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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: September 4, 2013

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Recommendation of Tourist Development Council Board Appointments

Resolution No. R-719-13

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopt the attached resolution approving the appointments of the following two (2) nominees to the Tourist Development Council: Hemant Patel and Danielle Torres.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, 1978, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 78-28 pursuant to State Statute No. 125.0104, establishing the Tourist Development Council (TDC). The Ordinance and Statute specify that the TDC is a nine (9) member volunteer board that includes: a County Commissioner, who is appointed by the chair of the governing Board of the County; two (2) elected municipal officials, at least one of whom must be from the most populous municipality in the County; three (3) owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tourist development tax; and three (3) persons involved in the tourist industry and have verifiably demonstrated interest in the tourist development of Miami-Dade County but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and are subject to the tourist development tax.

Further, all members of the TDC must be electors of the County and shall serve staggered terms of four years as determined in the appointing resolution. As a result of two (2) vacancies on the TDC Board, a public nominations process was implemented to fill these positions. These positions require two (2) owners or operators of motels, hotels or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tourist development tax.

In response to the advertisement for nominations, credentials of eligible candidates for the TDC were submitted and reviewed by the Tourist Development Council Nominating Committee. Present at the meeting were: Stuart Blumberg, Vice-Chairperson, Tourist Development Council; Carole Ann Taylor, Chairperson, Visitor Industry Council; and William Talbert, President & CEO, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. Based on a thorough review of qualifications, the Tourist Development Council Nominating Committee unanimously voted to recommend these candidates to fill these vacancies on the TDC Board: Hemant Patel and Danielle Torres. On July 9, 2013, the Tourist Development Council met and voted unanimously to recommend these candidates to the Board of County Commissioners.

Attached are the biographies summarizing the extensive experience of these nominees in the tourism industry and a chart specifically identifying their professional or civic affiliations and their designated terms.

Lisa M. Martinez
Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 4, 2013

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

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 Mayor'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. 14(A)(1)
9-4-13

RESOLUTION NO. R-719-13

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF HEMANT PATEL AND DANIELLE TORRES TO THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1978, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 78-28, establishing the Tourist Development Council; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance directs that each member shall be appointed by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance and section 125.0104 of the Florida Statutes specify that the Tourist Development Council shall be composed of 9 members, including a County Commissioner, who is appointed by the chair of the governing Board of the County, two (2) elected municipal officials, three (3) owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the county and subject to the tourist development tax and three (3) persons involved in the tourist industry but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels or other tourist accommodations in the County subject to the tourist development tax; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance specifies that all members of the Council must be electors of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance specifies that Council members shall serve staggered terms of four years as determined in the appointing resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Tourist Development Council board recommends that Hemant Patel and Danielle Torres be appointed to the Council,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Board approves the appointment of the following two members of the Tourist Development Council:

1) Hemant Patel, Owner/Operator of Hotel or other Tourist Accommodations, term present to 3/16; and

2) Danielle Torres, Owner/Operator of Hotel or other Tourist Accommodations, term present to 3/16.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman	**aye**		
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair	**aye**		
Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**absent**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**absent**
Sally A. Heyman	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Jean Monestime	**absent**	Dennis C. Moss	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**absent**	Xavier L. Suarez	**absent**
Juan C. Zapata	**aye**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of September, 2013. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. DF.

