MEMORANDUM

CCPI
Agenda Item No. 6(A)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives

DATE: July 27, 2015

FROM: Christopher Agrippa
Director, Clerk of the Board Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Commission Council Minutes

The Clerk of the Board's office is submitting the following Clerk's Summary of Minutes for approval by the Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives:

April 27, 2015

CA/mf
Attachment

Stephen P. Clark
Government Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

CLERK'S SUMMARY OF

Meeting Minutes

Chairmans Council for Prosperity Initiatives

Jean Monestime, Chairman [2]; Daniella Levine Cava [8], and Barbara J. Jordan [1]

Employment, Benefits and Wage Policies

Monday, April 27, 2015 | **9:30 AM** | **Conference Room 18-3**

Members Present: Daniella Levine Cava, Barbara J. Jordan, Jean Monestime.

Members Absent: None.

Members Late: None.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent County Business: None.

REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD AS PROVIDED IN RULE 6.06

Report: *Chairman Monestime opened the public hearing and called for persons wishing to be heard. He closed the public hearing after no one appeared wishing to speak.*

1 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Report: *The Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives (CCPI) convened a meeting in the 18th Floor Conference Room 18-3 of the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW First Street, Miami, Florida, at 9:30 a.m. on April 27, 2015. Present upon roll call were Chairman Jean Monestime and Commissioners Daniella Levine Cava and Barbara J. Jordan.*

The following staff members were also present: Assistant County Attorneys Shannon Summerset-Williams, Altanese Phenelus, Shanika Graves, and Eric Rodriguez; Rudolph Mathieu, Assistant Agenda Coordinator, Agenda Coordinator's Office; Amy Horton-Tavera, Business Analyst Manager, Office of Management and Budget; Laura Morilla, Program Officer, Office of Community Advocacy; and Deputy Clerk Cindy Allen.

Chairman Monestime called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m. and welcomed Commissioners Barbara Jordan and Daniella Levine Cava, and all attendees. He stated that the Council was created to provide a forum to exchange ideas and discuss proposals on policy initiatives that may help to reduce the income inequality gap in the Greater Miami community. In their first meeting, he noted, the Council members agreed that there were three primary arenas (employment, transportation, and housing) where the County commissioners could make a difference in the lives of citizens who were struggling to provide for themselves and their families. Chairman Monestime said that the Council members would focus on employment, benefits, and wage policies at today's (4/27) meeting. He noted his colleagues were working on a wide range of issues to address the income inequality gap in Miami-Dade County. He explained that a discussion would take place after the three presentations by Dr. Alayne Unterberger, Dr. Ned Murray, and Ms. Rebecca Vallas (by telephone), respectively.

2 PRESENTATIONS

2A

150956 **Special Presentation**

"INDICATORS OF INCOME INEQUALITY," NED MURRAY, PHD, METROPOLITAN INSTITUTE OF FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU), MIAMI, FLORIDA — ***Presented***

Report: *Dr. Ned Murray stated that the Metropolitan Center had performed economic and housing studies for Miami-Dade County (MDC) and South Florida for many years. He recalled that years ago, Mayor Alex Penelas, requested that they research the impediments to economic development in Miami-Dade County, specifically in Black communities. Dr. Murray stated that many disparity studies were performed during the last 15 years, and unfortunately, this issue persisted. He noted most recently they performed the disparity study for the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) and the Community Study for the Miami Foundation.*

