



## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item 15(D)1

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez, and  
Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 3, 2011

FROM: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Circuit and County Courts

SUBJECT: Ballot Appointment of Member to the  
Land Acquisition Selection  
Committee

Christopher Agrippa, Division Chief  
Clerk of the Board Division

Please select one (1) nominee from the attached ballot to fill a regular membership vacancy on the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) created by the term-limitation of former Committee member Mr. Jose F. Barros.

Chapter 24-50 of the Code provides that the Board of County Commissioners shall appoint, from a list of candidates as recommended by the County Manager, the members of the LASC. As such, the County Mayor has submitted the names of eligible candidates from which a replacement can be selected to fill the vacancy. The nominees are presented as follows:

1. Patricia L. Phares (recommended by Florida Native Plant Society)
2. Audrey Ordenes (recommended by Earth Ethics Institute of Miami Dade College)

The ballot from which the vacancy will be filled, Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez's memorandum dated October 6, 2011, and the resumes and letters of recommendation for all nominees have been attached for your review.

CA:llc  
Attachments

**COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BALLOT**  
**Miami-Dade County, Florida**

**November 3, 2011**

<b>LAND ACQUISITION SELECTION COMMITTEE</b>	
<i>Write in Your Own</i>	
Patricia L. Phares	<input type="checkbox"/>
Audrey Ordenes	<input type="checkbox"/>

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please sign ballot)*

Commission District Number \_\_\_\_\_

HARRY RUVIN  
Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners  
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 17-202  
Miami, FL 33128  
305-375-5126

# Memorandum



**Date:** October 6, 2011

**To:** Honorable Harvey Ruvlin  
Clerk of the Court

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** Land Acquisition Selection Committee Appointments

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The Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) is a county advisory board having seven regular members and one alternate. The LASC advises the Board of County Commissioners on implementing the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program in order to acquire, protect, preserve, restore and enhance the County's environmental lands and the natural resources on those lands for the benefit of this and future generations. A current LASC member is term limited, creating a vacancy on the board. As required by Chapter 24-50 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am hereby submitting two nominees per vacancy for appointment by the County Commission.

The nominees for the Regular Member vacancy:

1. Patricia L. Phares, 17615 SW 119 Avenue, Miami
2. Audrey Ordenes, 1740 SW 31st Avenue, Miami

Chapter 24-50.6 also provides that preference be given to candidates who have a record of service in environmental or civic affairs in Miami-Dade County and who have been recommended by one or more bona fide environmental, civic or professional organizations. Ms. Phares is recommended by the Florida Native Plant Society. Ms. Ordenes is recommended by the Earth Ethics Institute of Miami Dade College.

The nominees' resumes and letters of recommendation are attached. Please schedule the appointments for the County Commission agenda as soon as possible.

Patricia L. Phares (Patty)  
17615 SW 119 Ave  
Miami FL 33177  
305-255-6404 h  
pphares@mindspring.com

**Environmental and Civic Involvement**

**Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**

Member, volunteer for most chapter projects and events, regular attendee of monthly meetings and field trips, 1981-present

Newsletter editor or staff, 1986-2011

Field trip planning committee, 2000-present

Native Plant Day committee, 1991-2008 (annual public educational event)

Everglades National Park Coe Visitors Center Landscaping Project steering committee, 2001-present

(ongoing planning of the work to be done and coordinating the bi-monthly workdays)

Chapter president, 1988-1994, Chapter board member, 1985-1988

State FNPS Conference Co-chair, 1990 and 2000

Green Palmetto Award for service from the Florida Native Plant Society, 2000

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Center for Tropical Plant Conservation volunteer**

Rare Plant removal team, 2004-2005.

Occasional field work and nursery assistant, 2002-present.

**Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida**

Member, 1986-present

Board member, 2006-present

Annual Everglades Outing (for underserved children) committee and lunch coordinator, 2009-present

**Tropical Audubon Society**

Member, 1990-present; Volunteer (docent, grounds) 2008-2009

**North American Butterfly Association, Miami Blue Chapter**

Member and volunteer, 2004-present; Board member beginning 2011

**Friends of the Gifford Arboretum (University of Miami)**

Member 2000-present; volunteer (publicity) 2009-present

**The Institute for Regional Conservation**

Member 2004-present; volunteer (conservation workdays, nursery assistant) 2008-2009;

Board member (beginning September 2011)

**Trees for Dade (predecessor of TREEmendous Miami)**

Board of Directors, 1991-1999

Cool Communities planting volunteer, 1997-1999

**Miami Bridge**

Volunteer at youth shelter 1985-1986

**Other organizations**

The Nature Conservancy member, 1987-present  
Miami-Dade College Community Chorus/ Civic Chorale of Greater Miami member, 1985-present;  
Coordinating Committee, 2009-present  
Dade County Native Plant Workshop attendee, 2008-present

