are not current members of the Board shall serve as ex officio members of the Board but shall not be entitled to vote on any matter before the Board and shall not be required to attend meetings of the Board. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in official duties, as may be determined and approved by the County Manager. The members of the Community Relations Board at the time of the passage of this ordinance shall continue to serve until such time as the reorganized Board is convened.

The reorganized Community Relations Board shall be convened by the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners within 90 days of the passage of this ordinance. The Mayor shall serve as the convening chairperson until such time as the newly constituted Board shall select an executive committee.

Organization; quorum; voting; rules of procedure; records of meetings.

The members of the Board shall select and designate from its members a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. Fifteen (15) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, notwithstanding Chapter 2-11.39.1. No action shall be taken except by a majority vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting of the Board; provided, however, an executive committee consisting of all officers and such other persons as the Chairperson may appoint from time to time is authorized to exercise all powers, duties and functions of the Board between Board meetings, any such action to be reported to the Board at its next meeting and the Board shall either ratify or rescind the action of the executive committee. The Board may adopt rules of procedure governing its meetings and actions on matters within its jurisdiction, not inconsistent with the provisions of this article, which rules of procedure shall be filed with the Clerk of the County Commission. Copies of the minutes of all Board meetings shall be furnished to the Chairperson of the County Commission and the County Manager.

Staff.

The Executive Director and staff of the Community Relations Board shall be provided for in an administrative order prepared by the County Manager and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Administrative oversight of the Community Relations Board staff shall be the responsibility of the County Manager.

Duties and functions.

The primary mission of the Community Relations Board is to intervene and contain, as quickly as possible, community tensions.

The secondary mission of the Community Relations Board is to: work proactively to identify and relieve intergroup conflicts before crisis arise; to develop bridges of understanding, communication, and mutual respect; to develop and support local or city based Community Relations Boards throughout the County; and to assure that resources are in place to respond to community crisis. The functions of the Board shall be:

- a) To foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among all economic, social, religious and ethnic groups in the County.
- b) To make studies in the field of human relations. The Board is vested with the power and authority and charged with the duty and responsibility.
- c) To attempt to act as conciliator in controversies involving community relations.
- d) To cooperate with federal, State and City agencies in developing harmonious community relations
- e) To cooperate in the development of educational programs dedicated to the improvement of community relations with, and to enlist the support of, civic leaders; civic, religious, veterans, labor, industrial, commercial and eleemosynary groups; and private agencies engaged in the inculcation of ideals of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding.
- f) To serve as a quasi-autonomous body authorized to act independently pursue strategies for the promotion of intergroup relations and to recommend to the Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners, and the County Manager such resolutions, ordinances and other causes of action as will aid in carrying out the purposes of this article.
- g) To submit an annual report to the Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager.

- h) To accept grants and donations on behalf of the County from foundations and others for the purpose of carrying out the above listed functions, subject to approval by the County Commission.

The powers and jurisdiction of the Board shall be purely advisory, voluntary and persuasive. The Board shall not have any power or authority to subpoena or compel the attendance of witnesses.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
BY-LAWS**

Article One

Background and Introduction

On September 19, 2000, the Board of County Commissioners approved Ordinance 00-115, amending Article XXIII of Chapter 2 of the Miami-Dade County Code ("Ordinance"), which established the Community Relations Board (hereinafter the "CRB"). The Ordinance refines the CRB's organizational structure and membership representation, while reaffirming its mission. At the time of passage, the Board of County Commissioners requested that an Administrative Order be developed to establish the structure of the Office of Community Relations and CRB staff support for a group of community leaders who form the CRB.

The CRB is composed of a respected, diverse group of prominent community leaders with the authority to act independently to address issues impacting on intergroup relations and to assist in their resolution and functions with complete advisory access to the Mayor, County Commissioners and the County Manager.

Article 2

Mission Statement

The purpose of the CRB is two-fold: The primary mission is to intervene and contain, as quickly as possible, community tensions. The secondary mission of the CRB is to work proactively to identify and relieve intergroup conflicts before crisis arise; to develop bridges of understanding, communication and mutual respect; to develop and support local or city-based community relations boards throughout the County; and to assure that resources are in place to respond to community crisis.

