

Memorandum



Date: April 6, 2010

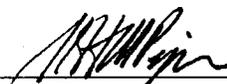
Agenda Item No. 1(F)5

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 – Community Relations Board

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 Community Relations Board. The Board approved the attached report at its meeting on November 18, 2009 and has recommended the continuation of its board.

Ir. 

Irene Taylor Wooten
Special Assistant, Social Services

cmo07510

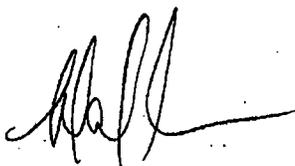
Date: January 11, 2009
To: George M. Burgess
County Manager
From: Mario Artecona
Chairperson, Community Relations Board
Subject: Sunset Review of County Boards for 2010- Community Relations Board

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 Community Relations Board 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 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; 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. 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.



Mario Artecona
Board Chairperson

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

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of Board reporting: Community Relations Board
2. Indicate number of board members, terms of office, and number of vacancies:
Board members, 27;
Terms of office, three years;
Number of vacancies, 3
5. Identify number of meetings and members' attendance (Attach records reflecting activity from **Jan. 1, 2008** through **December 31, 2009**):
Number of Meetings: 19
Number of Meetings with a Quorum: 16
Attendance Records: See Attachment
- 6.. What is the source of your funding? General fund
7. Date of Board Creation: June 1963
8. Attach a copy of the ordinance creating the Board (Please include all subsequent amendments).
See Attachment
9. 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.
10. Attach the Board's standard operating procedures, if any. n/a
11. Attach a copy of the Board's By-Laws, if any.
See By-laws attached.
12. Attach a copy of the Board minutes approving the Sunset Review Questionnaire, **including a vote of the membership**.
See Attached CRB Minutes, November 19, 2009.

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

II. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Is the Board serving the purpose for which it was created? (Please provide detailed information) Yes. See CRB Accomplishments attached.

Is the Board serving current community needs? (Please provide detailed information) Yes. See CRB Accomplishments attached.

1. 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.
- Convened community briefings that provided information about the process for investigation of shootings of unarmed civilians by police and engaged community members in dialogues to improve police and community relations through enhanced cooperation and accountability

2. Is there any other board, either public or private, which would better serve the function of this board?

no

3. 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)

- There is a need to amend the CRB Ordinance to clarify that meeting quorums are a majority of active members.
- There is a need to waive any limitation on the length of service of board members to continue to ensure that members are prominent individuals with demonstrated commitments to intergroup relations and that the members possess the high level of interpersonal and coordinative skills and experience necessary to effectively intervene to prevent and reduce intergroup tensions and conflict.

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

4. Should the Board's membership requirements be modified?
No

5. What is the operating cost of the Board, both direct and indirect? (Report on FY 2008 and FY 2009)
2008: \$129,418
2009: \$123,503

6. 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 in Word, of the County Manager's transmittal memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners with the Board's recommendation.

Community Relations Board
Attendance 2009

First Name	Last Name	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Mario	Artecona	P	P	E	P	P	P			P	P	P	
Francina	Bolden	E	E	U	P	E	P			P	P	E	
Carolyn	Boyce	P	E	E	E	E	E			E	E	E	
Valerie	Davis-Bailey	E	P	E	E	E	P			P	E	E	
Marili	Cancio (HAAB)	E	P										
Vincent	Delgado	U	U										
Carmen	Elias-Levenson (CFW)	P	E	E	P	E	E			P	P	P	
Didier	Fabien (BAAB)	P	E	P	P	P	E			P	P	E	
Ahmed	Kabani	P	E	E	P	P	P			E	P	E	
Shawn	Khosravi (AAAB)			P	P	P	P			P	E	P	
Joanne H.	Koren	E	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	
Helen	McGuire	P	E	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	
Roymi	Membuela (HAAB)			E	E	E	E			E	E	E	
Adora	Nweze	E	E	E	E	E	E			E	E	E	
Farrel	Owens, Jr.	E	P	E	E	P	P			E	E	E	
Walter	Richardson	E	P	P	P	P	P			P	E	P	
Lester	Rosenberg	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	E	
Solomon	Schiff	E	P	P	P	P	E			E	P	P	
Edward	Shohat	P	P	P	E	P	E			P	P	P	
Brian	Siegal	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	E	
Vickie	Smith-Jackson	E	E	E	P	P	P			P	E	P	
Farzana M.	Tapia	E	P	P	P	P	E			P	P	P	
Enrique	Urizar	P	P	E	E	E	P			P	P	P	
Reinaldo	Valdes	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	
Harold	Vieux	E	P	P	P	E	E			E	P	P	
Kwong-Cheng	Wong (AAAB)	P	E										
Marjorie	York	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	
L. George	Yap	E	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	
Saffan	Zakkout												

