

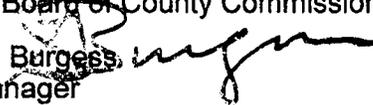
Memorandum



Date: April 6, 2010

Agenda Item No. 1(F)3

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess, 
County Manager

Subject: Sunset Review of County Boards for 2010 – Miami-Dade County Commission for
Women

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2-11.40 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am transmitting the 2010 Sunset Review of County Boards Report for the Miami-Dade County Commission on Women. The Board approved the attached report at its meeting on November 18, 2009 and has recommended the continuation of its board.


for Irene Taylor-Wooten
Special Assistant, Social Services

cmo07410

Date: January 8, 2010
To: George M. Burgess
County Manager
From: Carmen Elias-Levenson
Chairperson, Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
Subject: Sunset Review of County Boards for 2010 – Miami-Dade County Commission for Women

Pursuant to Section 2-11.40 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am submitting the 2010 Sunset Review of County Boards Report for the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women for transmittal to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The Board approved the attached report at its meeting of November 18, 2009.

It is recommended that the BCC approve the continuation of the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women.

BACKGROUND

1. The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women was created in 1971.
2. The purpose of the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women is to serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the community and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women, as detailed in its enabling ordinance.
3. The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women should continue to function because it is diligently carrying out its mission. The Commission for Women dutifully meets on a regular basis, has a good record of quorum at its meetings, serves as an advocate for women in the community, assists women in the community with their needs and issues, and holds events and activities for women, as detailed in the Sunset Review Report.



Carmen Elias-Levenson
Board Chairperson

**SUNSET REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARDS
2010**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Name of Board reporting:** Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
2. **Indicate number of board members, terms of office, and number of vacancies:**

26 Members, 4 year term of office; 5 vacancies
3. **Identify number of meetings and members' attendance (Attach records reflecting activity from Jan. 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009):**

Nineteen meetings were held on: 01/23/08, 02/27/08, 03/26/08, 04/23/08, 05/28/08, 06/25/08, 07/23/08, 09/24/08, 11/12/08, 01/28/09, 02/25/09, 03/25/09, 04/22/09, 05/27/09, 06/24/09, 07/22/09, 09/23/09, 10/28/09, and 11/18/09.

The number of meetings with quorum was 17.

Attendance Records: See attachment.
4. **What is the source of your funding?**

County General Funds
5. **Date of Board Creation:** January 19, 1971
6. **Attach a copy of the ordinance creating the Board (please include all subsequent amendments).** See attachment.
7. **Include the Board's Mission Statement or state its purpose:**

Mission Statement: To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the Community, and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women.
8. **Attach the Board's standard operating procedures, if any.** None.
9. **Attach a copy of the Board's By-Laws, if any.** See attachment.
10. **Attach a copy of the Board minutes approving the Sunset Review Questionnaire, including a vote of the membership.** See attachment.

II EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 1. Is the board serving the purpose for which it was created? (Please provide detailed information).**

Yes. It is meeting on a regular basis, advising the County Commission and County Administration on women's issues, assisting women in the community, advocating for laws that help and empower women and providing programs and events for women in the community.

- 2. Is the Board serving current community needs? (Please provide detailed information).**

Yes. It is assisting women in the community, advocating for women and holding programs and special events for women.

- 3. What are the Board's major accomplishments?**

- a. Last 24 months: See attachment
- b. Since established: See attachment

- 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) No.**

- 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 2008 and FY 2009)?**

The total operating costs for fiscal year 2008 is \$47,476. The total operating costs for fiscal year 2009 is \$45,506.

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

The performance measures are that the Commission for Women is diligently meeting on a monthly basis, communicating with the County Commission on issues, and holding programs and activities for women in the Community. Also, specific activities completed by the Commission for Women are highlighted in the Office of Community Advocacy Active Strategy Enterprise (ASE) scorecard as Initiatives under the objective "Improved Community Relations in Miami-Dade County."