Article 3

Duties and Functions

The duties and functions of the CRB shall be:

1. To foster mutual understanding, tolerance and respect among all economic, social, religious and ethnic groups in Miami-Dade County
2. To make studies and to have studies made in the field of human and community relations and to prepare and disseminate report of such studies. The Board is vested such the power and authority and charge with such duty and responsibility.
3. To attempt to act as conciliator in controversies involving community relations.

4. To cooperate with federal, state and city agencies in developing harmonious community relations.
5. To cooperate in the development of educational programs dedicated to the improvement of community relations with, and to enlist the support of, civic leaders; civic; religions, veterans, labor, industrial, commercial and eleemosynary groups, and private agencies engaged in the inculcation of ideals of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding.
6. To serve as quasi-autonomous body authorized to act independently to pursue strategy for the promotion of intergroup relations and to recommend to the Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager such resolutions, ordinances and other causes of action as will aid in carrying out the purpose of this article.
7. To submit an annual report to the Mayor, Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager.
8. To accept grant and donations on behalf of the County from foundations and others for the purpose of carrying out the above listed functions, subject to approval by the County Commission.

Article 4
Limitation of Powers

The power and jurisdictions of the CRB shall be purely advisory, voluntary and persuasive. The CRB shall not have any power or authority to subpoena or compel the attendance of witnesses.

Article 5
Membership; Qualifications; Terms

1. **Selection Criteria:** The CRB shall consist of twenty-six (26) regular members appoint by the Board of County Commissioners. The membership of the CRB shall be broadly representative of the various social, racial, religious, linguistic, cultural and economic national origin and geographic group comprising the population of Miami-Dade County. Each member shall be a resident of Miami-Dade County with an outstanding reputation for community pride, interest, integrity, responsibility, business or professional ability and a documented commitment to intergroup relations. The membership of the CRB shall include thirteen (13) members appointed from among

residents of each of the respective County Commission Districts and thirteen (13) member appointed at-large.

Each Commissioner shall appoint a member to the CRB who is duly qualified under the Ordinance and the criteria provided by special nominating committee. When the Commissioner who appointed the Commission District member leaves office, the term of his or her appointed CRB shall expire. The members of the CRB shall be appointed for an initial one (1)-year term. Thereafter, the Community Relations Board shall consist of thirteen duly qualified members appointed by each Commission District and thirteen at-large members appointed by an ad hoc nominating committee designated by the CRB.

2. **Initial Term.** After May 23, 2002, the members will serve staggered term chosen by lottery as follows:

1. Nine (9) members shall be appointed for terms expiring on the May 23, 2003 anniversary of their appointment;
2. Nine (9) members shall be appointed for terms expiring on the May 23, 2004 anniversary of their appointment; AND
3. Eight (8) members shall be appointed for terms expiring on the May 23, 2005 anniversary of their appointment

3. **Vacancies.** Subsequently appointment shall be for terms of three (3) years except that appointment to fill any vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. In filling any vacancy, the County Commission shall select the replacement CRB member from a list of three (3) candidates to be submitted by the remaining members of CRB. In the event that none of the three (3) candidates entirely different list for Commission consideration. This process shall continue until a replacement has been appointed.

4. **Ex- Officio Member.** The current chairs of Black Affairs Advisory Board, Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, Asian American Advisory Board and the Commission for Women, shall serve as ex-officio members of the Board but shall not be entitled to vote on any matter before the Board and shall not be required to attend meetings of the Board.

5. **Compensation.** Member shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in official duties, as may be determined and approved by the County Commission.

Article 6
Officers

The members of the CRB shall, upon open nomination, select and designate from its members a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and such other officers as they may deem necessary, who shall serve for the terms set out herein below subject to the pleasure of the CRB.

The term of all officers shall be for a period of two (2) years and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Any officer may seek reelection, provided however, that no member shall remain in office or as member of the Executive Committee for more than four (4) consecutive years.

In the event any officer is rendered unable to serve, a new election for that office shall be held as soon as practical. The officers shall be:

1. 1. **Chairperson.** The chairperson shall be of the Chief Executive Officer of the CRB and shall preside at all meetings of the CRB and Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall have a general knowledge of the operation of the agency and is charged with the primary responsibility for determining that at all times the Board of County Commissioners and Miami-Dade County's policies, rules and regulations are properly executed. The Chairperson shall see to it that all members of the CRB perform their duties properly. By November of each year, the Chairperson shall submit a report covering the operation of the CRB during the fiscal year. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
2. 2. **Vice Chairperson.** The Vice Chairperson shall exercise all powers and perform all duties of the Chairperson during the absence of the latter and perform such other duties as from time to time be assigned by the Chairperson, and work with the Executive Director and his/her staff in the development of proposed annual themes and goals for submission to the Executive Committee.
3. 3. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall be responsible for the issuance of notices of all meetings of the members of the CRB, where notices of such meetings are required by Ordinance or by these Bylaws; shall review the minutes of meetings of the members of the CRB prior to their distribution; shall perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Chairperson.

