MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL
Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners

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

Thursday, September 4, 2008
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Sullivan, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Judy Marsh, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-1967

Members Present: Bruno Barreiro; Jose "Pepe" Diaz; Audrey M. Edmonson; Carlos A. Gimenez; Sally A. Heyman; Barbara J. Jordan; Joe A. Martinez; Dennis C. Moss; Dorrin Rolle; Natacha Seijas; Katy Sorenson; Rebeca Sosa; Javier D. Souto

Members Absent: None.

Members Late: None.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent County Business: None.

1 MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Report: *Judy Marsh, Commission Reporter*
(305) 375-1967

1A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Report: *Chairman Barreiro called for a moment of silence to be followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.*

1B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1C ROLL CALL

Report: *The following staff members were present: County Manager George Burgess; County Attorney Robert Cuevas, First Assistant County Attorney Abigail Price-Williams, Office of Strategic Business Management Director Jennifer Glazer-Moon, and Deputy Clerks Diane Collins and Judy Marsh.*

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez was also present at today's meeting.

Chairman Barreiro called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

1D ITEMS

ITEM A

082431 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING THE COUNTYWIDE GENERAL FUND MILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; LEVYING ALL TAXES SO PROVIDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082981] (County Manager)

Adopted on first reading
Public Hearing: September 18, 2008
Mover: Katy Sorenson
Seconder: Dennis C. Moss
Vote: 7- 6
No: Heyman, Sosa, Gimenez, Souto, Martinez, Seijas

Report: *In response to Commissioner Sosa's request for clarification of the millage rate, County Manager Burgess noted the proposed countywide operating millage rate was 4.8733 mills, which was 5.36% above the State-defined rollback rate.*

ITEM B

082432 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING THE COUNTYWIDE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE; INCORPORATING THE 2008-09 PROPOSED BUDGET AS AMENDED; APPROPRIATING ALL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES; AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS IN THE TIME WARRANTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AS CASH ADVANCES PENDING RECEIPT OF TAXES; AUTHORIZING DEPOSIT OF INTEREST EARNED TO THE GENERAL FUND; RATIFYING AND APPROVING IMPLEMENTING ORDERS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE BOARD WHICH SET CHARGES, AUTHORIZING FEES CONSISTENT WITH APPROPRIATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR AMENDMENT; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CERTAIN FUNDING AGREEMENTS; AMENDING ARTICLE LXXIA OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT NAME FROM "TEAM METRO" TO THE "OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLIANCE"; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082646] (County Manager)

Amended

Report: *(See Agenda Item B Amended, Legislative File No. 082646)*

ITEM B AMENDED

082646 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING THE COUNTYWIDE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE; INCORPORATING THE 2008-09 PROPOSED BUDGET AS AMENDED; APPROPRIATING ALL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES; AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS IN THE TIME WARRANTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AS CASH ADVANCES PENDING RECEIPT OF TAXES; AUTHORIZING DEPOSIT OF INTEREST EARNED TO THE GENERAL FUND; RATIFYING AND APPROVING IMPLEMENTING ORDERS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE BOARD WHICH SET CHARGES, AUTHORIZING FEES CONSISTENT WITH APPROPRIATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR AMENDMENT; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CERTAIN FUNDING AGREEMENTS; AMENDING ARTICLE LXXIA OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT NAME FROM "TEAM METRO" TO THE "OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLIANCE"; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE ORIGINAL ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082432] [SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082982] (County Manager)

Adopted on first reading as amended
Public Hearing: September 18, 2008
Mover: Dennis C. Moss
Seconder: Dorrin D. Rolle
Vote: 9- 4
No: Heyman, Sosa, Gimenez, Martinez

Report: *Commissioner Sosa noted her support for the renaming of Team Metro to the Office of Neighborhood Compliance which was included in the foregoing proposed ordinance.*

In response to Commissioner Edmonson's comment that she would not vote for any type of increase(s) on September 18th, County Manager Burgess noted he would meet with Commissioner Edmonson in the interim.