Daniel Frastai

Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council

MEMBERS	AFFILIATION	TITLE	Term
Chairperson			
Honorable Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Miami-Dade County Commissioner	Commissioner	01/11 – 01/14
Elected Municipal Officials			
Honorable Matti Herrera Bower	City of Miami Beach	Mayor	03/12 – 03/16
Honorable Michelle Spence-Jones	City of Miami	Commissioner	03/12 – 03/16
Owners/Operators of Hotels or other Tourist Accommodations			
Hemant Patel*	King Motel, Midtown Inn	General Manager	Present – 03/16
T. Gene Prescott	Biltmore Coral Gables	President	03/10 – 03/14
Danielle Torres*	Marriott Courtyard Hampton Inn - Homestead	Director of Sales	Present – 03/16
Involved in Tourist Industry			
Stuart Blumberg	Tourism Consultant	Consultant	03/10 – 03/14
William Perry	World Wide Concessions	Partner/Owner	03/10 – 03/14
Olga Ramudo	Express Travel of Miami, Inc.	President/CEO	03/12 – 03/16

Hemant "Henry" Patel

Email: aahoachairman@gmail.com

7150 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL 33138 (305) 757-2674 ~ Fax: (305) 756-7908 Mobile: (305) 992-9099

Education:

2012 CHO, (Certified Hotel Operator Certification & Training)
1986 Bhavans Hazarimal Somani College of Commerce. Bombay, INDIA

Business with Economics. Career polytechnic (Banking).

1983 Bharda New High School. Bombay, INDIA
1981 Vidya Kung English Medium School, Navsari, INDIA

Professional Qualifications:
1984 Special Training in Textile Technology Surat, INDIA
1989 Applications of Micro Computers Miami Dade Community College, Miami, FL

Areas of Acquired Knowledge and Professional Work Experience:

1981 - 1986 Import Export Management for Moon Diamonds Ltd. Bombay, INDIA
Chemical Processing for diamonds quality control.

1985 - 1987 Chiffon Crimpers, Ltd. Surat, INDIA
Managed and Operated Textile Business. Specializing in doing business with major garment manufacturers of India.

1988 - 1988 One Hour Martinizing - Atlanta GA
Performed various duties, including customer service, Managing cash flow, day-to-day operation for dry cleaning plant. Improved business by doing major advertising and marketing campaign. Acquired and handled Delta Airlines account.

1988 - 1989 DeKalb County Farmer Market. Atlanta GA
Cashiers, Supervisor. Handling of considerable amount of money in day-to-day operations.

1989 - Present King Motel, Miami, FL
Owner/Operator of independent motel in major metro Miami area. Conducted daily business activity of hospitality management in Metro Miami area. Achieved the name recognizations for running the "Best Running Businesses" by The Miami Herald, and operators at City and State Level. Also nominated as Best Independent Hotelier of year Award for 1994 by the USA hotel Owners' Conventions.

1996 - Present Midtown Inn (Former Super 8 Motel) Miami, FL
Acquired independent Motel in Miami, Completed renovations work in excess of half a million dollar. Supervised and managed Constructions and renovations project. Opened as a First Super 8 Franchise motel in greater Miami area. Heavily involved in daily business operations, including marketing, guest service, and maintenance. Achieved the revenue goal in first four months of operations.

2006 – Present Motel 6 – Downtown, Atlanta GA
Acquired in partnership in major convention and tourism district of Georgia World Congress Center a 75-unit hotel.

Regional Director for Florida region on Asian American Hotel Owners Association. (AAHOA) – The largest hotel owners association with 11,000 members, representing 22,000 properties with $128 Billion dollars worth of real estate assets and employing more than one million minimum wage employees around the country.

President of the "Greater Biscayne Boulevard Chamber of Commerce in Greater Miami, FLORIDA. Served in every position. The main goal of the chamber is to bring economic development to the area with the Federal government funds.

Served as 15 Indian delegates in June of 1995 to be invited to the "White House Conference for Small Business" hosted by President Clinton.

My Super 8 Motel was awarded "Conversion of the year award" for the year 1998 among the 1800 properties in the Super 8 chain.

Served as area chairperson for three precincts for Democratic National Party, Year 2000 Presidential Election.

Among 50 delegates on American India Foundation Earthquake Relief Mission Delegation with President Bill Clinton to Bhuj India representing AAHOA group.

Appointed in 1999 on the political action committee by AAHOA.

