



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 7(C)

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

DATE: July 19, 2011

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Ordinance appointing Board
of Commissioners of the NW
79th Street Corridor
Community Redevelopment
Agency and designating
their respective terms of
office; delegating certain
redevelopment powers to
such agency

Ordinance No. 11-55

This item differs from the original ordinance in that the substitute ordinance names and appoints five candidates to serve as commissioners of the CRA, includes their resumes and also designates two of the five commissioners to serve as chair and vice-chair of the CRA.

The accompanying ordinance was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jean Monestime.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney


RAC/cp

Memorandum



Date: July 19, 2011

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

From: Alina T. Hudak
County Manager 

Subject: Ordinance appointing Board of Commissioners for the NW 79th Street Corridor
Community Redevelopment Agency

This ordinance is part of a series of legislative items that, if approved, would result in the creation of the NW 79th Street Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The purpose of creating the CRA is to encourage redevelopment in the NW 79th Street Community Redevelopment Area (Area) in accordance with the NW 79th Street Redevelopment Plan (Plan). This item would have a countywide impact. Upon establishing a CRA and a trust fund (Fund), ad valorem revenues from the countywide and Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) general fund would be used to encourage redevelopment in the Area in accordance with the Plan. The ad valorem revenues transferred into the Fund must be used to implement the Plan within the redevelopment Area; these funds could otherwise be used for countywide and UMSA services. The area lies within Commission District 2.

The CRA's primary revenue source will be generated through the incremental growth of ad valorem revenues beyond an established base year, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), as defined in Section 163.387 of the Florida Statutes. Based on conservative estimates and a contribution of 95 percent of the increment, it is projected that the first 10 years of TIF revenues would total \$4.6 million (\$3.2 million countywide and \$1.4 million UMSA), and over 30 years \$90.8 million (\$62.8 million countywide and \$28 million UMSA) based on an average annual growth rate in taxable values of 5 percent. It is important to note that the projections in tax roll growth do not include any new projects in the Area. The duration of the County's obligation to contribute TIF revenues is set at an initial 10 years and can be extended by the BCC.

Trust Fund Projected Revenue

| | Revenue Contribution at 95% | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| | County | UMSA | Total |
| 10 Years | 3,214,692 | 1,434,046 | 4,648,738 |
| 30 Years | 62,761,454 | 28,022,319 | 90,783,774 |

Background


On January 7, 2005, the BCC adopted Resolution R-128-05, directing the County Manager to prepare a Finding of Necessity (FON) to determine whether the Area is in need of redevelopment and meets State of Florida (State) requirements to create a CRA. In September 2005, Miami-Dade County contracted with Keith and Schnars, P.A. to complete the FON, and a draft study was submitted in March 2006 for an area that was bounded by NW 87th Street to the north, NW 21st Avenue to the east, NW 71st Street to the south and NW 37th Avenue to the west. During a review of the study by the Tax Increment Financing and Coordinating Committee (TIFC) on December 17, 2007, the Area's boundaries were substantially altered, requiring the FON to be revised. A revised FON was submitted in July 2008. On May 5, 2009, the BCC adopted R-566-09, to accept the FON study, demonstrating the existence of slum and blight and substantiating that the Area meets the State's requirements to create a CRA.

Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
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In September 2009, Miami-Dade County contracted with PMG Associates to prepare a Plan for the Area. The Plan was completed and submitted to the County in March 2010. After review by County staff and TIFC, the Plan was further reviewed by the Planning Advisory Board on September 20, 2010 and found to be consistent with the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP). The Plan is an accompanying item on this agenda.

The creation of the CRA board is necessary step to create a CRA. A CRA board is an independent body from the city or county government in which the CRA resides. Most municipal CRAs in the County are governed by the same governing body as the municipality. CRAs in UMSA area are governed by citizen boards appointed by the BCC (NW 7th Avenue and Naranja Lakes), with the exception of the West Perrine CRA, for which the BCC serves as the CRA board.

To date, the County has incurred reimbursable expenses in the amount of \$88,950 for the cost of the Plan and FON.