Also: Include a diskette, saved in Word, of the County Manager's transmittal memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners with the Board's recommendation.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
2009 ATTENDANCE * = New Member No meetings in August or December
P - Present A - Absent E - Excused

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/28/09	02/25/09	03/25/09	04/22/09	05/27/09	06/24/09	07/22/09	09/23/09	10/28/09	11/18/09
Marisol Arboleda-Diaz	E	A	A							
Vannetta Bailey-Iddrisu	P	E	E	A						
*Leah Blumenfeld							P	P	P	E
*Calvina Clay								E	E	A
Carmen Elias-Levenson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Sandra Hudson	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E
*Viviana Jordan					P	P	P	P	P	E
Sharon Kendrick-Johnson	P	E	E	E	P	P	E	P	P	P
Sze M. Lee	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P
*Michelle Dunaj Lucking								P	E	P
Anita McGruder	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Rosa Naccarato	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Grace O'Donnell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
Kit Rafferty	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	P	P
Maria Roberts	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
2009 ATTENDANCE**

P - Present A - Absent E - Excused

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/28/09	02/25/09	03/25/09	04/22/09	05/27/09	06/24/09	07/22/09	09/23/09	10/28/09	11/18/09
*Allison Robie	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	E	P
Geri Rocker	P	E	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P
Marianne Salazar	A	A								
Joan Sampieri	P	E	E	E						
Barbara Schwartz	P	A	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P
Sandra Martin Seals	P	E	E	E						
Diana Shinaberry	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Gloria Simmons	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	E	P
Regina Suarez	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E
*Teesha Taylor								E	P	P
Bea Weaver	P	P	E	E						
Paula Xanthopoulou	P	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	P	P

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
2008 ATTENDANCE

P~ Present A~Absent E~Excused

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/23/08	02/27/08	03/26/08	04/23/08	05/28/08	06/25/08	07/23/08	09/24/08	10/23/08	11/12/08
Marisol Arboleda-Diaz	E	E	E	E	E	E	A	E	NO MEETING	A
*Vannetta Bailey-Iddrisu						E	P	P	C R	P
Barbara Buxton	P	A	E	A	E	A			O E	
Mikele Aboitiz Earle	E	E	E	P	E	E	P	E	N C	A
Carmen Elias-Levenson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	N E	P
Sandra Hudson	E	P	E	E	P	E	E	P	E P	E
*Sharon Kendrick-Johnson						P	E	P	C T	P
Anita McGruder	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	T I	P
*Sze M. Lee				P	E	P	P	P	I O	P
Rosa Naccarato	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	O N	P
Grace O'Donnell	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	N	E
*Kit Rafferty					P	E	P	P	S	P
Maria Roberts	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P
Geri Rocker	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P		E
Marianne Salazar	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	E		A

NO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN AUGUST AND DECEMBER.

*= New Member

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
2008 ATTENDANCE**
P~ Present A~Absent E~Excused

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/23/08	02/27/08	03/26/08	04/23/08	05/28/08	06/25/08	07/23/08	09/24/08	10/23/08	11/12/08
Joan Sampieri	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	NO MEETING	E
Nancy Schleifer	E	P	P	P	E	E	E		C R	
Barbara Schwartz	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	O E	E
Sandra Martin Seals	E	E	E	E	E	P	P	P	N C	E
Diana Shinaberry	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	N E	P
Gloria Simmons	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E P	E
Regina Suarez	E	P	E	A	E	P	E	P	C T	P
Leona Johnson Swilley	E	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	T I	P
Bea Weaver	P	E	E	P	P	E	E	P	I O	P
Paula Xanthopoulou	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	O N	P
									N	
									S	

NO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN AUGUST AND DECEMBER.
* = New Member

ORDINANCE NO. -171-11

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE METROPOLITAN
DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY,
INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the status of women in the community has long
been ignored; and

WHEREAS, recently a President's Commission on the Status
of Women and a Governor's Commission on the Status of Women have
been established; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to
create a Commission on the Status of Women,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This ordinance enacted under
and pursuant to the provisions of the Home Rule Charter of Govern-
ment for Dade County, Florida, shall be known and may be cited as
the "Metropolitan Dade County Commission on the Status of Women
Ordinance."

Section 2. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN. The
Metropolitan Dade County Commission on the Status of Women is
hereby created and established. The commission shall consist of
twenty-seven members appointed by the County Commission.

Section 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS. Members of the
commission shall be permanent residents of Dade County. Members,
while serving, shall not become candidates for election to any
public office. In order to secure representative membership upon
the board, each of the eight County Commissioners shall appoint
three members to the commission and the Mayor shall appoint three
members to the commission.

Section 4. TERMS OF OFFICE. In order that the terms of office of all members of the commission shall not expire at the same time, the initial appointments to the commission shall be as follows: The Mayor and the County Commissioners shall each appoint one member to the commission for a term of one (1) year, one member to the commission for a term of two (2) years, and one member to the commission for a term of three (3) years. The Chairman shall be elected by the members of the commission for a one (1) year term. Thereafter all appointments shall be made for a term of four (4) years. Appointments to fill any vacancy on the commission shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of office. A member may be removed without cause only by three-fourths vote of the entire membership of the County Commission. When any member of the commission fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without due cause, the chairman shall certify the same to the County Commission. Such member shall then be deemed to have been removed and a vacancy created.