Dr. Murray stated that over the last several months they had been working on the MDC Economic Prosperity presentation, a sustainable indicator project that focused on many issues that MDC and South Florida had been wrestling with; a hard copy of this presentation was distributed at the meeting. He noted they benchmarked MDC as a Metropolitan Statistical Area - Metropolitan Division (MSA-MD) and compared it with other MSA-MDs such as Fulton County in Atlanta, GA; Orange County in Orlando, FL; and Travis County in Austin, TX. He emphasized that this was a comprehensive data platform with four key elements: quality of life (affordable housing, education, and workforce training); economic prosperity (who benefited); economic stability (economic diversification and sustainability); and good governance (continuum between analysis, performance, policy program structure, and outcomes). Dr. Murray noted the existing One Community, One Goal Strategic Plan needed real-time analytics for monitoring and benchmarking. He stressed that MDC was at a crossroads on many different levels despite enjoying a recovering economy. He stated that they cited a number of different issues including: increasing income gap between top and bottom incomes; stagnant or declining wage growth; extreme susceptibility to economic cycles; low value, low productivity economy; failure to produce higher income and high skilled jobs; stagnant structure;

and slow gains in needed industries and occupations. He noted the bottom line was that the County's neediest communities were being left behind.

Dr. Murray stated that the objectives going forward would be to: broaden prosperity; increase rapid job gains in certain sectors; improve wages and incomes; tap regional Small Business Entrepreneurial energies; and develop specific, targeted, and customized Community Prosperity projects.

Dr. Murray pointed out that MDC's top six occupations comprised sixty-two percent of all employment in the County, and the top four occupations comprised fifty percent. He emphasized that the working poor made up fifty percent of MDC's employment base, making minimum wage or just over minimum wage. He stated that opportunities for growth existed in the businesses that developed these leading occupations.

Dr. Murray explained that there were cross connections between the economy, housing, and transportation. He said they compared MDC's Single-Family Home Affordability ratio, Renter Cost Burden, and Housing and Transportation costs with the other benchmark communities; this translated to increasing unaffordability due to higher expenses in housing and transportation. He noted despite these trends, some small businesses in MDC were forming occupations within the cultural industries at a faster rate than the other MSA-MD's.

Dr. Murray introduced Mr. Kevin Greiner, Research Fellow, Metropolitan Center, FIU.

Mr. Kevin Greiner stated that they were performing intensive analysis and translating this analysis into viable policy / action. He explained that they not only researched the top layer indicators, they also peeled back the layers to find out exactly what was happening in MDC. He further explained that they focused on structural changes that needed to occur to develop a more diverse and prosperous economy, and to ultimately reach the lower income levels.

Mr. Greiner stated that they defined a sustainable, prosperous economy as being stable, with long-term job and wage growth; low income inequality; high vertical mobility; access to higher income

employment; less dependent on population increases and in-migration; resistant to sharp economic cycles; high per capita regional Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP's); diverse, high value-added industry clusters in nationally growing sectors; high rates of innovative output; and high horizontal mobility.

Mr. Greiner explained that the Prosperity Strategy Process was comprised of four stages: analysis; community economic opportunity assessment; policy / strategies; and projects / programs. He noted the NW 7th Avenue Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and other CRA's and Targeted Urban Areas (TUA's) in the poorest neighborhoods had strong small business dynamics. He emphasized that these small businesses were successful and survived the economic cycles.

Mr. Greiner noted there were 18 prosperity indicators and 18 – 25 prosperity drivers that kept an economy sustainable and prosperous. He stated that Miami was not doing well overall although there were pockets of success. He noted Miami had the 4th highest income inequality rating in a list of the 50 largest U.S. cities. Mr. Greiner also noted Miami was one of the least vertically mobile economies in the U.S. On a positive note, he stated that Miami relied heavily on small business development and sustainability; and Miami rated consistently in the top three U.S. cities for new business creation (a key indicator for future growth). He stated that, unfortunately, Miami had a very low educational attainment across all of the age groups and incomes, and rated very low in the U.S. in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) employment; and STEM employment was driving new job creation across the rest of the U.S. Mr. Greiner noted Miami also rated low in horizontal job mobility (no creation of high income jobs) and the job churning (creation of new jobs for job-hopping) rate dropped dramatically.

Mr. Greiner emphasized that affordable and accessible housing was a critical economic development issue. He stated that both lower income workers and the youngest workers were unable to find housing due to flat wages and high housing costs. He noted according to WalletHub.com's 2015 Best and Worst Metro Areas for STEM Professional Employment, Miami was rated 100 out of 100, due to lack of STEM jobs and a high cost of living.