Jennifer Glazer-Moon, Special Assistant/Director
Office of Strategic Business Management



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: July 19, 2011

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 7(C)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- Budget required**
- Statement of fiscal impact required**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**
- No committee review**
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve**
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 7(C)
7-19-11

ORDINANCE NO. 11-55

ORDINANCE APPOINTING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE NW 79TH STREET CORRIDOR COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND DESIGNATING THEIR
RESPECTIVE TERMS OF OFFICE; DELEGATING CERTAIN
REDEVELOPMENT POWERS TO SUCH AGENCY;
PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE,
AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature enacted the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969 during its 1969 Legislative Session, which enactment is presently codified in the Florida Statutes as Part III of Chapter 163, Sections 163.330 through 163.450, as amended from time to time (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, all powers arising through the Act are conferred by the Act upon counties with Home Rule Charters, which counties in turn are authorized to delegate certain of such powers to a community redevelopment agency created pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "Board") adopted Resolution No. R-566-09 which resolution declared a certain geographic area of unincorporated Miami-Dade County known as NW 79 Street Corridor that is generally bounded on the North by NW 87th Street, on the East by NW 7th Avenue, on the west by NW 37th Avenue and on the South by NW 62nd Street (the "NW 79th Street Corridor Community Redevelopment Area"), to be a slum or blighted area, declared the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment, or combination thereof, to be necessary in the interest of public health, safety, morals or welfare of the residents of the County and found the need for the creation of a community redevelopment agency; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to create a public body corporate and politic to be known as the NW 79th Street Corridor Community Redevelopment Agency and to appoint the Board of Commissioners of such agency and to delegate certain community redevelopment powers to the Agency,

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

Section 1. Community Redevelopment Agency created.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 163.356, Florida Statutes, this Board created a public body corporate and politic to be known as the NW 79th Street Corridor Community Redevelopment Agency (the "Agency"). The Agency shall be constituted as a public instrumentality and the exercise by the Agency of the powers conferred by the Act and delegated by the Board shall be deemed and held to be the performance of an essential public function.

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of the Agency is to carry out the community redevelopment purposes of the Act.

Section 3. Membership.

(a) The board of commissioners of the Agency shall consist of not fewer than five or more than nine commissioners. The terms of office of the commissioners shall be for four (4) years, except that three of the members first appointed shall be designated to serve terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years, respectively, from the date of their appointments, and all other members shall be designated to serve for terms of four (4) years from the date of their appointments. A vacancy occurring during a term shall be filled for the un-expired term. Any person may be appointed as commissioner if he or she resides or is engaged in business, which

means owning a business, practicing a profession, or performing a service for compensation, or serving as an officer or director of a corporation or other business entity so engaged, within the area of operation of the agency, which shall be coterminous with the area of operation of the County, and is otherwise eligible for such appointment under the Act. Each commissioner shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed and has qualified. A certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any commissioner shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board, and such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of such commissioner.

(b) A commissioner shall receive no compensation for services, but is entitled to the necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the discharge of duties.

(c) The Board may remove a commissioner for inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office only after a hearing and only if he or she has been given a copy of the charges at least ten (10) days prior to such hearing and has had an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel.

Section 4. Procedure.

(a) Chair. The Board shall designate a chair and vice-chair from among the commissioners.

(b) Meetings. The powers of the Agency shall be exercised by the commissioners thereof. A majority of the commissioners constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and exercising the powers of the agency and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the Agency upon a vote of a majority of the commissioners present, unless in any case the bylaws require a larger number.

Section 5. Public officials, commissioners and employees subject to code of ethics.

(a) The officers, commissioners and employees of the Agency shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

(b) If any official, commissioner or employee presently owns or controls, or owned or controlled within the preceding two (2) years, any interest, direct or indirect, in any property which he or she knows is included or planned to be included in the NW 79th Street Corridor Community Redevelopment Area, he or she shall immediately disclose this fact in the manner provided in Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes. Any disclosure required to be made by this section shall be made prior to taking any official action.