Section 5. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD. The members of the commission shall elect such officers other than a chairman as may be deemed necessary or desirable, who shall serve at the will of the commission. Fourteen (14) members of the commission shall constitute a quorum necessary to hold a meeting and take any action. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties upon approval by the County Commission. The chairman may call meetings of the commission, and meetings may be called by written notice signed by fourteen (14) members and the commission at any meeting may fix and call a meeting on a future date. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the commission. All meetings shall be public.

Section 6. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. The commission shall have the following duties, functions, powers and responsibilities:

(a) To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the community, and all agencies and persons in Dade County, Florida, in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women, including but not limited to discrimination against women, employment of women, education of women, establishment of day care centers in the community and attitudes towards women in the community, and to make periodic reports and recommendations to these bodies in respect to such matters.

(b) To make a continuing study of all existing county institutions, facilities and services, and programs dealing with women or affecting women, and consider the future needs of this metropolitan area in respect to such institutions, facilities, services and programs.

(c) To serve as liaison between the County Commission and the County administration, and consult with representatives of said bodies from time to time as requested and necessary in order to carry out the commission's duties and functions.

(d) To make studies and have studies made of the problems of discrimination against women employees, increasing the availability of part-time employment for women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attributable changes towards women in the community, and to formulate and recommend plans and programs for the coordination of the activities of all governmental entities and non-governmental agencies dealing with these problems.

(e) It is the express purpose of this commission to serve as a medium for responsible persons to utilize and consult with in attempting to understand and solve the many complex problems involved with dealing with the status of women, and to make findings and recommendations to the County Commission and the County administration regarding such matters as are presented to the commission.

(f) To perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to it by resolution of the County Commission.

Section 7. LIMITATION OF POWERS. The powers and jurisdiction of the commission shall be purely advisory, voluntary, and persuasive. The commission shall not have any power or authority to subpoena or compel the attendance of witnesses. The commission shall have no power to appoint county officers or employees or to make policy decisions, or to manage, control or administer institutions or programs relating to the status of women in Dade County.

Section 8. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 9. INCLUSION IN THE CODE. It is the intention of the County Commission, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida; that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or other appropriate word.

Section. EFFECTIVE DATE. The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its enactment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: January 19, 1971

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 4(H)
4-13-99

Veto _____

Override _____

ORDINANCE NO. 99-35

ORDINANCE CHANGING NAME OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE XXX, SECTIONS 2-264, 2-265 AND 2-269(f) OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Commission on the Status of Women has voted to change its name to Commission for Women because this new name better reflects the mission and work of the commission on the status of Women and because it is simpler and easier to remember; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, several others women's commissions around the country have similarly changed their names; and

WHEREAS, the national organization to which the Commission belongs is called the National Association of Commissions for Women,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Article XXX of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida is hereby amended to read as follows:¹

ARTICLE XXX. COMMISSION >>FOR << ~~[[ON THE STATUS OF]]~~ WOMEN

¹ Words stricken through and/or ~~[[double bracketed]]~~ shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

WOMEN.SAM

Section 2. Section 2-264. of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-264. Short title.

This article enacted under and pursuant to the provisions of the Home Rule Charter of Government for >>Miami-<< Dade County, Florida, shall be known and may be cited as the ">>Miami-<< [[Metropolitan]] Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women Ordinance.

Section 3. Section 2-265 of the Code of Miami- Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-265. Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women.

The >>Miami-<< [[Metropolitan]] Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women is hereby created and established.

* * *

Section 4. Section 2-269 of the Code of Miami- Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-269. Duties and Powers of the Commission.

The Commission shall have the following duties, functions, powers and responsibilities:

* * *

(f) To establish the >>Miami-<<Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as "Trust Fund") in which will be placed all donations, contributions and funds received by the Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women. The funds placed into the Trust Fund shall be used only to fund conferences, projects and special events which further the purposes of the >>Miami-<< Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women.

* * *

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Section 5. The Commission for Women remains the same County advisory board created by Ordinance 71-11, as codified in Article XXX of Chapter 2 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, as previously for all purposes and retains all powers and authority thereof unaffected by the change of name.

Section 6. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 7. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any Sunset provision, shall become and be made a part of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

Section 9. This ordinance does not contain a sunset provision.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: APR 13 1999

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

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BYLAWS
(Amended on June 23, 2004)

MIAMI -DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, hereinafter known as the Commission for Women, an organization originally established by the Board of County Commissioners by Ordinance No. 71-11 on January 19, 1971.