Article 7
Executive Committee

The officers of the CRB and four (4) members at large of the CRB shall constitute its Executive Committee. All members of the Executive Committee must be members of the CRB and shall be elected by majority vote of the members CRB at a meeting at which a quorum is present. The members of the Executive Committee shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The Executive Committee shall have the delegated authority of the CRB to the fullest extent allowed by law and may transact business between regular or special meetings of the members of the CRB. It will provide guidance to the CRB and will act in its name in routine matters, as well as in urgent matters when there is no opportunity to convene the full CRB, and shall discharged such other functions and duties as the CRB may designate to it.

Other Committees The CRB or the Executive Committee may designate and appoint one or more Committees and delegate to such Committees specific and prescribed authority. The CRB Chairperson shall appoint committee chairpersons. The Chairperson or Committee chairperson shall select members who shall serve at the discretion of the CRB. However, no such Committee will have the authority to the CRB or the Executive Committee in reference to affecting any of the following:

1. Filling of vacancies in the CRB or Executive Committee or other committees.
2. Adoptions, amendment or repeal of Bylaws.
3. Adoption, amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.
4. Action on matters committed by Bylaws or resolution of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee to another Committee.

Article 8
Meetings

The meetings of the CRB, the Executive Committee and such other Committees as the CRB may institute shall be convened on a schedule to set by the CRB and the Committees from time to time. Notification and conduct of all said meetings shall be in accordance with applicable Ordinances of State Law, including without limitation all Government in the Sunshine provisions.

Members may attend a properly convened meeting via telephone or teleconferencing facilities.

Ten (10) members of the CRB shall constitute a quorum. No action shall be taken except by majority vote of those present at a duly constitute meeting of the CRB.

Article 9
Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the full CRB only at a duly convened meeting where a quorum is present.

Article 10
Compliance with Ordinance and Laws

These by-laws are subject to all applicable to all applicable Municipal Ordinances, State and Federal Laws. Any provision deemed to be in contravention of any such law or Ordinance shall be deemed null and void, without prejudice to all other provisions hereof. All power not otherwise delegated herein, shall remain with full Board.

Minutes of the Community Relations Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

The CRB meeting was held on November 14, 2007, on the 18th floor of the Stephen P. Clark Center in conference room 18-4. CRB Chair, Rev. Dr. Harold Vieux called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

Present:

Mario Artecona
Joanne Harvest Koren, Esq.
Marjorie York
Dider Fabien
Reinaldo Valdes
Lester M. Rosenberg
Sofian Abdelaziz Zakkout
Carolyn Boyce
Ahmed Kabani
Reverend Harold Vieux
Farzana M. Tapia
Vickie M. Smith Jackson
L. George Yap
Kwok-Cheng "Manny" Wong

Excused Absences:

Joan Sampieri
Adora Obi Nweze
Dr. Helen McGuire
Reverend Walter Richardson
Farrell Owens, Jr.
Francina Allen Bolden
L. Ann Cumbie
Marili Cancio, Esq.

Unexcused Absences:

Vincent Delgado
Valerie Lynn Davis-Bailey

Guests:

Eduardo I. Diaz, Ph.D., IRP

Office of Community

Advocacy Staff:

Larry D. Capp
Executive Director

Amy Carswell
Ed Harris
Yvans Morisseau
Charlene Cooper

I. **Moment of Silence**

II. **Approval of Agenda**

Approved as written.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Approved with the following correction; Sofian Abdelaziz Zakkout's absence for the October 17th meeting should be excused.

IV. **Special Reposts**

A. **Charter Review Recommendations (30 minutes)**

Mr. Mario Artecona advised that the committee issued a series of recommendations and approximately fifteen items were discussed. The County Commission indicated they would pick and choose without necessarily grasping the recommendations of the committee, which is mostly diverse. Mr. Artecona requested that the CRB recommend to the BCC not to place the Charter Review on the January ballot until the process has been completed then place on the November ballot. The request was approved.