(c) No commissioner or other officer of the Agency exercising powers pursuant to the Act shall hold any other public office under the County other than his or her commissionership or office with respect to such Agency.

Section 6. Powers.

(a) The Board hereby delegates the following community redevelopment powers to the Agency in accordance with the Act:

(i) Initiate, prepare and adopt a plan of redevelopment and any amendments thereto, which plan and amendments shall be subject to subsequent review and approval by the Board; and

(ii) All powers not specifically delegated to the Agency are reserved exclusively by the Board.

(b) The Agency cannot commit itself or the County to any expenditure of funds without the specific approval of the Board.

Section 7. Staff.

The County Manager and the Office of the County Attorney shall provide to the Agency adequate staff and support services to enable it to carry out its purposes.

Section 8. Appointments.

~~[[Appointments of the initial and all subsequent chairs, vice chairs and members of the Agency shall be made by resolution of the Board.]]¹~~

>> (a) The Board hereby appoints the following persons, whose resumes are attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A, to the position of commissioners of the Agency and designates their initial terms to be as follows:

- (i) Amy Lee - one (1) year
- (ii) Oliver Gross - two (2) years
- (iii) Ron Butler - three (3) years
- (iv) Yolly Roberson (4) years
- (v) Dorothea Nicholson - four (4) years

(b) The Board hereby designates Dorothea Nicholson as Chair and Yolly Roberson as Vice Chair of the Agency.

(c) All future appointments of chairs, vice-chairs and members of the Agency shall be made by resolution of the Board.<<

Section 9. The Agency shall file with the Board and with the Auditor General, on or before March 31 of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year and outlining

¹ The differences between the substitute and the original item are indicated as follows: words double stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted, words double underlined and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed.

its contemplated activities for the ensuing year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of such fiscal year. At the time of filing the report, the Agency shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the County a notice to the effect that such report has been filed with the County and that the report is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the Clerk of the Board and in the office of the Agency.

Section 10. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 11. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to Accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 12. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: July 19, 2011

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency:



Prepared by:



Terrence A. Smith

Prime Sponsor: Commissioner Jean Monestime

Amy Lee

305-492-2552
alee444@gmail.com
Miami, FL

Experience

2011-Current *DemeRx, Inc.* Miami, FL
Office Manager

- Coordinate intra company communications and provide related program management services.
- Prepare and provide company financial reports, budgets, and forecasts and review and process accounts payable.
- Generate grant proposals and coordinate activities associated with research and development funding opportunities.

2006-2009 *Greenberg Traurig P.A.* Miami, FL
Administrative Coordinator

- Served as an executive assistant for a National Manager. Managed multiple calendars, extensive travel and organized high level meetings.
- Coordinated the paralegal and litigation support departments nationally. Supervised the Miami Litigation paralegals. Including but not limited to professional development, delegation of work and personnel matters.
- Reviewed and drafted request for proposal vendor contracts.

2004-2006 *Kinsolving Investigations* Charlotte, NC
Office Manager-Licensed Private Investigator

- Managed all office functions including accounting and computer databases.
- Conducted in-depth research through internet and court record searches.
- Developed and executed a marketing and social networking plan.
- Worked within the legal guidelines of each state.

2002-2004 *Alltel Communications* Charlotte, NC
Business Account Representative

- Drafted proposals for sales representatives to establish new accounts.
- Provided support for large and small business customers, sales functions.

Education

1991-1995 *Appalachian State University* Boone, NC

- Bachelors of Science in Communications concentration in Public Relations. And a minor in General Business.

2006 *University of Miami* Miami, FL

- Paralegal Certificate

Skills in Brief

Highly organized and motivated. Team player with a positive attitude! Skilled researcher and detail oriented. Proficient in all Windows applications including but not limited to Power Point, Excel, Word, Outlook, SharePoint and Access. Trained on various litigation support systems. Exceptional written and oral communication skills. Seasoned in developing rapport at all levels. Excellent in prioritizing and time management. Notary Public.