ARTICLE II.

Object

Section 1. The object of this association shall be to seek for every woman privilege equal to her potential and responsibility; to inspire in women desire for self-improvement and pride of being, regardless of race, color, creed or age; to encourage involvement of women in matters pertaining to community progress; to encourage women to recognize family environment as fundamental to preservation of our national culture and security; to work toward utilization of capable women in roles of leadership; and to work toward legislation granting women equality before the law.

Section 2. The Commission for Women shall have the following duties, functions, powers and responsibilities as established in the Miami -Dade County Ordinance No. 71-11:

a. To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the community, and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women, including, but not limited to discrimination against women, employment of women, education of women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attitudes toward women in the community, and to make periodic reports and recommendations to these bodies in respect to such matters.

b. To make a continuing study of all existing County institutions, facilities and services, and programs dealing with women or affecting women, and consider the future needs of this metropolitan area in respect to such institutions, facilities, services and programs.

c. To serve as liaison between the County Commission and the County administration, and consult with representatives of said bodies from time to time as requested and necessary in order to carry out the Commission's duties and functions.

d. To make studies and have studies made of the problem of discrimination against women employees, increasing the availability of part-time employment for women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attributable changes toward women in the community, and to formulate and recommend plans and programs for the coordination of the activities of all governmental entities and non-governmental agencies dealing with these problems.

e. To serve expressly as a medium for responsible persons to utilize and consult with in attempting to understand and solve the many complex problems involved with dealing with the status of women, and to make findings and recommendations to the County Commission and the County administration regarding such matters as are presented to the Commission.

f. To perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to it by resolution of the County Commission.

g. To appear before any government entity or non-governmental agency to make recommendations and suggestions on behalf of the Commission and, with the approval and permission of the Board of County Commissioners, make suggestions and recommendations on behalf of Miami-Dade County and the Commission for Women to any and all such agencies.

h. To express in the name of the Commission for Women only those opinions which have received prior approval by vote of the majority of the members of the Commission.

ARTICLE III.

Members

Section 1. The membership of this organization shall consist of 26 members, all of whom shall be permanent residents of Miami- Dade County. To assure representative membership, each of the thirteen County Commissioners shall appoint two members. Appointment shall be for a period reflecting the term of office of the respective Miami- Dade County Commissioner making the appointment.

Section 2. Members, while serving, shall not become candidates for election to any public office.

Section 3. Each member shall serve on at least one Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the responsibility of each member to attend all meetings of the Commission for Women and Committee meetings of his or her primary assignments. If, in a given fiscal year, a member fails to attend two consecutive regular meetings or a total of three regular meetings without an acceptable excuse, the Chairperson shall certify the same to the Board of County Commissioners after the Executive Director has notified said member in

writing. An "acceptable excuse" is defined as an absence for medical reasons, business reasons, personal reasons, or any other reason which the board, by a two-thirds vote of the membership, deems appropriate. Such absence shall be calculated from October 1st until September 30th. The member shall then be deemed to have been removed and a vacancy created. No member shall be considered to have attended a meeting unless she/he has remained and participated at a regular meeting for no less than 75% of the time.

a. By a two-thirds vote of the members of the full Board of County Commissioners, the provisions of this section may be waived.

Section 5. Members may speak on behalf of the Commission for Women only with the express permission of the Chairperson or with the approval of the membership.

Section 6. Any member desiring to resign from the organization shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the appointing Commissioner, the Chairperson and the Executive Director.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Commission for Women shall be Chairperson, First Vice Chairperson, Second Vice Chairperson, and Member at Large. In addition, the immediate past Chair shall serve automatically as an officer of the Board.

Section 2. The First Vice Chairperson shall be of active assistance to the Chairperson and shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence or inability to serve.

Section 3. At the regular meeting in April, the Nominating Committee's slate of officers will be presented and the Chair shall open the floor for nominations, starting with the office of Chairperson. Officers shall be elected by a voice vote if there is only one nominee and if more than one nominee by a simultaneous written ballot, signed by the member casting the ballot, to be made a part of the public record. Officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin following the close of the meeting at which they are elected. No vote by proxy shall be permitted. Election shall be by a majority of the votes cast by members present and voting.

Section 4. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. A member can serve again in the same office after two intervening years.

Section 5. A vacancy in the office of Chairperson shall be filled by the First Vice Chairperson and a vacancy in the office of First Vice Chairperson shall be filled by the Second Vice Chairperson. A vacancy in the office of Second Vice Chairperson shall be filled by the Member at Large. If the Member at Large is unable to serve, an election shall be held at the first

meeting following the vacancy.