Not a member of CRB

Not a member of CRB

Community Relations Board
Attendance 2008

First Name	Last Name	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Mario	Artecona	P	P	P	P	P	E	P		P	E	P	
Francina	Bolden	U	U	U	U	P	P	P		P	E	P	
Carolyn	Boyce	E	P	U	E	P	E	U		E	P	P	
Marili	Cancio, (HAAAB)	P	U	U	P	P	E	E		P	P	E	
Ann L	Cumbie	E	P	P	P	E	E	E					
Valerie	Davis-Bailey	E	P	P	E	E	P	E		P	U	P	
Vincent	Delgado	E	P	P	E	E	P	E		E	U	U	
Carmen	Elias-Levenson (CFW)					E	E	P		P	E	E	
Didier	Fabien (BAAB)	P	E	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	E	
Ahmed	Kabani	P	P	P	E	P	E	E		P	P	P	
Joanne H.	Koren	P	P	P	E	P	P	E		E	E	E	
Helen	McGuire	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	E	P	
Adora	Nweze	P	U	P	E	P	P	E		E	E	E	
Farrel	Owens, Jr.	E	P	E	E	P	E	U		E	P	P	
Walter	Richardson	P	P	E	P	E	E	E		E	E	E	
Ramon L.	Rodriguez			P	U	U	U	U					
Lester	Rosenberg	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		E	P	P	
Joan	Sampieri (CFW)	U	P	U	E								
Solomon	Schiff	E	P	P	E	E	E	E		U	U	E	
Vickie	Smith-Jackson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	E	P	
Farzana M.	Tapia	P	P	E	P	P	P	P		P	E	P	
Enrique	Unzar												
Reinaldo	Valdes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Harold	Vieux	P	E	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
Kwong-Cheng	Wong (AAAB)	U	P	E	P	E	E	P		P	P	E	
L. George	Yap	P	P	P	E	E	E	P		P	P	E	
Marjorie	York	P	P	E	E	E	P	P		P	E	P	
Sofian	Zakkout	P	P	P	E	P	P	P					

No Meeting Scheduled

Not a member of CRB

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, not withstanding 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.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
MINUTES
November 18, 2009**

Chair Mario Artecona opened the meeting at 2:06 PM with appropriate greetings with all Community Relations Board (CRB) members introduced themselves.

Present	Excused Absence	OCA Staff
1. Artecona, Mario (Chair)	1. Bolden, Francina	Dr. Larry Capp
2. Elias-Levenson, Carmen	2. Boyce, Carolyn	Amy Carswell
3. Fabien, Didier	3. Davis-Bailey, Valerie	Edward Harris
4. Kabani, Ahmed	4. Nweze, Adora	Oscar J. Braynon
5. Khosravi, Shawn	5. McGuire, Helen (Dr.)	Yvans Morisseau
6. Koren, Joanne Harvest	6. Membiela, Roymi	Laura Morilla
7. Owens, Farrel	7. Richardson, Walter (Rev.)	Retha Boone-Fye
8. Rosenberg, Lester	8. Siegal, Brian	Maria Lazo
9. Schiff, Solomon (Rabbi)		Dr. Eduardo Diaz
10. Shohat, Edward		
11. Smith-Jackson, Vickie		
12. Tapia, Farzana M.		
13. Urizar, Enrique		
14. Valdes, Reinaldo	Unexcused Absence	
15. Vieux, Harold (Rev.)	None	
16. Yap, L. George		
17. York, Marjorie		
18. Zakkout, Soffian		