B. **Police Use-of-Force Incidents**

1. **North Miami Community Briefing (11/08/2007)**
2. **R. Brown's Taser Death**
3. **City of Miami Shooting by MDPD (11/12/2007)**

North Miami Community Briefing (11/08/2007)

Dr. Larry Capp advised that the Office of Community Advocacy is working very closely with the North Miami newly operational CRB. Thus far, several vigils were held. One vigil was on NE 65 Street and North Miami Avenue with approximately 150 people attending. It was peaceful with media coverage.

Several community activists and law enforcement officials were also present at the vigils. Concerns expressed were: (1) Was the MDPD's policy violated, and (2) Was Florida statute/law violated? The State Attorney's Office is investigating.

R. Brown's Taser Death

Dr. Capp advised that Mr. Brown was tasered by the MDPD and died a short time later in the police vehicle. This is also a concern of the community with a different tone than the shooting incidents.

City of Miami Shooting by MDPD (11/12/2007)

Dr. Capp advised that based on feedback from the MDPD, Robbery Intervention Detail (RID) usually responds to areas that have a large volume of reported robberies. Recently, this particular area reported a large volume of robbery incidents causing RID to respond.

The Office of Community Advocacy sent out a brief press release encouraging the community to comply with police requests.

It was suggested that a forum take place to give the community an opportunity to express their concerns. A motion was made and passed for a forum to take place and be hosted by the CRB and the IRP.

A motion was made and passed for a contribution to be made to the family of Gracia Beau as a humanitarian gesture.

V. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Capp advised that this is the year for the Sunset Review. It will include attendance, and a summary of various events. The deadline is January 2008.

A motion was made and approved for the Office of Community Advocacy to submit the Sunset Review Report on behalf of the CRB.

Dr. Capp also advised that the OCA is in the process of receiving additional staff and three boards. The three boards were invited to participate in the CRB's program.

VI. Committee Report

A. Education and Advocacy

None.

B. Police and Community Relations

None.

C. Housing and Economics Development

Mr. Reinaldo Valdes advised that there were two issues: Community Engagement and Oversight with the Homestead Housing Authority and Planning CRB Housing Committee Issues and Agenda Agendas. For detailed information, Mr. Valdes referred everyone to the written report in the package.

D. Community Appreciation Day Committee

Mr. Mario Artecona advised of a proposal for a Miami-Dade Community Appreciation Day that was discussed with the Commissioners. However, at this time there is nothing to promote inter-district participation. For detailed information about the proposal, Mr. Artecona directed everyone to review the written proposal in the package.

E. Immigration Committee (Impromptu)

Program Officer Amy Carswell gave a verbal report.

VII. Comments and Questions from the Audience

VIII. New Business/Announcements/Discussion

A. Holiday Season Reception

- A letter will be sent to the Miami Business Forum requesting a donation.

Other Business/Announcements/Discussion

- The Princeton Prize Committee is meeting today, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

CRB Activities September 2006 – November 2007

The CRB joined with the American Red Cross and the Miami-Dade and Florida State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to reach out to area faith leaders to help build our community's capacity to respond to disaster emergencies. Faith leaders representing diverse traditions practiced throughout Miami-Dade convened on November 3 and 4, 2006 for an introduction to state-of-the-art strategies that will empower local organizations to deliver effective disaster services to their constituents and communities.

A task force of prominent civic, business and government leaders asked local residents to share their ideas and comments on measures that should be taken to address the county's housing crisis. The CRB worked with the Community Affordable Housing Strategies Alliance (CAHSA) to convene four regional community forums to update the public about its progress toward creating recommendations for legislation, policy enhancements and housing programs. The forums were held November, 1, 2, 16 and 20 at the South Campus of Miami-Dade Community College, the North Campus of Miami-Dade Community College, the Miami-Beach Regional Library and the West Dade Community Center.

The CRB assisted the City of Miami CRB to convene meetings of diverse community leaders to discuss next steps and develop proactive strategies to reduce community tensions and build bridges of understanding and respect during the community upheaval anticipated in the aftermath of the death of Mr. Castro. Leaders met in December 2006 and January 2007. The CRB developed a Community Relations Plan for activities pre and post event.