Mr. Greiner stated that for the Prosperity Initiative, they focused on specific geographies; creation of innovation districts (targeting small businesses in certain areas); mutual workshifting strategies i.e. job sharing, telecommuting, and employment centers (new employers did not want to come to Miami due to travel time and cost for workers); direct education support for STEM education and jobs; aggressive small business support (small businesses with less than 20 employees was the sole source of employment growth in Miami since 2008).

Mr. Greiner said they recommended that the County government create policy with a targeted effort and sufficient resources. He noted economic development and job creation was very competitive across the U.S. As a comparison, he stated that Texas was spending 51 percent of its entire State budget on economic development incentives while Florida was spending 19 percent; this was due to Texas' high technology and manufacturing industries versus Florida's agricultural industry. Mr. Greiner emphasized that a mind shift regarding the public sector's role was needed; spending / investing in small businesses would create a new competitive edge between regional economies. He encouraged the commissioners to keep up the great work with the Prosperity Initiative, and assured them that the Metropolitan Center would continue to be of assistance in creating policies to address the issues.

Chairman Monestime introduced Ms. Rebecca Vallas, Director of Policy, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., who presented by telephone.

2B

150957 **Special Presentation**

"COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS," ALAYNE UNTERBERGER, PHD, ASSOCIATE RESEARCH DIRECTOR, RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY (RISEP), CENTER FOR LABOR RESEARCH AND STUDIES, FIU, MIAMI, FLORIDA

Presented

Report: *Chairman Monestime introduced Dr. Alayne Unterberger, Associate Research Director, Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy (RISEP), Center for Labor Research and Studies (CLRS), Florida International University (FIU). He stated that she would share some of her findings on the use of Community Benefits Agreements linked to government-funded or government-assisted large scale projects.*

Dr. Alayne Unterberger introduced Dr. George Gonos, CLRS, FIU and Dr. Ned Murray, Metropolitan Center, FIU. She stated that there was much work to be done regarding income inequality and the quality of life for all Miami residents, regardless of zip code. She noted reporters always asked the question, "Why do you think there is a lack of affordable housing in Miami-Dade County?" Dr. Unterberger stated the real questions to ask were "What kind of Miami do we want and how do we get there?" She noted according to recent studies, the median household income in Miami was $43,100, which was below the state level of almost $47,000. She also noted the cost of living in Miami was higher than most of Florida, resulting in a higher inequality coefficient of .05. Dr. Unterberger stated that she and her colleagues had reviewed different Community Benefits Agreements and Economic Incentives Packages from around the country. She stated that many of these agreements were started with community groups discussing topics such as affordable housing and relocations; open spaces, parks, and recreation centers; transportation; parking; employment (permanent jobs, construction phase / temporary jobs, and first-source hiring). She emphasized that in these kinds of agreements, there was a need for a tracking mechanism to ensure compliance and progress, and to fine developers and business owners who were not in compliance. With regards to permanent and construction phase jobs, Dr. Unterberger stated that the agreement for Stable Center in Los Angeles, CA, described different levels of living wages at different times; high

quality / intensity job training was paid by developers and living wages or above with benefits were paid to keep people employed.

In response to Commissioner Levine Cava's request for clarification regarding the voluntary Community Benefits Agreements, Dr. Unterberger stated that these agreements were between the employers and the developers. She noted the two parties discussed additional topics such as long-term safety, trash pick-up, and security during construction projects within the community.

Dr. Unterberger stated that many of the Community Benefits Agreements were less than 20 pages compared to over 100 pages for Economic Incentive Agreements; these documents were easier to read and understand. She noted she and her colleagues were releasing a report later this month detailing their analysis.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's question regarding the Community Benefits Agreements, Dr. Unterberger explained that the agreements were all slightly different, and involved various players although they centered around one development. She noted the agreements did not mention public subsidies or economic incentives, which were separate agreements. She clarified that the Community Benefits Agreements were negotiated agreements between the community group and the developer at the time of development. Dr. Unterberger differentiated construction wages which varied with the position needed, i.e. master electrician; versus permanent fair living wages, i.e. retail center.