I. Moment of Silence

II. Approval of Agenda - The motion was made by Rabbi Solomon Schiff and seconded by Lester Rosenberg. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes - The motion was made by Rabbi Solomon Schiff to approve the minutes of October 21, 2010. The motion was seconded by Reinaldo Valdes. No corrections were needed and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Special Presentation

A. Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami Dade County Public Schools

Mr. Carvalho greeted the CRB members and introduced his staff:

Mr. Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent, District/School Operations

Ms. Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Charles J. Hurley, Interim Chief of Police and District Security

Superintendent Carvalho discussed the challenges of MDPS including the declining revenue while continuing to provide quality education. He stated that the state wanted MDCPS to shut nine schools in the African-American community. He found that unacceptable, consequently he and his staff developed and implemented a plan to keep the schools open while improving the facility, staff and performances of faculty and students. He stated he has completed negotiations with all but one labor union, because labor peace is a priority in his administration. The health and insurance plan of the school system was revamped as they took the responsibility as a self-insuring entity.

B. Questions and Comments from CRB members

Mr. Carvalho and his staff addressed other issues of importance including school violence and discussed the programs which are targeted toward youth violence.

CRB members L. George Yap and Vickie Smith-Jackson asked Mr. Carvarlho how to help educate the parents on what is needed to help their children and increase parent participation.

V. Sunset Review

The Chair explained the nature of Miami-Dade County's Sunset Review process for the CRB. He referred the presentation to the staff.

The Sunset Review tasking statement was read and reviewed by Executive Director Dr. Larry Capp and staff member Amy Carswell.

The Chair reviewed the mission of the CRB per the creating and follow-on ordinances. He also requested and received a motion from Farrell Owens and a second from Joanne Harvest Koren to submit the Sunset Review Report as presented, to the Board of County of Commission. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. Special Reports

A. Homestead Confederate Flag / Veterans Day Parade - The Chair thanked all members that participated in the effort to keep "the calm" in a situation which had great potential for violence and conflict. The Chair asked the Executive Director to provide the specifics and the history of the CRB's involvement in this issue. Dr. Capp stated that the disbandment of the local Homestead/Florida City Human Relations Board (HRB) created a vacuum which Miami-Dade CRB was asked to fill by local residents. The conflict ensued when the 2008 Veterans Day Parade included members of the Sons of the Confederacy who participated with displays of the confederate flag. Many local residents were offended and sought to ban such displays in future parades. The multiple entities included local residents, the City Council and Mayor of Homestead, the Florida City -Homestead Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP, the United States Department of Justice and the current parade host the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Dr. Brad Brown, representing the NAACP stated that the resolution was very satisfactory and peaceful. He also confirmed that the NAACP will work with the new Mayor and Council members of Homestead to re-establish the joint municipal HRB, while keeping them involved in the process and maintenance of the solution. The Florida Sons of the Confederacy have vowed, via their website, to continue their efforts in this vain. The local chamber members were also active in ensuring the parade return, by their urging of the Chamber leadership.

B. Departmental Budget Status/Staffing for 2009-2010 – The Chair explained the legislation which was proposed by Commission Vice-Chair Diaz, which failed in committee. The four (4) positions which were funded by Commission Chair Moss will soon expire; the thirteenth of December is the last day. A letter to be signed by each advisory board chair from the OCA will be forwarded to the members of the Board of County Commission requesting the continuation of the funding for the four (4) Program Officer positions. Rabbi Schiff stated that in 1963 the leading clergy of Greater Miami and Dade County, led by then-Archbishop Coleman Carroll and including himself, issued a proclamation demanding that this community establish a policy of equal rights in every aspect of our lives in this town. The then forward-looking proclamation demanded that the county also establish the Community Relations Board. By the dissolution of these four (4) Program Officers and their responsibilities being diverted, the County is rescinding its moral obligation to this county which it took in 1963. Shawn Khosravi stated that the CRB has a responsibility to stand up for the advisory boards and should work to save the positions. The loss of these positions will eventually be the demise of all the boards and the department as a whole. He also recommended that the Commission members contribute to the maintenance of the four (4) Program Officer positions. Carmen Elias-Levenson spoke regarding the efforts of the Commission for Women to save the Program Officer positions, including a well publicized meeting this evening. Reinaldo Valdes stated that the broad scope of CRB and its members have a very important role in the community. No other board represents this county like the CRB.