Section 6. In addition to those duties prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the membership, the Chairperson shall assign members to each Committee with due consideration for the desire of the member and the need of the Committee; shall present all reports to the Board of County Commissioners; may designate a registered parliamentarian at his or her discretion; and shall serve as the only official representative and spokesperson for the Commission for Women.

ARTICLE V.

Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Commission for Women shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month unless otherwise ordered by the membership or by the Executive Committee. Meetings shall be at a time and place designated by the membership; and at least ten regular meetings shall be held during each calendar year.

Section 2. At the February meeting, a nominating committee shall be created consisting of the past Chairperson, if she accepts and is not going to run for office, two members appointed by the current Chairperson, and two members elected by the membership, to serve for a period of one year, to present the slate of officers for the April annual meeting. The slate of officers shall be mailed to the membership by the March meeting. A member of this nominating committee may not be on the slate of officers recommended by the committee, but may be nominated from the floor.

Section 3. The regular meeting in April shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving annual reports of Officers and Committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 4. Special meetings can be called by the Chairperson or by the Executive Committee and shall be called upon the written request of ten members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least three days notice shall be given.

Section 5. A quorum shall consist of a majority of those persons duly appointed to the Commission for Women.

ARTICLE VI.

The Executive Committee

Section 1. The officers of the Commission for Women shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between its business meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Commission for Women, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the organization.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be no less than 10 times per year, at a time and place designated by the Chairperson.

ARTICLE VII.

Committees

Section 1. Committees shall have the responsibility for performing such duties as are necessary to accomplish the functions, powers and purpose of the Commission for Women as set forth in these Bylaws.

Section 2. Each Committee shall meet regularly upon the call of its Chair, and Committee meetings shall be announced and publicized.

Section 3. Comprehensive reports of Committee activities shall be provided in writing at the annual meeting and at such other times as they shall be requested by the Chairperson. Copies of reports shall be distributed with the minutes of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

ARTICLE IX.

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting or has been mailed to the membership at least ten days prior to the meeting at which it will be considered.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite #660, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 2009

- Present:** Carmen Elias-Levenson, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Sze Lee, Michelle Dunaj, Anita McGruder, Rosa Naccarato, Kit Rafferty, Maria Roberts, Allison Robie, Gerri Rocker, Barbara Schwartz, Diana Shinaberry, Gloria Simmons, Tiesha Taylor, and Paula Xanthopoulou
- Excused:** Leah Blumenfeld, Sandra Hudson, Viviana Jordan, Grace O'Donnell, and Regina Suarez
- Absent:** Calvina Clay
- Staff:** Laura Morilla
- Guests:** County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Mayor Cindy Lerner, Dr. Larry Capp, former Representative Elaine Bloom, Debi Harris from the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, Amy Carswell, Bonnie Askowitz, Carol Cohan, Ellen Shishko, Lorna Owens, Francena Koch, Lina Castellanos, and Sara Leviten

Chairwoman Carmen Elias-Levenson commenced the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The meeting was held at Evelyn Greer Park in Pinecrest.

Sze Lee moved to approve the agenda, and Rosa Naccarato seconded the motion. **The motion passed and the agenda was approved.**

Sze also moved to approve the minutes of 10/28/09. Rosa seconded the motion. **The motion passed and the minutes were approved.**

First there was a **public forum.**

Commissioner Katy Sorenson was the first to speak and addressed the issue of the County budget cuts and the imminent loss of the Program Officer for the Commission for Women. Commissioner Sorenson stated that she had checked with the County Attorney's office about possible ways to address the issue of staffing of the Commission for Women. These were her suggestions: get a fourth member of the BCC's Housing Committee to agree to bring back Commissioner Pepe Diaz's ordinance for further consideration; change that ordinance and introduce it; pass a resolution calling for minimum staffing levels to specifically include the Program Officers; get the Mayor to change the staffing structure of the Office of Community Advocacy; and pass a resolution moving the money from another part of the County budget.

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Mayor Cindy Lerner then spoke about the staffing situation. First she commended the Commission for Women for having community meetings and mentioned that she had been a member of the Commission as Commissioner Sorenson's appointee. Mayor Lerner stated that it was critical to keep the Commission's full time staff and offered her help to strategize to keep the staff. Mayor Lerner believes that the key is to convince Mayor Alvarez to change his mind.