OLIVER L. GROSS

(305) 696-4450 Telephone

(305) 696-4455 Facsimile

Oliver L. Gross has more than 20 years of experience as a real estate developer, public administrator and commercial banker.

He currently serves as President of New Urban Development, LLC a wholly owned subsidiary of the Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. Mr. Gross, thru New Urban has primary responsibility for the acquisition, development, construction oversight, financing and property management of the myriad of commercial and residential housing developments owned and/or managed by the Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. and its subsidiary entities (the "League").

During his tenure with the League, its real estate portfolio has increased in dollar size by \$30,000,000.

As a commercial banker, Mr. Gross managed monthly commercial loan portfolios in excess of \$20,000,000. Similarly; he honed skills acquired in the private sector as a technical assistance advocate for small and minority business development.

Mr. Gross currently is the chair of the 79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative, Inc. along with being the vice-chair and a member of the executive committee of the South Florida Community Development Coalition. Mr. Gross is also a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) SE Florida/Caribbean District Council's Executive Committee. He also serves on the ULI'S Terwilliger Center Steering Committee. Mr. Gross is the former Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Urban Revitalization Task Force and served as Chairman of the Dade County, Florida School District's Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Committee.

Mr. Gross has earned certifications as a Real Estate Development Professional and a U.S. HUD Certified Occupancy Specialist.

Additionally, Mr. Gross is a 2003 recipient of the prestigious Louis Stokes Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and was awarded the Master of Science in Social Administration in May 2006.

Ron Butler

Over 25 years of experience as a community development professional. Work experience includes organizational development, economic development and community planning. Project deliverables have included: program evaluations; survey instruments; strategic plans for community development; economic development plans for distressed inner city neighborhoods; completion of housing and economic development projects; training and technical sessions for nonprofit organizations; resource development plans and a master plan for redevelopment of a commercial corridor.

Summary of Work Experience

2010 – Present— Executive Director of the HBCU CDAC, Miami, Florida

Developing and leading a national coalition of HBCUs working in community development whose mission is to advocate for resources, provide technical assistance and support opportunities for redeveloping areas around HBCU campuses.

2007-Present—Executive Director, 79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative, Miami, Florida

Leading a comprehensive revitalization of a commercial corridor in the heart of Liberty City, Miami. Providing management services, business development and fund raising support for the Initiative.

2001 – Present Principal, The NYMIA Group, Miami, Florida

Provides technical assistance and training to community initiatives in the areas of housing, community development, human services, economic development and small business development. Has worked as a consultant /subject matter expert and trainer with colleges and universities since 2002. And has worked on international community development projects.

1996-2001 Senior Program Officer, Seedco, New York, NY

Directed a national initiative in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that supports partnerships between institutions of higher education and public and private organizations to revitalize economically distressed communities.

1993 -1996 Director, Washington Community Development Collaborative, Washington, DC

Under the D.C. LISC office, managed the start-up of a multi-million dollar, 30-member consortium of private sector funders comprised of local and national banks, foundations, and corporations, which provided multi-year operating grants, technical assistance and training to nonprofit community development organizations.

1988-1993 Community Relations Manager, City of Decatur, Illinois

Initiated and managed a multi-faceted economic development organization for a city/ county government in Illinois; directed the local Human Relations Commission

1980-1988 Supervisor, VISTA Project, Decatur, Illinois

Managed the local VISTA project, which offered community-based literacy activities, drug education and prevention programs, consumer credit counseling services, domestic violence prevention and advocacy services, and youth recreational programs; served as a VISTA Volunteer coordinating cultural arts and recreational programs for inner city youth, and created a community development corporation (CDC) to provide affordable housing for low income families.

Training and Certifications

- Real Estate Finance Professional, National Development Council
- Various Training Certificates in Community Development

Education and Professional Affiliations

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, University of Delaware

Masters in Public Policy and Administration, University of Illinois

RON BUTLER

Ron focuses on small and large community change initiatives. Most of his work has focused on building the capacity of and targeting investments in challenged organizations and communities. Ron believes in working at all levels of the community change process, and has led small projects in specific neighborhoods as well as national and international initiatives that transform entire regions.