VII. Committee Reports - The Chair deferred all Committee reports.

VIII. New Business / Announcements / Discussion

The chair presented a plaque of recognition to Ada Rojas for her service at the City of Miami's CRB and her recent promotion to the City Mayor's staff.

New members will be scheduled for an orientation class.

IX. Adjournment at 4:55pm

CRB Accomplishments
January 2008 – December 2009

The CRB hosted a meeting of the Florida Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice. Juvenile crime and the justice system that deals with young offenders in Florida was the focus of a community meeting in Miami-Dade County. The public was invited to join the members of the Florida Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice and State and Miami-Dade justice leaders and community advocates for a discussion of recommendations for improving our system. Getting Smart About Juvenile Justice In Florida in the Blueprint Commissions recently released report intended to map a new strategy for addressing juvenile crime and justice.

The Miami-Dade CRB convened a Dialogue on Planning for Safe Marches and Demonstrations. Several recent gatherings of pro-Palestinian and Pro-Israeli supporters in South Florida had degenerated into shouting matches where insults and threats of violence have disrupted the public order and police have been called upon to intervene. Some of Miami-Dade's most experienced law enforcement experts, community relations advocates and emerging leaders came together to discuss ways to better protect free speech while ensuring safer and more effective events.

The CRB Goodwill Ambassadors joined with organizers of Miami-Dade's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) celebrations in Liberty City to announce efforts to ensure that events were meaningful, safe and enjoyable. The CRB joined with the Dr. MLK Parade and Festivities Committee of Miami to convene a press conference where organizers described the many activities planned and the actions being taken to produce this major community event. Representatives of Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Miami Mayor Manny Diaz along with Miami-Dade Transit also participated.

The CRB joined with community organization to host an event honoring retiring Public Defender Bennet Brummer in the Chamber of the Board of County Commissioners. The CRB joined with county and city officials to help organize an event recognizing Bummer's 32-year leadership of the office charged with defending indigent persons in the county's criminal and juvenile courts. County Commission Chairman Bruno Barreiro presented a proclamation and heard testimonials from other county, city and state leaders about the contributions of one of our community's longest serving elected officials.

The CRB convened an Emergency Summit on Haiti to develop a local response to severe food shortages and the resulting violence and political unrest in Haiti. The Summit was convened in cooperation with Haitian American Grassroots Coalition, the Miami-Dade NAACP, Haitian Women of Miami, Inc and the City of Miami Community Relations Board. More than fifty (50) persons participated including community leaders, grassroots activists, and elected officials along with representatives of the South Florida Congressional Delegation, the County Mayor and members of the Board of County Commissioners. The Summit focused on both short-term and long-term solutions to help relieve the present crisis and to help restore economic sustainability to the country. Detailed action plans were developed for each activity including assignments for organizations and individuals with specific deadlines for completion.

The CRB brought together religious and community leaders for a vigil and a community forum aimed at reducing tensions caused by vandalism at The Islamic School of Miami in Kendall. The Miami-Dade County Police Department reported that on either December 31, 2008 or January 1, 2009, forty-five gun shots struck the Mosque building. Miami-Dade religious leaders and concerned residents gathered at the Mosque to hear words of healing and to light candles in mutual support for neighbors struck by vandalism. More than fifty (50) participants, including Mosque members, area residents, police and CRB members, attended the forum. The events successfully demonstrated mutual support and provided an opportunity to share information and discuss strategies for preventing future attacks.

The CRB worked with Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Commissioners Dennis Moss and Audrey Edmonson to convene county officials and key stakeholders for a summit to look at model programs being implemented by other U.S. cities to improve equity and social justice in the delivery of government services. Miami-Dade County officials and key stakeholders gathered for an inspirational and thought provoking examination of equity and social justice models that are bringing about positive change in communities across the United States.

Members of the CRB were joined by members of the Board of County Commissioners and by community activists for a press conference where they called upon the Administration of former President George Bush to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians. The people of Haiti continue to suffer the devastation of four deadly storms that struck in rapid succession last year. The leaders and activists came together to help raise public awareness of the need to provide a safe haven for Haitians who are currently in the U.S.