Served as a Florida regional director on AAHOA board (1996 – 1998).

Elected again on the AAHOA board in 2001 as Director-at-Large and executive committee member for second year in three-year term.

Committee served in AAHOA: (www.aahoa.com/boardmembers)

1996 – 1998	Governmental affairs/Political Action committees.
2001 – 2002	Community Service/Anti-Discrimination committees (co-chair) Audit Committee
2002 – 2007	Community Service/Anti-Discrimination committees (Chair) Governmental affairs and Political Action committee. Education Committee, Women's Committee
2008 – 2010	AAHOA - Treasurer
2010 – 2011	AAHOA – Vice Chairman
2011 – 2012	AAHOA – Chairman of The Board
2012 – 2013	AAHOA – Ex Officio

* PUBLIC SERVICE *

Following are some of Hemant Patel past and present activities.

- One of the Four AAHOA members to White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB) in 1995, Appointed by Governor of Florida, Lawton Chiles.
- Served for Democratic Party as a Chair Person for poll watching. 2000 presidential election (Dade County, Miami, Florida)
- Past board of director of AAHOA 1995 to 1997, Florida Region.
- Active member of AAHOA since 1993.
- Active Member on AAHOA's Governmental affairs, including key coordinator in Washington for Fair Franchising Legislations, H.R. 3308.
- First Asian Indian to become President for Greater Biscayne Blvd Chamber of Commerce in Miami, Florida.
- First Asian Indian to serve on Miami's Coalition of Chamber of Commerce. (1995)
- Founding Board Member of Biscayne West Home Owners Associations & By-laws Committee
- Advisory Board Miami Country Day School.
- President of South Bombay, India Lions Club (1983-1984)
- Active Youth Member in the Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA (Indian Patel Community) (1994-1998)
- Member of Upper East Side (Miami) Crime Preventions Council.
- Appointee of Commissioner Winton on Upper East Side Task Force.

- Board Of Directors, Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA (LPS USA) South Florida Region
- Key Co-Coordinator with NABHOOD (National Association of Black Hotel Owners Operators and developers). First regional conference ever held in Miami, Florida.
- Member of Delegations with Ex. President Bill Clinton to India for Earthquake relief mission. (April 2001)
- Instrumental in bringing Native American Cultural Festival to City of Miami during my tenure as President of Biscayne Blvd Chamber of Commerce.
- Board Member of Upper East Side Miami Council
- President, Do the right thing, Miami Police Department (2005 – 2008)
- Board Member, Do the right thing, Miami Police Dept. (2009 – Current)

RECENT RECOGINITIONS:

- Sponsor reorganization City of Miami Police Department (1999 & 2003)
- Awarded Honor Guard Recognitions by City of Miami Police Department.
- Public Service Award by US Congresswoman Carrie Meek (1996) as an outgoing President of Greater Biscayne Blvd, Chamber of Commerce
- Best Conversion of the Year SUPER 8/Cendant Franchisee. (1998)
- Key Coordinator Recognition, Florida Governor Chiles appointed delegate to White House Conference on Small Business during President Clinton's Terms. (1995)
- Member of Super Bowl Host Committee for Greater Miami Visitors and Conventions Bureau and Chamber of Commerce. (1995)
- Recipient of a Leadership Awards from Prominent organizations like, GOPIO, NABHOOD (National Associations for Black Hotel Owners Operators & Developers), AACSA (Asian American Convenient Stores Association)

HIGHLIGHTS:

Always recognized by local politicians, Civic Leaders, Law Enforcement and homeowners associations in playing vital roles in the betterment of the neighborhood including bringing motel owners and community together.

Volunteered on GORE Lieberman Campaign as well as, Hilary Clinton for President Campaign in South Florida.

Testified in front of the Congress Judiciary Committee for the entire Lodging Industry to fight unfair legislations of Pool Lifts in hotels.