The County Commission by motion duly made, seconded and carried, adopted the foregoing proposed ordinance as amended on first reading to incorporate the recommendations contained within the County Manager's memorandum entitled "Information for First Budget Hearing - FY 2008-09 Proposed Budget" dated September 4, 2008, and as further amended by the adjustments noted by the Budget Director.

ITEM C

082433 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING THE UNINCORPORATED MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA MILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; LEVYING ALL TAXES SO PROVIDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082984] (County Manager)

Adopted on first reading
Public Hearing: September 18, 2008
Mover: Barbara J. Jordan
Seconder: Katy Sorenson
Vote: 11- 2
No: Gimenez, Seijas

Report: *County Manager Burgess said the proposed unincorporated municipal service area operating millage rate was 2.0416 mills, which was 1.25% below the State-defined rollback rate. He noted this millage rate was approved by the County Commission for notification purposes in July 2008.*

In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry whether the Commission would be locked in by this rate at the September 18th meeting, Mr. Burgess said this was the absolute ceiling after tonight's vote. He noted this rate was higher than the rate that was included in the proposed budget submitted to the County Commission; therefore, the Commission had some flexibility in the rate to balance the tax rate with potential service adjustments. Mr. Burgess said the rate could be lowered.

ITEM D

082434 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING THE UNINCORPORATED MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA BUDGET FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE; INCORPORATING THE 2008-09 PROPOSED BUDGET AS AMENDED; APPROPRIATING ALL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES; AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS IN TIME WARRANTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS AS CASH ADVANCES PENDING RECEIPT OF TAXES; AUTHORIZING DEPOSIT OF INTEREST EARNED TO THE GENERAL FUND RATIFYING AND APPROVING IMPLEMENTING ORDERS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE BOARD WHICH SET CHARGES; AUTHORIZING FEES CONSISTENT WITH APPROPRIATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR AMENDMENT; RECOGNIZING AND CONTINUING THE UNINCORPORATED MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CERTAIN FUNDING AGREEMENTS; AMENDING ARTICLE LXXIA OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT NAME FROM "TEAM METRO" TO THE "OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLIANCE"; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082985] (County Manager)

Adopted on first reading
Public Hearing: September 18, 2008
Mover: Joe A. Martinez
Seconder: Rebeca Sosa
Vote: 11- 2
No: Heyman, Gimenez

Report: *In response to Commissioner Rolle's inquiry regarding renaming Team Metro to the Office of Neighborhood Compliance, County Attorney Cuevas noted this item could be amended at the second budget hearing.*

Commissioner Edmonson noted the County Commission needed to discuss Team Metro.

ITEM E

082435 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING MILLAGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008 ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; FOR COUNTY BONDED DEBT SERVICE PURPOSES, THE MIAMI-DADE LIBRARY SYSTEM, AND THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT; LEVYING ALL TAXES SO PROVIDED; DIRECTING THE ASSESSMENT OF MILLAGES ESTABLISHED; RECOGNIZING AND CONTINUING THE MIAMI-DADE LIBRARY SYSTEM; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082986] (County Manager)

Adopted on first reading
Public Hearing: September 18, 2008
Mover: Katy Sorenson
Seconder: Dorrin D. Rolle
Vote: 13- 0

Report: *County Manager Burgess said the proposed Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Service District operating millage rate was 2.2067 mills, which was 0.59% below the State-defined rollback rate. He noted the proposed Miami-Dade Library System operating millage rate was 0.3842 mills, which was 0.13% above the State-defined rollback rate. Mr. Burgess said the proposed countywide debt service millage rate was 0.285 mills and the proposed Fire Rescue District debt service millage rate was 0.042 mills.*