The Miami-Dade Rally to Save Darfur joined our community with people from around the world to confront racial and ethnic hatred. The CRB and a coalition of local organizations are inviting downtown workers, students and local residents to help raise awareness of the need to stop acts of hatred throughout the world. The rally was held on Thursday, January 25, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center in downtown Miami

Ongoing raids by agents of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have created a sense of fear and panic among many residents of Miami-Dade County. The CRB joined with members of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and with other community leaders and immigrant advocates to propose a county resolution calling on the U.S. Government to immediately stop the detention and deportation of non-criminal immigrants and area residents who are expected to benefit from comprehensive immigration reform. The Valentines' Day (February 14, 2007) Leadership Meeting brought together elected officials and advocates

representing diverse cultures and nationalities to build consensus for a resolution. The CRB assisted members of the BCC to convene a press conference following the meeting where the initiative was announced. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by the BCC.

The CRB convened an orientation and planning event for all members on March 16, 2007. The purpose was to build the CRB's capacity to respond to intergroup conflict, work proactively to reduce community tensions and implement strategies that will foster mutual understanding, cooperation and respect among the diverse economic, social, religious and ethnic groups in the county. The CRB's capacity is enhanced by a membership that is fully aware and committed to its mission and that is engaged in identified strategies to achieve it. The goals were to: 1) determine our priorities for 2007, and 2) commit individually to accomplishing our mission.

The CRB submitted to the County Manager in December 2006 recommendations for addressing community concerns related to the Miami-Dade Police Department Racial Profiling Study. The County Manager had asked the CRB to assist in gathering additional community input about the Racial Profiling Study and its findings. The CRB, along with members of the county's Black Affairs Advisory Board, Asian American Advisory Board, Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, Commission for Women and the Independent Review Panel convened a community forum on the Miami-Dade County Police Department's Racial Profiling Report. The forum was held at the Joseph Caleb Center. The forum's goals were to educate the community about the report's methods and contents, provide an opportunity for community comment on the findings, and explore proposals for addressing real and perceived inequities. The CRB believes that it's most important contribution may be to provide a forum for dialogue and discussion among law enforcement and community leaders and our citizens about how to address both the perceptions and the realities of police racial profiling in our community.

The 2006 General Elections in Miami-Dade County were hotly contested. As Election Day approached, the CRB joined with local civil rights organizations to convene a ground-breaking community dialogue about the challenges to civility in Miami-Dade County's 2006 elections. The "Community Dialogue on Fostering Civility in Elections" brought together leaders of our diverse ethnic, racial and cultural populations to focus on the campaigns of candidates seeking office in Miami-Dade. Leaders of respected civil rights organizations shared their recent experiences and recommended strategies for holding candidates accountable. Participants heard about the benefits of ethical campaigning and explored strategies for promoting civility, improving public confidence and fostering mutual cooperation and respect. The Dialogue was also broadcast live on the county's cable television channel.

The recent intensification of immigration enforcement activities in Miami-Dade County along with media reports about overcrowding and conflict between groups of varied national origin have raised concerns among many in our community about the treatment of detainees in the Krome Avenue immigrant detention facility. In June 2007, the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board convened a fact-finding tour of the Department of Homeland Security's Krome Detention Facility. CRB members found that conditions in the Krome facility on the day they visited were greatly improved from what had been previously reported. The CRB delegation met with Mr. Michael Rozos, Field Office Director, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) who is responsible for the operations of the Krome detention center. DHS staff members accompanied the seven CRB members and three county staff on a comprehensive three-hour tour which included visits to the reception and visitor areas, medical facilities, cafeteria, dormitories, recreation areas, and isolation units. Delegation members were greeted by DHS staff that responded to their questions and interacted with detainees when they were encountered.

The CRB issue a statement encouraging the community to ask the federal government to release Haitian refugees who arrived by boat on a Broward County Beach on March 28, 2007. The request was based on humanitarian reasons to improve the refugees' access to legal council and to allow them a greater opportunity to prepare asylum claims.

The CRB has worked with law enforcement and grassroots organizations to clarify the policies of Miami-Dade, City of Miami, Homestead, Florida City and other local police departments toward the enforcement of U.S. immigration polices. Leaders of the departments stated that local law enforcement officers will not engage in the enforcement of civil citations issued for violations of federal immigration regulations.