Dr. Larry Capp, the Director of the Office of Community Advocacy (OCA), gave an update on the budget as it affects OCA. He explained that Chairman Moss had allocated \$75,000 to keep the four Program Officers until mid-December. Dr. Capp also mentioned that he has tried to set up a meeting with the Mayor for the advisory board Chairs. Dr. Capp distributed a letter signed by the advisory board Chairs today asking the County Commissioners for funds from their discretionary accounts to keep the four Program Officers for this fiscal year. It would take about \$392,000 to keep the four Program Officers, and Dr. Capp stated that if OCA gets enough money for one Program Officer then his recommendation will be to keep the Program Officer for the Commission for Women. He stressed that the board members and the community at large need to approach the County Commissioners about this request for funding.

After Dr. Capp's presentation, the discussion about the Commission's staffing situation continued and many members of the audience expressed their concerns and opinions. Mayor Lerner suggested that everyone look at the County budget online and to see where it is bloated. She specifically mentioned the Agenda Coordinator's office and the recent newspaper article about the Int'l Trade Consortium. Sara Leviten suggested that the Commission look into funding from the "Friends" 501(c)(3) group. Lorna Owens thought it was a good idea but Paula Xanthopoulou stated that it would set a bad precedent; if the Commission for Women is important enough, the County should fund it. Rosa Naccarato asked if any thought had been given to merging the Mayor's and Manager's offices because of duplication.

At this point Carmen recognized former State Representative Elaine Bloom, who had arrived at the meeting. Representative Bloom was the founding Chair of the Dade County Commission on the Status of Women, as it was called back when it was established in 1971. Representative Bloom gave a brief history of the Commission and mentioned that it spent its first two years fighting County Hall. She believes that there is a movement afoot to keep the Commission for Women from doing its job. She asked about the BCC's Housing Committee that considered the Pepe Diaz ordinance and whether the ordinance could be brought back for consideration. Commissioner Sorenson said that it was possible.

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Then there was some discussion about the vote over the Pepe Diaz ordinance in the BCC'S Housing Committee. Carmen explained that it was a tie vote, 3 to3. In response to a question from the public, Carmen stated that Commissioners Sorenson, Martinez and Souto voted in favor of the ordinance and that Commissioners Rolle, Edmonson and Jordan voted against the ordinance. Several persons commented that the discussion at the Housing Committee meeting had been very heated and Mayor Lerner commented that she had heard that the matter became a racial issue at the meeting.

Maria Roberts asked the women in the community to help so that it's not just the Commission for Women taking a self-serving position. Mayor Lerner asked that everyone go back and contact her County Commissioner about this issue, and she stated that she will focus on the Mayor.

Next there was a presentation by Debi Harris, the CEO of the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade. She briefly talked about the work of the Women's Fund, which raises money to fund programs for women and girls. In 2009, the Women's Fund raised \$390,000 and made grants to 42 organizations. Debi also talked about the "Portrait of Women and Girls" project, which is a comprehensive compilation of economic statistics on women and girls in Miami-Dade County. She cited four key recommendations from the report: 1. help women build assets; 2. give women the tools to fight for their rights; 3. train women for high growth occupations; and 4. provide adequate child care.

Moving on to **New Business**, Carmen explained that the CFW's Sunset Review report is due and that the CFW must approve of the report before it is submitted. Rosa moved to approve the Sunset Review Report and Sze seconded the motion. Paula suggested that the order of the list of accomplishments be changed slightly, and Laura will make the change. **The motion passed and the Sunset Review Report was approved.**

The **Committee Reports** were then presented.

For the **ERA Committee**, Rosa reported that the committee will meet on November 24, review some recommendations by Paula, and report back to the CFW. Paula clarified that, as in years past, the Committee is authorized to implement its recommendations in the meantime since the CFW does not meet again until January.

For the **Julia Tuttle Committee**, Carmen reported that the sculptors are working on the statue and that a meeting with the property manager of the One Miami building is pending.

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For the **Sexual Assault Issues Committee**, Maria reported that the written materials about the services at the Rape Treatment Center South have been distributed south of Kendall drive. Maria was also interviewed on radio last week and a public service announcement will be airing on two Creole radio stations aimed at South Miami-Dade.

For the **Low Wage Women's Issues Committee**, Maria explained that the committee has been focusing on the child support enforcement issue. The committee met with State Attorney Kathy Fernandez Rundle, and that Rundle also had a meeting with Chief Judge Joel Brown to discuss the CFW's recommendations. Maria also advised that State Senator Ronda Storms has filed a committee bill to discontinue the pilot programs in Miami-Dade and Manatee Counties. Rosa added that Kathy Rundle was very receptive to the ideas of the CFW regarding the child support enforcement matter.

Under **Old Business**, Carmen reminded everyone to complete their OCA Board surveys.