ITEM F

082436 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING PROPRIETARY BUDGETS, SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RATES AND BUDGETS, AND OTHER BUDGETS, OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE; INCORPORATING THE FY 2008-09 PROPOSED BUDGET AS AMENDED; APPROPRIATING ALL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES; AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS IN TIME WARRANTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AS CASH ADVANCES PENDING RECEIPT OF TAXES; AMENDING SECTION 18-26 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DELINEATING DISTRICT AND COUNTY-WIDE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT; RATIFYING AND APPROVING IMPLEMENTING ORDERS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE BOARD WHICH SET CHARGES, AUTHORIZING FEES CONSISTENT WITH APPROPRIATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR AMENDMENT; APPROVING REVISED FEES, CHARGES, AND IMPLEMENTING ORDERS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES; ADOPTING THE FY 2008-09 PAY PLAN; AUTHORIZING ALLOCATIONS AND REALLOCATIONS OF BOND PROCEEDS AND INTEREST EARNINGS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO PROVIDE BOND ISSUE RESERVES; ESTABLISHING SUCH FUNDS AS MAY BE APPROVED DURING THE YEAR AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR EXPENDITURE; AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAX SURCHARGE TO BEACON COUNCIL; APPROPRIATING GRANT, DONATION, AND CONTRIBUTION FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CERTAIN FUNDING AGREEMENTS; CONTINUING THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES TRUST FUND; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE[SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082645] (County Manager)

Amended

Report: *(See Agenda Item F Amended, Legislative File No. 082645)*

ITEM F AMENDED

082645 **Ordinance**

ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING PROPRIETARY BUDGETS, SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RATES AND BUDGETS, AND OTHER BUDGETS, OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE; INCORPORATING THE FY 2008-09 PROPOSED BUDGET AS AMENDED; APPROPRIATING ALL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES; AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS IN TIME WARRANTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AS CASH ADVANCES PENDING RECEIPT OF TAXES; AMENDING SECTION 18-26 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DELINEATING DISTRICT AND COUNTY-WIDE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT; RATIFYING AND APPROVING IMPLEMENTING ORDERS AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE BOARD WHICH SET CHARGES, AUTHORIZING FEES CONSISTENT WITH APPROPRIATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR AMENDMENT; APPROVING REVISED FEES, CHARGES, AND IMPLEMENTING ORDERS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES; ADOPTING THE FY 2008-09 PAY PLAN; AUTHORIZING ALLOCATIONS AND REALLOCATIONS OF BOND PROCEEDS AND INTEREST EARNINGS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO PROVIDE BOND ISSUE RESERVES; ESTABLISHING SUCH FUNDS AS MAY BE APPROVED DURING THE YEAR AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR EXPENDITURE; AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAX SURCHARGE TO BEACON COUNCIL; APPROPRIATING GRANT, DONATION, AND CONTRIBUTION FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE CERTAIN FUNDING AGREEMENTS; CONTINUING THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES TRUST FUND; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE ORIGINAL ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082436] [SEE AMENDED ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 082987] (County Manager)

Adopted on first reading as amended
Public Hearing: September 18, 2008
Mover: Joe A. Martinez
Seconder: Katy Sorenson
Vote: 13- 0

Report: *In response to Commissioner Sosa's inquiry, Budget Director Jennifer Glazer-Moon noted the foregoing proposed ordinance related to the proprietary budgets and funds outside the General Fund.*

The County Commission by motion duly made, seconded and carried, adopted the foregoing proposed ordinance as amended on first reading to incorporate the recommendations contained within the County Manager's memorandum entitiled "Information for First Budget Hearing - FY 2008-09 Proposed Budget" dated September 4, 2008, and as further amended by the adjustments noted by the Budget Director.