Commissioner Levine Cava noted she was honored to be on the Advisory Board of RISEP, which published an annual report on the State of Working Floridians to be released on Labor Day.

Chairman Monestime introduced Dr. Ned Murray, Associate Director, Metropolitan Center, FIU, who would share some of the indicators of income inequality that were being tracked in South Florida.

2C

150958 **Special Presentation**

"EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES," REBECCA VALLAS, DIRECTOR OF POLICY, POVERTY TO PROSPERITY PROGRAM, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Presented

Report: *Ms. Rebecca Vallas stated that the Center for American Progress (CAP) was a nonpartisan think-tank based in Washington, D.C. with the mission to advance progressive ideas and policies. She noted she was the Policy director of CAP's Poverty to Prosperity program, focused on developing strategies and policies to reduce poverty and income inequality at the federal, State, and local levels.*

Ms. Vallas stated that she would share information on two topics: 1) the ways in which having a criminal record created lifelong barriers to economic security and mobility, and 2) subsidized employment. She noted over 1.5 million Americans were incarcerated in State and federal prisons; this number had quintupled since 1980. She also noted when jails were added, the number rose to 2.2 million Americans. Ms. Vallas stated that the U.S. led the world in incarceration and arrests; and half of Black and Hispanic men had been arrested by age 23. She noted changes in sentencing laws and policies had driven the increase in mass incarceration, not crime rates. She stated that federal policies such as the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, and State and local policies such as Three-strike laws and harsh mandatory minimum sentences had also driven these trends.

Ms. Vallas emphasized that these trends had a profound effect on families, as more than half of adult inmates were parents of minor children. She stated that mass incarceration and over-criminalization were direct drivers of poverty and inequality in the U.S. She noted 70 – 100 million Americans or one in three Americans had some kind of criminal record; most convictions were for minor offenses, i.e. misdemeanors, and many people with criminal records had arrests that never led to conviction. Ms. Vallas noted last year's reprint report from the Center for American Progress, entitled "One Strike and You're Out", showed that having a minor or decades-old criminal record had an array of significant and lifelong barriers to employment, housing,

education and training, and the ability to build good credit. She noted the report cited that the poverty rate would have dropped in the U.S. by 20 percent from 1980 – 2004 if not for mass incarceration and the subsequent criminal records that haunted people for years after they had paid their debt to society.

Ms. Vallas stated that the Center for American Progress' report "One Strike and You're Out" also made a set of recommendations for the national, State, and local levels, highlighting that policymakers could ensure that Americans with criminal records have the opportunity to provide for their families and to join the middle class. She mentioned that the "Ban the Box" policy had been used in several localities in Florida, and that localities could consider Fair Chance Hiring ordinances which built on the success of "Ban the Box". She explained that the ordinance required that the checkbox be removed from the initial employment applications, and that employers were prohibited from unlawfully discriminating against job seekers with criminal records.

Ms. Vallas also mentioned the proposed Clean Slate policy, which would enable Americans with criminal records to acquire a clean slate after rehabilitation; they would be allowed to move on with their lives after paying their debt to society. She explained that this Clean Slate policy would provide an automatic sealing of minor criminal records after rehabilitation had been demonstrated through an individual remaining crime-free for ten years. She further explained that this policy encouraged State and localities to enact legislation to automatically seal low-level non-violent criminal convictions after the person remained crime-free for ten years. Ms. Vallas emphasized that this policy had bipartisan support at the national as well as local levels, and was supported by the Coalition for Public Safety, the National Right Left Coalition, and Americans for Tax Reform. She also mentioned that the proposal was actively being pursued by States with conservative legislatures and conservative governors. Ms. Vallas stated that at the local level, Miami could pass an ordinance to permit people to earn clean slates, thus reducing recidivism and removing barriers in employment, housing, education and training.