**Education**

Master of Statistics, University of Florida, 1977  
MA, Mathematics, University of Florida, 1972  
BA, Mathematics, Hanover College (Hanover, Indiana), 1970  
Botany courses, Miami Dade College, 1992

**Employment**

Contractor at NOAA Fisheries, Miami (short-term contracts 2007-2009)  
Volunteer at NOAA Fisheries, Miami, March 2007-August 2007  
Statistician, NOAA Fisheries (Galveston, TX, and Miami), 1977-February 2007  
Graduate student assistant, Department of Statistics, University of Florida, 1975-1977  
Peace Corps Volunteer, Western Samoa (math and social studies teacher, junior high school), 1973-1974  
Graduate student assistant, Department of Mathematics, University of Florida, 1970-1972  
Student assistant, Department of Mathematics, Hanover College, 1976-1970



04 September 2011

Cynthia Guerra, Program Director  
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program  
Miami-Dade County - DERM  
701 N.W. 1 Ct., 6th Floor  
Miami, FL 33136

Dear Ms. Guerra,

It has been brought to my attention that once again there are openings for the Miami-Dade County Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC). It would behoove the mission of the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management Environmentally Endangered Lands Program to accept Ms. Patty Phares on this committee.

As stated in previous letters, Ms. Phares has been a long time advocate and devotee to conservation in South Florida. Such devotion has been evidenced by her involvement with the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS). Since joining in the 1980's, Ms. Phares has been an active FNPS member & participant aiding FNPS in its mission. Ms. Phares is well suited to the needs of the LASC committee. Ms. Phares has strong community ties and is adeptly familiar with South Florida conservation lands and their rare habitats. She is familiar with South Florida having lived in our fair county for several decades. In addition, you could not find a more knowledgeable person who is capable of using extant resources as well as her in depth knowledge to assist in the analyses determining necessary qualifications for land acquisition. She is also a responsible individual capable of handling several tasks at once while still managing to do a superb job on each one.

I feel strongly that future conservation lands would benefit greatly by having someone like Patty Phares involved in their selection, and I encourage you to accept her to the LASC committee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Woodmansee, President  
Florida Native Plant Society  
8025 SW 102 Ave.  
Miami, FL 33173  
[president@fnps.org](mailto:president@fnps.org)  
786.488.3101

*The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant communities. FNPS is a 501(c) 3 not for profit organization registered in the state of Florida.*

# Audrey C. Ordenes

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## Education

Florida International University, Miami, FL  
Masters in Business Administration, 2007

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL  
Bachelors of Arts, 1992 International Affairs and Social Science

## Professional experience

May 2010 – Present Canadian Consulate General, Miami FL  
Trade Commissioner

- Assist Canadian companies with market intelligence and access in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the areas of clean tech, environmental services, and general infrastructure.
- Assist U.S. based companies with foreign direct investment in Canada relating to Clean Tech and Renewable Energy

September 2008 – May 2010 True North Consulting, Miami, FL  
Owner

- Consulting services for “green” enterprises including market development and funding positioning for renewable energy and green building products/projects; facilitation and training on energy efficiency, water resources and environmental best practices; business development; strategic planning; coalition-building, and project design and management.
- Past and current clients include The Consulate General of Canada (Miami), B/E Aerospace Inc., Alterna Corporation, St. Thomas University, and the Town of Cutler Bay.

August 2007 – June 2008 Trust for Public Land, Miami, FL  
Director, South Florida and Caribbean Field Office

- Developed, managed, and directed a regional office budget and strategy to conserve land for preservation and recreation from Martin County to the Florida Keys and the Caribbean basin.
- Negotiated land deals and raised capital for real estate transactions.
- Increased company profile in the community through networking events, speeches, outreach meetings, and public-private partnerships.

2003 – 2007 South Florida Water Management District, Miami, FL  
Lead Intergovernmental Representative

- Managed intergovernmental affairs for the Miami-Dade Regional office, including cultivating partnerships with state and municipal elected officials and community leaders to gain support for policy objectives relating to flood mitigation, water supply, watershed restoration, sustainability, and water quality protection.
- Designed and implemented a business development program for vendors in Miami-Dade County utilizing local, state, national and international networks.
- Identified environmental restoration, sustainability, and recreation projects with partner agencies and negotiated cost-share agreements with partners to implement them.
- Served as agency liaison with elected officials during emergency operations, specifically hurricane and flooding events and as liaison with visiting dignitaries.