1E REPORT(S)

082437 **Report**

REPORT OF INFORMATION FOR THE 1ST BUDGET HEARING (County Manager) ***Presented***

Report: *County Manager George Burgess stated the proposed Countywide Operating millage rate for FY 2008-09 was 4.8733 mills, which was 5.36% above the State defined rollback rate and represented a 6.41% increase from the current year's millage rate. He noted the proposed Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) Service District's Operating millage rate for FY 2008-09 was 2.2067 mills, which was 0.59% below the State defined rollback rate and was the same rate as the current year's millage. County Manager Burgess stated the proposed Miami-Dade Library System Operating millage rate for FY 2008-09 was 0.3842 mills, which was 0.13% below the State defined rollback rate and was the same rate as the current year's millage. He noted this millage rate was 0.52% higher than the State defined maximum millage. County Manager Burgess stated the proposed Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) Operating millage rate for FY 2008-09 was 2.0416 mills, which was 1.25% below the State defined rollback rate and was the same rate as the current year's millage.*

County Manager Burgess stated the proposed Countywide Debt Service millage rate for FY 2008-09 was 0.285 mills, which was the same rate as the current year's millage, and the rate needed to provide for Countywide Debt Service payments. He noted the proposed Fire Rescue District's Debt Service millage rate for FY 2008-09 was 0.042 mills, which was the same rate as the current year's millage, and the rate needed to make the Fire Rescue District Debt Service payments.

County Manager Burgess advised that the total of all millage rates was 9.8328 mills, and was 0.2937 mills higher than the current fiscal year's rate of 9.5391 mills.

County Attorney Robert Cuevas noted today (9/4) the County Commission would be considering six ordinances which collectively would adopt the proposed millage rates referenced in the tentative County budget. Pursuant to the County Manager's request, Mr. Cuevas apprised the Commission that a majority vote was required to adopt each of these ordinances.

County Attorney Cuevas read Agenda Items A, B, C, D, E and F into the record.

Chairman Barreiro announced that Agenda Items A through F were open for public hearing and the following persons appeared before the County Commission.

Chairman Barreiro acknowledged those elected officials who were in attendance at tonight's budget hearing.

Mr. Richard Steinberg, Vice-Mayor, City of Miami Beach; and President, Miami-Dade League of Cities, appeared before the County Commission on behalf of the League of Cities. He expressed concern regarding the potential cost shifts to municipal residents and municipal property owners. Mr. Steinberg noted the proposed budget created millions of dollars in new taxes for people who lived and owned property in municipalities, and collectively, the cities were being asked to assume an additional tax burden of $36.5 million through this proposal. He pointed out that the voters were expecting tax relief across-the-board. Mr. Steinberg asked the County Commission, on behalf of the League of Cities, to require the County Administration to come back to the Commission with a balanced budget to the maximum millage rate to provide tax relief to taxpayers, and not shift the burden from one

community to another.

Mayor Julio Robaina, City of Hialeah, requested the County Commission to direct staff to set the millage rates at the 2007-08 rates and allow residents within the entire County to realize the same millage rates they had in January 2008. He noted the City of Hialeah would continue providing services; however, he felt the County should not be placed in a position where it would remove the savings City residents would receive. Mayor Robaina pointed out the City of Hialeah was doubly impacted because it had its own fire and library services; and therefore, did not take advantage of some of the lower millage rates in those categories. He noted government had a mandate from residents to lower taxes.

Commissioner Didi Whitehorn, City of Miami Beach, concurred with Mayor Robaina's comments. She urged the County Commission to ensure Miami-Dade County residents would receive a tax savings.

Mayor Shirley Gibson, City of Miami Gardens, urged the County Commission to honor the voters' request.

Mr. Stanley Jacobs, representing non-homesteaded property owners, expressed concern regarding the increased property tax on non-homesteaded property owners and noted the Tax Appraiser's Office needed to change the guidelines used to assess similar non-homesteaded properties. He noted these disparities resulted in neighborhoods with unjust property taxes. Mr. Jacobs referenced eight ad valorem assessments from the same condominium, all of which were non-homsteaded properties with equal square footage and none of equally assessed values. He submitted for the record, a video of a Value Adjustment Board hearing held in April 2008 regarding one of his properties.