Ms. Vallas pointed out that people with criminal records were the most disadvantaged workers within the labor market; they were the last to be

hired and the first to be fired. She noted subsidized jobs offered people with criminal records a way to re-attach to the labor force. She explained that the subsidized employment model would allow employers to receive partial or full subsidies for creating new jobs for these workers. Ms. Vallas noted the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) emergency fund was the largest recent example of subsidized employment being used as a tool to help disadvantaged workers enter the labor market. She explained that this fund was included in the federal stimulus package in 2009; a federal funding stream for States to draw down to create subsidized jobs programs. She pointed out that 39 States participated in this program and created 250,000 subsidized jobs in the height of the recession in less than two years. Ms. Vallas stated that although this funding stream expired in September, 2010, localities could still access federal funding to create their own subsidized employment programs through the following two opportunities: 1) the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allowed up to ten percent of adult and dislocated worker funds to be used for subsidized jobs, and 2) States and counties, in partnership with welfare agencies, were allowed to use normal TANF funds to help struggling families with children by developing subsidized employment.

3 DISCUSSION

Report: *Chairman Monestime thanked each of the presenters for sharing his or her expertise. He requested that the County Attorney's Office review the provisions of Florida Statute 218.077, which described how political subdivisions in Florida such as Miami-Dade County could set wage and benefit policy that deferred from the federal and State law. A question and answer session ensued between Assistant County Attorney Eric Rodriguez, Chairman Monestime, and Commissioners Jordan and Levine Cava.*

Assistant County Attorney Eric Rodriguez stated that after Miami-Dade County's Living Wage Ordinance, adopted in 1999, gained prominence in Tallahassee, Florida, the State of Florida passed Florida Statute 218.077, which generally pre-empted or prohibited any political division from passing any kind of minimum wage law. He noted this statute allowed for certain exemptions, i.e. contracts with the local government, and direct tax subsidies or abatement from the local government. Assistant County Attorney Rodriguez stated that Miami-Dade County's Living Wage Ordinance was not preempted / prohibited as it pertained to contracts between the County and the vendor for service provided for the benefit of the local government or for service provided on behalf of same; for example, the County's contract with the janitorial company required the vendor to pay a living wage to its workers. He noted the State law impacted the competitive bidding process in construction contracts. He clarified that the living wage applied to non-construction jobs, i.e. janitorial, security, landscaping, and clerical work. Assistant County Attorney Rodriguez stated that the Community Benefits Agreement (a voluntary agreement between the County and the developer) was different from a contract for money (tax subsidy) or property (lease) that possessed living wage requirements. He reiterated that the County could require a living wage policy as a condition of a tax subsidy contract; however, the responsible wage policy as a condition of a construction contract was different.

Commissioner Levine Cava stated for the record that she drafted legislation pertaining to future Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA's), which sought to impose living wages through the

CRA process. She said she would forward this and other drafted legislation to the Council, if necessary.

A question and answer session ensued between Ms. Vallas, Chairman Monestime, and Commissioners Jordan and Levine Cava regarding the "Ban the Box" policy.

Ms. Vallas noted the "Ban the Box" policy had gained popularity around the U.S., with 70 municipalities and 14 States having adopted the policy. She explained that a State law or a local ordinance prohibited employers from placing a box and asking the question on the initial job application regarding an applicant's criminal record. She further explained that the employers were not precluded from asking this question later in the process when the employer decided the job seeker was a final candidate for the position. Ms. Vallas noted the employers were required to meet and get to know the job seekers' qualifications before deciding not to hire due to a negative background. She stated that the "Ban the Box" policy was a successful first step, yet more could be done to prevent hiring discrimination and remove barriers from employment. She noted the Fair Chance Hiring ordinances were broader than "Ban the Box" policies; these ordinances laid out the specific criteria that employers must use in considering criminal records as part of the hiring process, i.e. relevancy to the job, length of time from the last offense, and the nature and severity of the offense. Ms. Vallas also noted the Clean Slate policy was another helpful tool for employment, housing, education and training. She stated that she would provide follow up information to the Council regarding a Clean Slate policy for Miami-Dade County, if necessary.