As a Chairman of AAHOA, took firm actions against Major Franchisor in mandating the ***"Good Faith and Fair Dealing"*** practices.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Training in Textile Technology, Surat INDIA (1984)
- Micro Computers Miami Dade Community College (1989)

Danielle M Torres

1981 SE 18th Street | Homestead, Florida 33035
305-972-5115 | dmtorres74@hotmail.com

To obtain a challenging position that I may utilize my experience in sales, food and beverage and operations to lead and direct a in a team environment to assist with achieving and exceeding budgeted revenue goals.

Experience

June 2012 – Current **Director of Sales & Marketing**
Courtyard by Marriott - Miami Homestead, Homestead, Florida
100 guest rooms, 1000 sq. ft. meeting space (2013 YTD 89.3% Occ., $147.47 ADR)

July 2009 – Current **Director of Sales & Marketing**
Hampton Inn & Suites – Miami South/ Homestead, Homestead, Florida
126 guest rooms, 2500 sq. ft. meeting space (2013 YTD 95.8% Occ., $141.39 ADR)

- Assisted General Managers to head up the opening operations for both hotels.
- Responsible for room/ catering budget creation and attainment
  Exceeded budgeted revenues by $422K
- Successfully directed the sales efforts to ramp up and open both hotels.
- Positioned the hotels with third party vendors and other similar channels.
- Attended trade shows to create awareness in the FIT markets.
- Created packages with local area attractions, dinning and shopping outlets.
- Solicited local area businesses for referrals of transient and group reservations.
- Solicited potential social and corporate clients through a range of different channels to capture meetings and social events.

2009 – Current	Greater Homestead/ Florida City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Chairman of the Green Committee and Health and Wellness
2010 – Current	Greater Homestead/ Florida City Chamber of Commerce MAC - Military Affairs Committee - Secretary Exec. Board of Directors
2011 – Current	Key Largo Chamber of Commerce - Member
2012 – Current	Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce - Member
2009 – Current	TEVA – Tropical Everglades Visitor Association - Board of Directors
2009 – Current	Kiwanis of Homestead

June 2003 - June 2009 **Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel & Conference Center – Miami Airport/ Hialeah Gardens**
256 guest rooms, 10,000 sq. ft. meeting space

- Assisted Owners/ General Manager to rebrand and reposition the hotel through a multi-million dollar renovation.
- Responsible for room and catering budget creation and attainment.
- Created a destination for shopping clientele and promoted to the Bahamas and Western Caribbean, through international sales visits to travel agencies and trade show participation
- Contracted with many wholesale and receptive operators in the Latin America and the Caribbean to promote and successfully sell the hotel as a shopping destination. Hotelbeds #1 product west of the Miami International Airport .

- Obtained contract with Norwegian Cruise Lines for all crew lodging for port of Miami disembarking from 2005 – 2009.
- Positioned the hotel appropriately in domestic and international distribution channels to ensure maximization of rates and revenue.

2003 – 2009	GMCVB – Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau – Member
2004 – 2009	Hialeah Chamber of Commerce - Member
2006 – 2009	Doral Chamber of Commerce - Member
2007 – 2009	AMESA - Member

Additional information regarding similar industry positions may be provided upon request.

2000 – 2003	Homewood Suites by Hilton – Sunny Isles Beach, Miami, Florida – Director of Sales & Marketing
1998 – 2000	La Flora Hotel – South Miami Beach, Miami, Florida – Director of Sales & Marketing

Education

1992 – 1997	University of Massachusetts – Boston BS Biology

Skills & Abilities

Fluent in English & Spanish, Internationally Traveled and Hands on/ Team Management Style
Highly skilled in Microsoft Office Applications including Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook
Certified in Sales Pro Hotel and Catering System
Proficient in Hilton & Marriott Hotel and Revenue Systems including OnQ, OnQ Insider, FOSSE & MGS
Skilled in Adobe Creative Suite and graphic design to be able to create flyers and camera ready artwork