- Chaired, the Biscayne Bay Regional Coordination Team, a multi-agency advisory committee of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

2000 - 2003     Citizens for a Better South FL     Miami, FL  
Executive Director

- Developed an organizational budget and ensured the financial integrity of the organization.
- Increased the visibility of the organization locally and nationally through publications, speeches, and networks.
- Developed a Fellowship Program with the Smithsonian Institution to train and recruit emerging conservation leaders in Miami through mentorship, applied research and community involvement.
- Hired and managed staff, volunteers, and consultants to implement multi-lingual environmental education programs and projects.
- Successfully lobbied to establish a Miami-based after-school science program (Community Science Workshops) as one of eight pilot sites in the United States sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

1999- 2000     Independent Contractor     Miami, FL  
*Clients: Beldon Fund, Flora and Hewlett Packard Foundation, and the Association of Florida Environmental Resource Agencies (FLERA).*

- Advised the Beldon Fund through an audit of Florida's environmental non-profit organizations and drafted a business plan on how to best to allocate a \$7 million endowment in the state of Florida to various water resource related causes.
- Provided technical assistance to a California based project related to land use and coalition building funded by the Flora and Hewlett Packard Foundation.
- Provided strategic planning and outreach services for a Florida association of environmental resources agencies regarding air, water, and wastewater policy during the 2000 Florida Legislative Session.

1997- 1999     The Turner Foundation/The Nature Conservancy     Atlanta, GA  
Campaign Director

- Organized a coalition through a Turner Foundation initiative housed at The Nature Conservancy to create a land preservation program in Georgia through a referendum process.
- Managed more than \$1 million in grants and contracts.
- Hired and managed campaign staff.

1994- 1997     The Nature Conservancy     Tallahassee, FL  
Sr. Policy Representative

- Organized a statewide grass-roots campaign to support a \$3 billion land conservation program in Florida.
- Worked with elected officials and agency representatives on appropriations' issues dealing with conservation of natural areas and water management.
- Developed workshops for real estate industry to introduce land conservation options to property owners in Florida.
- Created publications and marketing materials to relay the benefits of land conservation.

1993- 1994     L. Garry Smith & Associates     Tallahassee, FL  
Deputy Campaign Director

- Provided research assistance regarding U.S. sugar subsidies and farming practices

affecting management of the Florida Everglades.

- Supported coalition work on a statewide petition campaign.

1992- 1994      Robert M. Levy & Associates      Tallahassee, FL  
Government and Public Affairs Associate

- Business development and market positioning in the governmental sector for a variety of clients and issues, including health care, the arts, and transportation.

**Community  
activities**

- National Advisory Board Member, the Earth Ethics Institute at Miami Dade College
- Past Chair, Board of Trustees, Environmental Leadership Program, Washington D.C.
- Advisory Committee, University of Florida Sea Grant Program
- City of Miami Green Commission
- Member, Miami Dade County Cultural Affairs Grants Committee
- Advisory Board Member, St. Thomas Law School and Barry University Law School Joint Center for Earth Jurisprudence

**Certifications and  
Competencies**

- U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Occupational Health and Safety: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Certification;
- Soil and Ground Water Monitoring Phase I;
- CPR/First Aid;
- Environmental Site Assessment, Phase I;
- Conversational Spanish;
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook) and Social Media and Internet research knowledge.

Earth Ethics Institute  
300 N.E. Second Avenue  
Room 3305-11  
Miami, FL 33132-1297  
Phone: 305-237-3796  
Fax: 305-237-7734



Ms. Cynthia Guerra  
Miami Dade County  
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program  
DERM  
701 NW 1st Court 6th Floor  
Miami, FL 33136

Dear Ms. Guerra,

I am writing on behalf of the Earth Ethics Institute at Miami Dade College in support of Ms. Audrey Ordenes' application to serve Miami Dade County on the Land Acquisition Selection Committee.

Ms. Ordenes has an outstanding record of both professional and volunteer engagement with the scientific and conservation community in south Florida and the United States. Her extensive knowledge of the objectives of the Environmental Endangered Lands (EEL) program and her commitment to its success make her an ideal candidate. Ms. Ordenes has worked for biodiversity conservation and park acquisition organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land in both the land acquisition and land management policy areas. She served as Board Chair for the Washington DC based, Environmental Leadership Program and as Executive Director for Citizens for a Better South Florida, an environmental education organization. Ms. Ordenes currently serves on the Earth Ethics Institute National Advisory Board.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Ordenes' application to this important committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Colleen Ahern-Hettich'.

Colleen Ahern-Hettich  
Director