Commissioner Levine Cava said she was supportive of the Fair Chance Hiring and Clean Slate concepts, and hoped that the Council would agree to a more in-depth research of these policies and subsidized employment.

Chairman Monestime mentioned the employment-related initiatives that he and staff were exploring. He stated that he drafted legislation to assist County employees to retire their student loan debt. He noted this proposal was similar to the federal policy that was used to recruit and retain public sector workers for Federal Civil Service; he said he believed that it would curb the brain drain issue discussed earlier. He stated that

all eligible County employees would receive an additional benefit of $50.00 per pay period. In addition, Chairman Monestime stated that staff was developing policies to provide a modest incentive to businesses to hire workers who had a problematic employment history due to socio-economic factors that often limited opportunities. He pointed out that this additional incentive would be for qualified firms under the County's targeted job incentive fund program. Due to the County's requirement for extensive background checks, Chairman Monestime stated that he and staff had considered introducing the "Ban the Box" legislation, and would work with the Council members to move this initiative forward. He noted he and staff were also working on strengthening the Living Wage policy for the County.

In response to Chairman Monestime's question regarding the business owners' point of view on the Living Wage policy, Mr. Greiner stated that small and large businesses / investors viewed this as a value-added policy. He emphasized that business owners, developers, and builders entering a CRA needed to know the specific expectations / conditions to receive the incentives. He also mentioned local purchasing agreements, which would encourage hoteliers, for example, to buy all of their products and services locally at reduced rates, thus benefiting the whole local business community. Mr. Greiner cited New York State as a good example of specifying requirements in grants and incentives.

In response to Chairman Monestime's question regarding both New York and Texas as prototypes to follow, Mr. Greiner stated that Texas, under Lyndon B. Johnson, decided to aggressively grow the state economy using science and technology; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) facilities, Texas Instruments, and other technologies emerged. He pointed out that Texas had ramped up its growth in the last 10 – 15 years with a very aggressive incentive program. He said he would not recommend Texas as a model to follow, as the State spent over half of its budget on economic development incentives, which included large cash giveaways. Mr. Greiner stated that New York State's economy had gone through some ups and downs over the last 40 years. He noted New York State had focused on partnerships with educational institutions, i.e. universities; for example, the redevelopment of Governors Island in Manhattan was a joint venture between a

number of developers and Cornell University. He also mentioned Buffalo, NY / Erie County's Buffalo Billion development, including a downtown health campus, key infrastructure, and educational incentives.

In response to Chair Monestime's question regarding the County's role in assisting with the continuation of Small Business Development (SBD), Mr. Greiner encouraged the County to be aggressive in a recovering economy with STEM employment and support for new small businesses. He mentioned several major issues including flat wages; rising housing costs; large capital gain investments in unproductive sectors; and SBD with a low survival rate. He cited that Miami was ranked number three in SBD per capita, behind San Francisco; minorities and immigrants built the most new small businesses.

In response to Chairman Monestime's question regarding the large investments made at the Miami International Airport (MIA) and at the Port of Miami / Seaport in preparation for a positive return on investment (ROI) in international trade, Mr. Greiner stated that these critically important investments made in infrastructure were necessary for increased international trade. He pointed out that international trade, especially with Brazil, kept the County's economy afloat in 2008. He stated that this major bright spot in the economy needed to trickle down to the small business sector in purchasing and competition. Mr. Greiner emphasized that small business incentives of $50,000 would go a long way to improve this sector.