CRB member Mr. Didier Fabien and Community Relations Assistant Mr. Yvans Morisseau represented the CRB at a meeting with the Prime Minister and other meetings with diplomats (arranged with the assistance of Congressman Meek). The CRB representatives joined a delegation from the Miami-Dade Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition to encourage the government of Haiti to request TPS for Haitian nationals currently in the U.S. The Miami-Dade delegation from Miami Florida encouraged the Prime Minister to help inform the Haitian Government about the need for Haitian President, Rene Prevail to request (TPS) Temporary protective Status.

The CRB and its Fair Immigration Committee convened a delegation of Miami-Dade elected officials and grassroots leaders to travel to Washington D.C. for a series of meetings with members and representatives of the United States Congress on May 2 and 3, 2007. The Delegation informed our nation's leaders about local priorities for fair and just immigration reforms that are consistent with Miami-Dade County's 2007 Federal Legislative Agenda. Priorities discussed included: employment and worker protection; family re-unification and pathways to citizenship; border protection and homeland security; access to education; temporary protected status for Haitians and Central Americans; passage of the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Improvement Act; and an immediate end to the detention and deportations of non-criminal immigrants who are expected to benefit from comprehensive immigration reform.

The CRB convened a community dialogue in South Miami-Dade County aimed at bolstering public participation in the ongoing review of the County's Home Rule Charter. The CRB brought together neighborhood and civic activists to provide them with information and a forum for discussion of strategies to improve the operations of county government.

The CRB convened a community briefing, hosted by the City of North Miami Community Relations Board, about the investigation into the fatal shooting of Gracia Beaugris, 19, by a Miami-Dade police officer. A panel of police and law enforcement leaders released non-sensitive information to the public about the progress of their investigations to date. They also described the activities that they expect will be conducted during the remaining criminal and administrative investigations. Government officials and community leaders shared insights on what can be done to improve relations between police and citizens in the area. Members of the public were given an opportunity for questions and comments.

Other significant activities conducted by the CRB include:

- Awarded, along with local Princeton Alumni and the City of Miami CRB, the 2007 Princeton Prince in Race Relations to area high school students who have performed significant service toward uniting our diverse cultures.
- Conducted an orientation with the members of the City of North Miami Community Relations Board to enhance their understanding of roles and responsibilities and improve their capacity to respond to intergroup relations issues in the community.
- Adopted a resolution encouraging the Board of County Commissioners to adopt ordinances mandating Inclusionary Zoning as an effective strategy for increasing much needed housing opportunities for the middle income workforce segment of our resident population.

The CRB convened General Membership meetings on September 20, October 18, and November 15, 2006, January 18, 2007, February 21st, March 20th, April 18th, June 20th, July 18th, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, and November 14th.

The CRB Executive Committee met on September 6, October 3, November 1 and December 6, 2006 and on January 4, February 7 and March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 2, September 5, October 3, and November 7, 2007.

**Proposed Amendments to the Ordinance Creating
the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board**

November 2007

It is proposed that the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Sections 2-205 through 2-206 be amended as follows:

Membership; qualifications; terms.

This Board shall consist of ~~[[thirty (30)]]~~ >>thirty-three (33)<< voting members. The membership of the Board shall be broadly representative of the various social, racial, religious, linguistic, cultural, economic, national origin and geographic groups comprising the population of this County. Each member shall be a resident of Miami-Dade County with an outstanding reputation for community pride, interest, integrity, responsibility, and business or professional ability and a documented commitment to intergroup relations.

Each Commissioner shall appoint a member to the Community Relations Board who is duly qualified under this ordinance and the criteria provided by a special nominating committee. The special nominating committee shall consist of: the Mayor or his designee, as chair; the County Manager; one person appointed by the Board of County Commissioners; and six past chairs of the Community Relations Board appointed by the Mayor. The special nominating committee will appoint thirteen duly qualified at-large members assuring diverse representation from among gender, ethnic and national origin groups. ~~[[Four]]~~ >>Seven<< additional members shall serve by virtue of their election as chairpersons by the respective community advisory boards which are: Black Affairs Advisory Board, Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, Asian American Advisory Board ~~[[and the]]~~ >>1<< Commission for Women >>, Addictions Services Board, Domestic Violence Oversight Board and the Equal Opportunity Board<< . The advisory board chairpersons shall serve as voting members of the CRB during the period each holds that elected position. The remaining twenty-six (26) members of the Community Relations Board shall be appointed for an initial one-year term.