Ron started his career as a VISTA Volunteer operating recreational programs in a small low income housing complex. This program grew into a multifaceted community services effort that offered community-based literacy activities, drug education and prevention programs, consumer credit counseling services, domestic violence prevention and advocacy services, as well as youth recreational programs.

Ron strongly believes in community change that is respectful of individual human rights and has led a local human relations commission and has served as president of a state human relations association.

Ron's work also includes coordinating investment in NGOs based in Africa and Brazil that are creating opportunities for decent housing and more income through economic development projects in villages and favelas. He also coordinated trips to Africa to encourage more business investment in targeted areas.

Ron also works across the U.S. with businesses, non profit organizations, academic institutions, funders and individuals to create opportunities for change in underserved and economically distressed areas. He has directed two major capacity building efforts including a national university-community partnership effort designed to transform areas around college campuses, and a multi-million dollar consortium in Washington, DC of private sector funders comprised of local and national banks, foundations, and corporations, which provided multi-year operating grants, technical assistance and training to nonprofit community development organizations.

In addition, Ron's community change experience includes starting and managing multi-faceted economic development organizations. He has coordinated and written broad economic development studies, and has developed comprehensive strategies for addressing local and regional economic development challenges. For example, immediately following the hurricane Katrina disaster in New Orleans, Ron prepared an analysis of challenges and opportunities that faced small businesses and nonprofit organizations in Katrina's aftermath as part of Rutgers University's work for the Ford Foundation.

With an M.A., Public Administration and Policy Analysis, with years of training in community economic development, and a career that spans two decades, Ron has developed expertise in areas such as Service Gap Analysis, Partnership Development, Program Development, Small Business Development, SWOT Analysis, Workforce Development, Micro enterprise Development, Fund Raising, Organizational Development, Real Estate Development and Strategic Planning.

YOLLY ROBERSON

Attorney at Law

850 Ives Dairy Rd. T57 #306, N.M.B., FL. 33179

yollyroberson6424@att.net

Telephone 305-308-3255

CURRICULUM VITAE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Place of Birth: Mirebalais, Haiti

Fluent in Creole & French

EDUCATION

Roxbury Community College, Roxbury, Mass., 1976

Northeastern University, Boston, Mass. - Medical Laboratory Technician, 1979

University of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass. - Bachelor Degree in Nursing, 1983

New England School of Law, Boston, Mass., Juris Doctor, 1988

Harvard Law School, Harvard Mass. - Trial Practice, 1989

Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Harvard, Mass.-

Senior Executive Leadership Program, 2008

ADMISSION TO STATE BARS & OTHER STATE BOARDS

Admitted to the Florida Bar February 1991

Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar December 1988

Admitted to the Massachusetts Board of Nursing 1983

Admitted to the Florida Board of Nursing 1984

Certified Laboratory Assistant 1980

PROFESSIONAL

Legal: Solo Practitioner, Roberson & Associates, N. Miami, Fl., 2001-present
General Civil Defense with emphasis on Real Estate, Contract, Juvenile Dependency and Family Law transactions & litigation.

Partner, Brutus & Roberson, North Miami, Fl., 2000-2001

General Criminal & Civil Defense limited to Real Estate, Immigration, Contract, Juvenile Dependency, Family Law and Criminal litigation. Also served as a Special Public Defender in the Dependency Division, Broward County, and Fl.

Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Children's Legal Services, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1997-1999

Represented the Department of Children and Families in Dependency and Termination of Parental Rights proceedings.

Partner, Brutus & Roberson, Miami, Florida 1992-1997

Criminal, Real Estate, Immigration, Contract and Family Law transactions & litigation

Staff Attorney, Haitian Refugee Center, Miami, Florida, 1992
Represented Haitian Refugees at all phases of Immigration proceedings, including deportation based on criminal convictions and political asylum.

Trial Attorney, Committee for Public Counsel Services, Roxbury Public Defenders, Boston, Massachusetts: 1989-1992
Limited to general criminal defense of indigent individuals.