With regard to the Miami Beach Women's Conference in 2010, Kit Rafferty volunteered to go to the planning committee meeting tomorrow. Sharon Kendrick-Johnson would like to be added to that committee.

Carmen reminded everyone that the CFW retreat/planning session will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010. The CFW agreed to hold it at Carmen's house.

The CFW members then reviewed the Mayor's final report on the In the Company of Women event in March 2010. Paula moved to send a letter to the Mayor pointing out that the CFW cannot do this assignment without proper staff. Sze seconded the motion. There was further discussion about this matter and Paula then moved that the CFW not do this event if it does not have staff. Barbara Schwartz seconded the motion. Allison Robie moved to amend the motion to say "full time program officer" instead of just "staff" and the amendment was accepted. The motion passed. Gerri Rucker asked if the Connections Committee would now be considered the In the Company of Women Committee and the answer appears to be that yes it is.

Carmen reported that Commissioner Sally Heyman had relinquished the lobby in the Stephen P. Clark Center to the CFW for Women's History Month in March 2010. The Lobby Display Committee needs to meet to organize the display. Gerri would like to be added to the committee and Paula will chair the committee.

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Back to **New Business**, Rosa talked about the recent email from Shamele Jenkins, a community advocate for foster parents and children, asking for donations for a holiday gift drive for the foster children, and she suggested that this would be a good community project for the CFW. Rosa moved to adopt this gift drive as a project for the year, and Paula seconded the motion. The CFW then had a brief discussion about this matter. Mayor Cindy Lerner mentioned the Voices for Children gift drive and possible duplication. The issue of funding and paying for the gifts also came up. Amy Carswell suggested that everyone give \$30. Rosa amended her motion to add that the CFW contribute \$500 from Friends and purchase gifts consistent with what is being requested. Gloria seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Laura will also email Shamele and get more details.

Under **Announcements**, Debi Harris mentioned that the Women's Fund grant awards reception will be held on January 28, 2010 at Jungle Island.

Mayor Lerner introduced her mentee, Cindy Senebria, who is a senior in high school. She also introduced House candidate Lisa Lesperance.

Francena Koch thanked the CFW for its good work.

Allison shared some words of wisdom from a recent article about women's progress in the *New York Times*.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Laura Morilla
Recorder

Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, major accomplishments for last 24 months:

Ongoing projects or issues in 2008 and 2009

1. Continued working on the Julia Tuttle statue project as follows: fundraising for the cost of the statue, meet with the sculptors to review the details of the statue and monitor the progress of the statue generally, meet with representatives of the One Miami Condo Association and the Related Group to finalize the exact location of the statue on the Riverwalk, and obtain the necessary permits for installation and lighting of the statue. This project is being done in conjunction with the City of Miami Commission on the Status of Women and historian Arva Parks. Installation of the statue is expected to take place in the spring of 2010.
2. Child support enforcement – continued to examine the child support enforcement process in Florida to address the problems that custodial parents are having in getting court-ordered child support enforced. This has included meetings with judges, general magistrates, and the Miami-Dade State Attorney to advocate for the needs of the custodial parents and make recommendations to alleviate the delays in the process.
3. Women in Non-traditional jobs – continued to explore the various ways to encourage women and girls to get into non-traditional and high demand jobs.
4. ERA- continued to advocate for Florida's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, including traveling to Tallahassee for Miami-Dade Days in 2008, meetings with State Representatives and State Senators in their district offices in Miami, presentations at the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation meetings, and coordinating advocacy strategy with other Florida women's organizations.
5. Rape Treatment Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital- the Commission for Women has spent the last 2-3 years advocating for and encouraging numerous ways for the RTC to become more user-friendly and responsive to victims of sexual assault. The Commission for Women has collaborated with various other interested parties or entities in the community such as the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, the We Care Coalition, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Council of Greater Miami, and the Miami-Dade Police Sexual Crimes Unit. The Commission for Women has been instrumental in some of the changes that have resulted in improved services, including the opening of the Rape Treatment Center South.
6. Met with and hosted delegations of distinguished women, including elected officials, from other countries through the Miami Council on International Visitors program.
7. Members and staff of the Commission for Women participated as speakers or presenters at conferences, workshops, Women's History Month events and presentations to community and civic groups.
8. Collaboration with other organizations and entities- the Commission for Women is constantly asked to collaborate in ventures that advance the status of women and girls in the community. This includes helping to organize or promote an event, advocate for an issue or cause, fundraise for an issue or cause, and act as a liaison between an entity and Miami-Dade County when that entity is having problems with the County. The Commission for Women has been collaborating with organizations such as the Girls Advocacy Project, Casa Valentina, the Women's Fund, the Girls Coalition of Miami-Dade, the Women's Emergency Network, the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, and the other local women's commissions in Miami-Dade County.