Mr. Luis Falcon, 3235 SW 58 Court, appeared in opposition to increased property taxes. He noted the County was placing a burden on the middle class.

Mr. Frank Fernandez, a county employee, speaking as a private citizen, noted his house was assessed at $16,000 less last year and his taxes increased by $10,000.

Ms. Carol Hardemon, 4941 NW 179 Street, a retired employee of the Park and Recreation Department, appeared in opposition to the proposed fees for sports development programs in parks. She noted these programs would deter young people from criminal activities and asked that the County's budget not be balanced on the backs of young people.

Ms. Ora Conyers, 11951 SW 168 Terrace, Goulds Park Seniors Program, urged the County Commission to continue providing funding for the Goulds Park Senior Program.

Ms. Helen Williams, 9801 NW 25 Avenue, asked that bus routes not be cut.

Mr. Barrington Irving, Experience Aviation, expressed appreciation to the County Commission for its previous support and requested the Commission's continued support in order to provide opportunities to students utilizing aviation to build math, science and reading skills. He noted inner city students had just completed building an aircraft in ten weeks in which he was

preparing to fly on October 1, 2008.

Mr. Camille Merilus, Camille and Sulette Merilus Foundation, Inc., 14815 NW 11 Avenue, requested funding in the amount of $100,000 for the War Against Hunger Food Program.

Ms. Terri Dietzel, City of Cutler Bay, appeared in connection with proposed elimination of bus services.

Mr. Gene Beck, Greater Miami Service Corps, expressed appreciation to the County Commission for its previous support to the Corps and requested the Commission's continued support. He noted the Corps worked with young people ages 18 to 25. Mr. Beck introduced Mr. Keith Storr, Greater Miami Service Corps' Representative of the Year.

Mr. Keith Storr, 14374 SW 283 Street, noted the Corp's assistance allowed him to earn his High School Diploma and an opportunity to attend college. He spoke of the positive impact continued support of the Corps would have on young people.

Ms. Eden Carr, Executive Director, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, requested the County's in-kind services line item remain in the budget to underwrite the Miami Metrozoo's venue for the Foundation's Walk to Cure Diabetes. She discussed the Foundation's efforts to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes through research.

Mr. L. T. Clayton, Mobile Irrigation Lab, South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District, expressed appreciation to the County Commission for the funding received in FY 2007-08 and requested funding for FY 2008-09. He noted the District completed a conservation project in all Commission Districts.

Mr. Brett Bibeau, Managing Director, Miami River Commission, 1407 N.W. 7 Street, requested the Commission renew the FY 07 appropriation of $100,000 for the continued services of the Scavenger decontamination vessel on the Miami River. He acknowledged the presence of Mr. Mark Mastroni, owner, Water Management Technologies, and service provider for the Scavenger decontamination vessel.

Mr. Mariano Cruz, 1227 NW 26 Street, expressed concern regarding the County's lack of attention to drainage problems in Allapattah, Commission District 3. He also expressed concern regarding the cost of County permits.

Commissioner Edmonson noted the Public Works Department was scheduled to install drainage in the area referenced by Mr. Cruz.

Ms. Shekina Donaldson, Kinad, Inc., requested funding for Kinad, Inc. remain in the proposed budget. She expressed concern that the history of Africans in America was being placed on the back burner.

Mr. Willie Frazier, 1622 N.E. 110 Terrace, an employee of Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH), spoke in opposition to the proposal to cut the following bus routes: 93 Biscayne Max, "M", 12, 22, and 16. He noted this proposal would negatively impact JMH employees, and it would be difficult for him to commute to work on the weekends. Mr. Frazier asked about the possibility of 60-foot buses operating on Biscayne Boulevard.