Responding to Commissioner Jordan's question regarding the present educational system / programming tying into the County's economic growth, Mr. Greiner stated that they reviewed indicators, i.e. brain drain (young college educated minds, especially in technology were leaving the area); Florida International University (FIU) and the University of Miami produced engineering graduates yet retainage of these great young minds was lacking due to insufficient job opportunities. He noted the University of Florida (UF) had more incubators per capita in the U.S., and was in the top ten for commercializing technology that came from faculty members; the university had specific programs, such as the Innovation Program in which paid college freshmen with a major and a minor in innovation, were required to develop a product, formulate a

business plan, and present in front of venture capitalists. He noted a great number of business owners and technology developers were produced and stayed in the Gainesville area to work and live.

Commissioner Jordan emphasized that she was more interested in how the universities were fed with STEM students / STEM programming through the public schools. She pointed out that diversity should be encouraged and a blending of the educational components was needed in the schools across the County; students from various backgrounds had to be given the opportunity to attend, regardless which neighborhood they lived in, by facilitating their transportation.

Commissioner Jordan stated that she was previously asked to sponsor legislation for paid sick leave for service workers. She said she hoped that the Council would take this issue into consideration as well.

Commissioner Levine Cava noted she appreciated the insight gained from the presentations. She encouraged the Council to hold a separate session on economic development. She also encouraged the Council to hold a separate session on education and invite some of the educational leadership, i.e. Mr. Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and university presidents or representatives. She recommended inviting Mr. Bruce Katz, the Brookings Institution, as a future speaker on trade and technology.

Commissioner Levine Cava said she did not agree with the County's large investment in tourism, entertainment, and possible Destination Gambling, as she did not believe that these choices would help to bring about a positive change in the community. She stressed that the County needed to be deliberate in its economic development funding; instead of Destination Gambling, she recommended a Center for Innovation, a possible partnership and collaboration of the County's world-class educational institutions. She noted she believed that the educational innovation industry could be a game-changer for the community.

Commissioner Levine Cava said she agreed with Chairman Monestime's proposed legislation mentioned earlier, which she wished to co-sponsor. She stated that she drafted an ordinance, based on Chairman Monestime's request at last

month's meeting (3/23), regarding an impact statement on how the County's legislation impacted the gaps in income and asset building. She encouraged the commissioners to be deliberate in their decisions and votes in order to move the County forward in a positive direction. Commissioner Levine Cava noted the Metropolitan Center received grant approval from Citi Foundation for research on wealth building strategies; a meeting between Mr. Murray and Ms. Barbara Romani, Community Relations Director for Florida, Citi Foundation was forthcoming. She stated that she was hopeful for proposed legislation for a grant to explore the asset building gap.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report: *Chairman Monestime expressed his pride in the engagement of Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on these issues. He noted the BCC set new priorities last week for the allocation of funding for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) with a new emphasis on the need for anti-violence program intervention; the resolution recommended that four percent of the existing funds be dedicated to stop violence. He also noted the BCC discussed CRA financing methods being used to extend community rail service along some of the existing rail lines in Miami-Dade County. Chairman Monestime thanked the Administration for the implementing order for the Residents First Training Employment Program that would be presented by the Administration next month. He noted he and Commissioner Jordan sponsored this ordinance and it was encouraged by labor partners to promote local hiring. He stated that staff and the Social and Economic Development Council had coordinated a Healthcare and Prosperity Summit to be held on June 5, 2015. Chairman Monestime noted the Miami Coalition for the Homeless would hold a Housing Summit on May 6, 2015, which he and Commissioners Levine Cava and Jordan may attend.*

Chairman Monestime thanked Commissioner Levine Cava for facilitating the telephone conversation with Ms. Vallas at today's (4/27) meeting. He also thanked each of the speakers again for their presentations.

4A HEALTHCARE PROSPERITY SUMMIT

5 TOPIC FOR NEXT SESSION: HOUSING POLICIES

Report: *Chairman Monestime stated that housing policies would be discussed at the next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2015; he welcomed his colleagues to recommend possible speakers / presenters. He said he looked forward to the Council's discussion on how to facilitate homeownership opportunities, and better align their policies to include safe and affordable housing for the working people of Miami-Dade County.*

6 ADJOURNMENT

Report: *There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.*