The CRB hosted a presentation and dialogue with community members and representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau who shared information and strategies for ensuring the success of the upcoming Census 2010. Topics discussed included: how to ensure accurate counts of hard-to-reach populations; employment opportunities; and recommendations on how the CRB and its constituents may collaborate with the Census Bureau to enhance the accuracy of the Census in our communities.

Following the 2008 General Election, the CRB conducted a forum on "Making Our Elections Better" that brought together community activists and officials from the Elections Department for a round-table discussion and questions and answers. Residents voiced concerns, shared insights and suggested enhancements for the conduct of future elections by the Miami-Dade County Government and the county's Elections Department.

The CRB responded to the distribution of a divisive video program by local newspapers by delivering a citizen's presentation to the Board of County Commissioners that condemned hate messages. Some of South Florida's most prominent newspapers had distributed to thousands of their subscribers an inflammatory DVD depicting the alleged activities of religious extremists. The Miami-Dade Asian-American Advisory Board called the production "a hateful message that maligns Islam and paints all Muslims with a broad brush as a hateful bunch hell-bent on violence". CRB Chairman Rev. Dr. Harold Vieux delivered a citizen's presentation to the Board of County Commissioners stating the "Hate Messages Have No Place in Our Community", and encouraging resident to join together in calling for peace, tolerance and mutual respect.

The CRB, in cooperation with the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Airport District, convened workshops on racial and ethnic profiling at MIA. Members of the Miami-Dade community had reported incidents perceived as discriminatory at Miami International Airport. Specifically, concerns were expressed about perceived profiling of persons thought to be of Middle Eastern or Arab ancestry and those of Caribbean origin. Community members participated in two-hour training on Behavior Pattern Recognition (BPR) that is employed by county police and staff at MIA. The CRB also convened a Dialogue about Screening Practices at MIA. More than thirty (30) CRB members, community activists, law enforcement officers and representatives of federal, state and local agencies participated. Presenters responded to a list of community concerns gathered from the CRB Education and Advocacy Committee. A session of questions, answers and comments followed.

The CRB convened a Community Briefing, with County Commission Chairman Dennis Moss, on the in-custody death of a South Dade man who had been tasered by Miami-Dade Police. On Friday August 8, 2008, Mr Kenneth Oliver was taken into custody by Miami-Dade Police near Southwest 107th Avenue and 146th Terrace. Following his arrest, Mr. Oliver was transported to Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Representatives of the Miami-Dade Police Department shared non-sensitive information with residents and family members about this in-custody death and the use of a taser against Mr. Oliver. The briefing was intended to help build trust between members of the public and law enforcement by engaging community members, enhancing their awareness and providing an avenue for input and critique

The CRB sent a letter to the members of the Miami-Dade County School Board and to members of the community issuing "A Plea for Civility" in their discourse about the administration of the public schools. In July 2008, there had been front-page stories in the Miami Herald about conflict among members of the Miami-Dade County School Board that included reports about public comments that attacked the integrity of Board members and staff. The School Board was preparing to consider a motion to terminate the contract of then-Superintendent Dr. Rudy Crew. The CRB's letter stated that: "Like many other residents of Miami Dade County, the members of the CRB are concerned that the level of civility currently being displayed at the meetings of our School Board leaves much to be desired. We believe that civility in our public discourse is necessary in order to promote confidence in the democratic process and our key governing bodies." The CRB encouraged the leadership of the Public Schools to join with us and recommit to actively modeling mutual respect, understanding, and acceptance among our diverse population.

The CRB, through its Vice Chair, delivered a statement encouraging the Board of County Commissioners to adopt and implement legislation providing health insurance and other benefits to the domestic partners of Miami-Dade County employees, provide for registration of domestic partnerships and establish domestic partner rights of visitation. This recommendation was developed as a direct result of the input provided by the CRB's recently established LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual) Advisory Committee.

In preparation for the upcoming national debate on federal immigration reform, Miami-Dade officials and community advocates convened a Fair Immigration Summit. The Miami-Dade and City of Miami Community Relation Boards brought together more than sixty elected officials, immigration advocates and community leaders to develop a local consensus on priorities for immigration legislation that reflects our community's diversity. The leaders and advocates shared information, heard from experts and exchanged insights. The resulting fair immigration priorities will help to inform our community's participation in the coming national dialogue. There was a need to unite our diverse communities around legislative priorities that uphold our common commitments to equal treatment and due process for all.