Legal Intern, Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston, Mass., 1987-1988

Nursing: Staff Registered Nurse- Baptist Hospital-1992-1993
Provided nursing care to critically ill patients (part time)

Community/Mental Health Nurse, Boston Night Center, Boston, Massachusetts, 1988-89
Provided nursing care to medically and mentally ill patients.

Nursing Supervisor, Walter Fernald State School, Waltham, Mass. 1986-1988
Provided nursing care to mentally and developmentally challenged individuals and staff supervision.

Critical Care Nurse, Boston City Hospital, Boston Mass. 1983-86
Nursing care to critically ill patients.

Medical laboratory Technician, Carney Hospital, Dorchester, Mass., 1979-1983
Performed clinical diagnostic laboratory tests

PUBLIC SERVICE

Florida State Representative-, Florida House of Representatives, 2002- 2010
Democratic Whip from 2004-2006

COMMITTEES

Served on the following legislative committees and councils:

Health Care
Health Services Committee
Health Care Regulation Policy
Health Innovation
Healthy Families, Ranking Member
Healthcare Council
Human Services Appropriations
Health Care Appropriations
Judiciary
Criminal & Civil Justice Policy
Safety & Security Council, Ranking Member
Rules & Calendar

Ethics & Elections
Committee on Public Security
Local Government
Joint Administrative Procedures
Policy
Policy & Budget
Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care
Economic Development Policy
Government Accountability Act
Transportation
Utilities & Telecommunications

Appointed by the Speaker and the Governor, respectively, to serve on the following select committees:

House Select Committee on Department of Juvenile Detention Facilities
Select Committee on Condominium & Homeowners Association Governance
Select Committee on Seminole Indian Compact Review
House Select Committee on Affordable Health Care for Floridians
National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices Policy Academy on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I worked diligently during my tenure in the Florida House of Representatives to increase access to quality affordable health care and quality affordable public education from K-20 for all Floridians.

As a member of the Democratic Minority Caucus, I successfully worked with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to fight against the privatization of Florida's Medicaid program, to reduce the cost of health care, to expand Kid Care and, improve the quality of long term care for Florida's seniors.

I fought to improve the economic future of Florida by working with my colleagues to ensure that Florida's teachers have the resources necessary to provide a first class education to Florida's children, to expand access to postsecondary education by making college, in general, more affordable. I strongly advocated to protect the integrity of the Bright Future Scholarship and for full funding of the Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Program.

I introduced and passed legislation aimed at improving the lives of foster care children, protecting the rights of victims of sexual violence, protecting the privacy rights of accident victims, safely expanding the scope of nursing practice, enhancing the state's regulation of licensed psychologists and, banning the sale of harmful drugs such as ephedra containing substances to minors, respectively.

I was successful in passing a measure which requires the Department of Children and Family Services or community-based care providers to file papers with federal authorities to adjust the residency status of foster care children who are in the United State illegally and also authorizes the court to continue jurisdiction of a child whose residency status is being considered by federal authorities.

I also passed other measures which effectively expand access to health care for people afflicted with mental illness who are incarcerated for a period less than a year and, which create a dedicated funding source for the Florida Center for Nursing, respectively.

Among my accomplishments in the Florida Legislature, I also count the successful passage through both, the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, of legislation which directed the Department of Transportation (FDOT) to install guardrails or other barriers between highway & adjacent canal or waterway, in order to reduce the number of traffic fatalities on the State Highway System involving vehicles submerged in water. Unfortunately the Governor vetoed that bill.