9. Commission for Women staff assists callers who need assistance and referrals on a variety of issues such as domestic violence, child support, discrimination, legal services, homelessness, and emergency financial assistance.

Meetings/Events in 2008

1. Held nine regular meetings, nine Executive Committee meetings and approximately 25 committee meetings.
2. Of the nine regular meetings, two were "on the road" meetings in South Miami and Miami Beach with public forums at the beginning of each meeting to hear the concerns of women in the community.
3. Published the 2008-2009 Connections Directory of women's organizations.
4. Held the Connections Reception on October 23, 2008, which was attended by approximately 200 persons. Guest speaker was Miami Beach Mayor Matti Bower.

Meetings/Events in 2009

1. Held 10 regular meetings, 9 Executive committee meetings and approximately 20 committee meetings.
2. Of the 10 regular meetings, two were "on the road" meetings in North Miami Beach and Pinecrest with public forums at the beginning of each meeting to hear the concerns of women in the community.
3. Co-sponsored/co-hosted/co-organized the Miami Beach Women's Conference on March 26, 2009 at Miami Beach City Hall, Miami Beach Convention Center, and Miami Beach Botanical Garden.
 - Included an opening session with the women mayors in Miami-Dade County, workshop sessions at the Convention Center and luncheon at the Botanical Gardens. Attended by approximately 300 people. Co-sponsored the event with the Miami Beach Commission for Women and the Women's Business Council of the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce.
4. Planning for the 2010 Miami Beach Women's Conference began in October 2009. The 2010 Miami Beach Women's Conference will be expanded to two days and will include an expo on the second day.
5. Held a "Women Under Sharia Law" presentation on April 23, 2009 with the Asian-American Advisory Board.
6. Published the 2009-2010 Connections Directory of women's organizations. For the first time in the 30 years that the Commission for Women has been publishing the Directory, Miami-Dade County would not pay for the printing costs and the Commission for Women had to fundraise to pay for the cost of this valuable resource for the community.
7. Attended the Florida Women's Conference, organized by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, on May 12, 2009 in Orlando, Florida.
8. Began working with the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Dept. to plan and organize the 2010 In the Company of Women awards reception.
9. Participated in the Miami-Dade County Foster Parents Association holiday gift drive by donating \$500 for the gifts for children in foster care.

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women serves the women in our community in many ways -

Supporting and advocating for important legislation such as:

the County Contraceptive Equity Resolution in 2001

the Domestic Violence Leave Ordinance in 1999;

the Living Wage Ordinance in 1999;

Revision 9 to the Florida Constitution in 1998;

the Gender Pricing Ordinance in 1997;

the Family Leave Ordinance in 1991;

the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); and

the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Sponsoring various activities such as:

Women's healthcare conferences and workshops.

Workshops on domestic violence, women in business, women and finances, political empowerment, and other issues of concern to women.

Display of the "Silent Witness Initiative" Figures For Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1999.

Serving on important committees such as the County Manager's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues and the Women's History Curriculum Advisory Committee of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Hosting television programs on WLRN Cable Tap, and making media appearances to discuss a variety of topics of interest to women.

Collaborating on different projects with the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Labor Department, the White House Office of Women's Initiatives, the National Association of Commissions for Women, and the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

Hosting the 1996 convention of the National Association of Commission for Women in Miami Beach.

Publication of the annual "Connections" Directory of local women's organizations and hosting the annual networking reception.

Hosting foreign women dignitaries through the U.S. International Visitor Program.

Participation of Commission members and staff as speakers at workshops, conferences, Women's History Month events, and diversity day programs.

Co-sponsoring the annual "In the Company of Women" awards for Women's History Month.

Obtained funding for the opening of a Domestic Violence Intake Unit in the Miami Beach Branch Courthouse.

Advocating for the rights of the women asylum seekers detained by federal immigration authorities at the TGK County jail.

Working with the Girls Advocacy Project (GAP) to improve conditions for girls incarcerated in the Juvenile Detention Center.

Collaborating on the "Casa Valentina" project for girls aging out of foster care.

Coordinating and fundraising for the Julia Tuttle statue in Miami

Advocating for better services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Participating as a member of the Miami Emergency Contraception Coalition to increase awareness of the availability of emergency contraception.

Co-presenting the Miami Women's Summit 2007.

Co-presenting the Miami Beach Women's Conference 2009.