The CRB issued a public statement encouraging cooperation with the mediation of issues related to the display of confederate flags in the 2008 Veteran's Day Parade held in Homestead. The controversy is a reminder of why it is so important to foster mutual respect in our public discourse. said the CRB statement that is being distributed to county leaders, community activists and the media. The CRB has joined with the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service to convene mediation sessions to try and resolve some of the issues that have developed between area residents and the Homestead city government. The parade organizer, the Greater Homestead /Florida City Chamber of Commerce, along with the Miami-Dade Branch of the NAACP and People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (PULSE), local organizations who have taken public positions on the city's handling of the controversy, also participated in the mediation.

The CRB assisted a coalition of community and religious leaders to come together with parents, police and activists to raise awareness of the consequences of criminal behavior by youth in our community. The Parents And Police, Preachers (PAPP) coalition invited members of the public to meet in Liberty City. The meeting focused on ways to recruit and involve area parents in strategies to prevent youth crime, to increase parent's awareness and activism and to provide support.

The CRB assisted the Miami-Dade Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC) to convene a workshop that featured a wide-ranging dialogue about new ways to fund government that are adequate, fair and encourage economic development. The event brought together some of our community's most dynamic elected officials, business leaders, public administrators, technology leaders, academicians, and concerned residents for a stimulating discussion about how to realign Florida's tax structure and grow revenues through economic development.

The CRB convened a dialogue and mini-forum on the progress of the HOPE VI Public Housing Development. Representatives of the Miami-Dade Housing Agency and the HOPE VI developers team met with residents and CRB members to identify community concerns hear about the progress of the project and strategize on ways to enhance communication and cooperation. Participants identified issues and concerns related to pre-occupancy, construction and what the community will look-like once complete. Goals and objectives were identified for reducing community tensions and conflict, promoting accountability, transparency and public trust and enhancing community involvement and participation.

The CRB worked with the West Perrine Christian Association to convene a dialogue about the multiple shootings that had occurred in that community. County Commission Chairman Dennis Moss was joined by concerned residents, area religious leaders, activists and representatives of the Miami-Dade Police Department to discuss the incidents, explore ways to reduce crime and hold perpetrators accountable and ways to enhance police and community relations through improved communications and mutual cooperation.

The CRB, through its LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender) Advisory Committee developed a plan of action for the creation of a permanent Miami-Dade County LGBT Advisory Board. The mission proposed for the new advisory board would be to: foster conditions that promote the welfare of LGBT people in Miami-Dade County through education, advocacy, and collaboration; foster mutual understanding, and respect between LGBT people and all religious, ethnic and other groups in the County; and act as conciliator in controversies involving the LGBT community and the other population groups in Miami-Dade County.

The CRB installed a new executive committee led by Chair, Mr. Mario J. Artecona. Mr. Artecona is the Executive Director of the Miami Business Forum and has served on the CRB Board since 2004. The CRB installed new leaders at a brief ceremony during its September 2009 General Membership Meeting. The other officers are: Reverend Dr. Walter T. Richardson, Vice Chair; Mr. Reinaldo Valdes, Secretary; and at-large members Ms. Joanne Harvest-Koren, Mr. Farrel Owens, Jr., Ms. Vickie Smith-Jackson and Dr. L. George Yap. County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez administered the oath of office.

The CRB convened a steering committee of religious, community and law enforcement leaders to develop a protocol and provide overall guidance and support for implementation of an "I Am My Brother's Keeper" Response Team. This team of community leaders representing Miami-Dade County's diverse faith traditions is being organized to respond quickly and effectively to acts of violence and hatred aimed at religious groups and/or people in Miami-Dade County. An effective response will: bring together religious and community

leaders with concerned residents for activities aimed at reducing tensions caused by hate crimes/ incidents or suspected hate incidents; demonstrate that there is broad community support for religious freedoms and condemnation for attacks on faith institutions and people; and demonstrate mutual support while providing opportunities to share information and to discuss and implement strategies for stopping future attacks.