PAST AND CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Member, Gwen S. Cherry Bar
Member, Cuban American Bar
Member, Miami-Dade County FAWL
Member, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers
Member, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing
Member, Association of Trial Lawyers of America
Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association
Member, Dynamic Women Democratic Club
Member, Florida Nursing Association
Member, American Association of Nurse/Attorneys
Member, Haitian American Nurses Association of Florida
Founding member Massachusetts Haitian Nurses Association
Member, Wilkie D. Fergusson, Jr. Bar Association
Founding Member, Past President and member of the Haitian/American Lawyers Association
Member, Florida Association of Women Lawyers Association
Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association
Founding Member of the Massachusetts Haitian/American Nursing Association
Member, Haitian American Nursing Association
Member, Florida Nursing Association
Member, Board of the Light House for the Blind
Member, Board of Parkway Hospital
Member, Board of Cedar Hospital
Florida International University Nursing Advisory Board

AWARDS

The Florida Nursing Association Legislator of the Year Award
The African/American Achievers Award
Miami Shores Business & Professional Women Club- Outstanding-
in Community Service Award
The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State Award for Excellence-
Nurse Practitioner Advocate Award
The Haitian American Nursing Association (H.A.N.A.) Award
The Florida League of Nursing Outstanding Service Award
The Haitian/American Women of Courage Award May
Miami Job Corps Center “Giving Back” Award
Fulford Elementary School Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding –
Leadership
The Spirit of Excellence Award
The Caribbean Cultural Coalition Certificate of Achievement For Exhibiting-
Commitment, Untiring Effort and Leadership toward The Betterment of –
Our Community
Miami Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Outstanding-
Service Award
Linda Lentin K-8 Center Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to the-
Haitian Community as a Role Model for Future Leaders May 2010
The Black Health System Pharmacists Legislative Achievement Award
The Crime Watch Outstanding Community Service Award
The Women’s Committee of One Hundred Trail Blazer Award
The Minority Business Development Center Emerging Leadership Award
The Miami-Dade County In the Company of Women Award- 2010

SPEECHES OR LECTURES

Guest Speaker, 2009 Florida Nursing Association’s Annual –
Convention
Keynote Speaker, 2005 American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
Guest Panelist, Miami-Dade FAWL’s Domestic Violence Awareness
Keynote Speaker, 2002 Haitian/American Nursing Association’s Gala
Keynote Speaker, 2004 & 2006 Keiser College Nursing Graduation
Guest Speaker, Haitian American Leadership Organization (HALO)
Keynote Speaker, 2006 Life Alliance Relay for Life
Keynote Speaker, 2006 Miami Job Corps Graduation Ceremony
Guest Speaker, 2009 Annual Dynamic Women’s Democratic Club of –
Miami-Dade County Annual Reception
Keynote Speaker, 2009 Annual Convention of the Historical Black –
Colleges & Universities, Honor Society.
Guest Speaker, 2010 Annual Reunion of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
Guest Panelist, Florida Association for Women Lawyers and Gwen S.

Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association Forum
Guest Speaker, 2010 American Institute Career Day
Guest Speaker, Miami Garden Commission for Women
Keynote Speaker, Miami-Dade Police Department Northside District and-
Citizen's Crime Watch Annual Dinner, October 2010
Keynote Speaker, 2007 Comto's National Meeting and Training –
Conference - 8th Annual Garrett A. Morgan Scholarship Luncheon
Guest Speaker, 2010 NBCS-6 Black History Month Event
Guest Panelist, 2009 SEIU- Local 1999 Federal Health Care Reform-
Forum
Guest Panelist, 2008 Nursing Consortium Forum
Frequent Guest Speaker at various local elementary and high schools

HOBBIES

Swimming, reading, tennis and travelling

Doretha Graham Nicholson

Excel Enterprises ~ *marketing and management consultants*

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bachelors Hampton University (Accounting)

Masters New York University (Business Education)

Additional Post Graduate Studies:

Barry University (Computer Science Education Certificate)

University of Miami (Educational Leadership)

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner/Operator, Excel Elder Care, Assisted Living Facilities

Educational Administration, Miami –Dade Community College

Owner/Manager, Nicholson Insurance Agency

Consultant services to small business and community-based organizations

COMMUNITY and VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Community Organizer and Advocate in North Central Miami-Dade

79th Street Corridor Initiative, Board of Directors

Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Chair, Board of Directors

Unity Light of the World, Lay leadership functions over past 28 years

VITAS client support services

Peace Corps, Nigeria

Employment, Client, and Personal references available upon request.

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