Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: April 16, 2008

EDHS
Supplement to
Agenda Item No. 3(A)

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

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Supplemental report to Agenda Item 3A

The following report contains information provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) on the proposed Ordinance, which is being co-sponsored by the Economic Development and Human Services (EDHS) Committee and the County Manager, designating the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) as the implementation arm of the Miami-Dade Empowerment Zone.

On March 26, 2008, OCED held a conference call with US HUD to review the Ordinance proposed by the County as well as to discuss a multitude of other issues including organizational structure and staffing assignments, financial controls, property control, compliance, allocation of allowable costs, and the Program Assumption Agreement (PAA) approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on March 18, 2008.

US HUD advised the County in a number of areas and also provided a sample template document that was approved for use by another Empowerment Zone community. The following items are reflected in the sample template document provided by US HUD and would constitute changes to the description of the proposed Ordinance which we provide for consideration by the BCC:

- Replace the Empowerment Zone Strategies Alliance (EZSA) with the Empowerment Zone Advisory Board (EZAB). The EZAB will review and make recommendations on funding requests that are forwarded for review to OCED with input from the Neighborhood Assemblies. As a result, the EZAB will only have advisory input on funding decisions.
- OCED is to be designated as the fiscal administrator and will provide administrative support to EZAB with management approvals placed at OCED through the County Executive Office, and final funding recommendations approved by the BCC. Currently, the proposed Ordinance has the EZSA making all final recommendations and funding approvals for OCED implementation without any oversight by the County Executive Office or approval by the BCC.
- As in the proposed Ordinance, Neighborhood Assemblies shall be re-established for each of the neighborhoods in the EZ and should 1) advise and make recommendations on the implementation of the Empowerment Zone Strategic Plan (EZSP) to OCED; and 2) advise and recommend to OCED, when appropriate, amendments and revisions to the EZSP.
- The selection and appointment for EZAB members can remain the same as with the EZSA in the proposed Ordinance. The 14 EZAB members will be appointed as follows:
    - One member for the Airport neighborhood appointed by the Miami-Dade County Mayor;
    - One member for the Central Business District/Seaport neighborhood appointed by the City of Miami Mayor;
    - Eight members, one per each of the eight remaining neighborhoods, elected by their own neighborhood assemblies;
    - One representative appointed by the Miami-Dade County Mayor;
    - One representative appointed by the City of Miami Mayor;
    - One representative appointed by the City of Homestead Mayor; and
    - One representative appointed by the Florida City Mayor.

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- OCED shall guide and implement the EZSP receiving recommendations from the EZAB. The EZAB will review funding and make recommendations to OCED staff on all projects and programs with EZ federal funds and program income. Prior to approval by OCED, EZAB is to receive input from all the neighborhood assemblies and provide the recommendations to OCED for final review and approval
- Implementation of projects and funds by OCED with EZAB recommendations will occur after the overall EZ Strategic Plan (EZSP) is approved by BCC.
- An accountant position responsible to the EZ Program is recommended for inclusion into the OCED table of organization for more fiscal accountability.

This guidance demonstrates US HUD's desire for assurances that the County have direct accountability over the financials and bank accounts as well as oversight of this program. These changes to the governance structure will provide the BCC with funding oversight and approvals related to projects designated in the Empowerment Zone.

US HUD also suggested that the County develop a Governance Structure and applicable operating procedures that place an emphasis on fiscal management and administrative responsibility at the local government level with the EZ Advisory Board assisting in an advisory capacity.

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