Ms. Avis Hopkins, 8463 N.W. 5th Court, spoke in opposition to the proposal to cut bus route 202.

Mr. Leroy Jones, Executive Director, Neighbors and Neighbors Association (NANA), 180 N.W. 62 Street, requested the County Commission's continued support for the Mom and Pop Grant Program for FY 2008-09. He said for the past three years, over 600 businesses had received funds from the Mom and Pop Grant Program each year; the Program was advertised in 14 newspapers and three radio stations countywide; however, Mr. Jones pointed out the challenges in accessing these funds. He asked that small businesses be incorporated within the Comprehensive Health Care Plan.

Ms. Carol Feiler asked that Team Metro not be cut and suggested staffing be increased. She noted Team Metro staff provided more than code compliance services and dealt with constituents on a daily basis. Ms. Feiler asked that Team Metro's northwest Dade office remain in place.

Responding to Ms. Feiler's comments regarding the naming of an area in Northwest Unincorporated Miami-Dade County, Commissioner Seijas noted a resolution under her sponsorship which supported the name change had been adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Howard Soloff, 3100 Collins Avenue, asked that the Golden Passport Program not be cut.

Mr. Stan Hills, 8000 N.W. 21 Street, appeared in support of the County Manager and the Mayor's proposed budget recommendation for the Fire Rescue District.

Ms. Jean Ballard, Outreach Specialist, Team Metro, asked that outreach be included in the proposal to rename Team Metro to the Office of Neighborhood Compliance.

Mr. Fransisco Garcia, Vice President, Transport Workers Union, Local 291, appeared on behalf of Mr. Wessell Clark, in support of transit issues. He congratulated Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez and members of the County Commission for their re-election.

Upon conclusion of the public hearing, Ms. Jennifer Glazer-Moon, Director, Office of Strategic Business Management, noted scrivener's errors existed in the County Manager's Memorandum entitled "Information for First Budget Hearing – FY 2008-09 Proposed Budget" dated September 4, 2008 and should be corrected as follows:

1. On Page 2, the recommended operating budget adjustments total under "Operating Budget Adjustments," should reflect $32.501 million, in lieu of $32.301 million;
2. On Page 3, the line entitled "Human Services – Grant and Food and Beverage Tax Revenue" in the Revenue Budget Recommendations table should reflect negative $917,000 with total revenue adjustments of negative $11,178,000 under "Proprietary/Other" in lieu of $11,378, and $32,501,000 under "Total" in lieu of $32,301,000;
3. On Page 4, the line entitled "Human Services – Operating and Pass-Through Grant Expense" in the Expenditure Budget Recommendations table, should reflect 683 under "Proprietary/Other" and 683 under "Total," with

total expenditure adjustments of negative $11,178,000 under "Proprietary/Other" in lieu of $11,378, and $32,501,000 under "Total" in lieu of $32,301,000;
4. On Page 12, the second sentence under "Position Adjustments" should read as follows: "The adjustments included in this memorandum increase the total number of recommended positions by 21 to 28,984";
5. On Page 13, the Recommended Adjustments table should be adjusted to reflect 38 positions for the Department of Human Services in lieu of 26, with total recommended adjustments of 21 in lieu of 9.

Ms. Glazer-Moon noted on September 2, 2008, the County Commission approved increasing the fares, fees and rates for Miami-Dade Transit by fifty cents and incorporating automatic fare adjustments according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The budgetary impacts of these adjustments to the FY 2008-09 proposed Budget would be provided in the report for the Second Budget Hearing, Ms. Glazer-Moon noted.

Discussion ensued among the County Commission members regarding the FY 2008-09 proposed Budget.

Commissioner Gimenez advised he would be making a motion at the September 16, 2008 County Commission meeting to reconsider the transit fare adjustments which were approved on September 2, 2008.

Commissioner Moss said he met with the County Administration regarding concerns relating to: the status of Team Metro; the County's ability to continue providing litter pickup and mowing maintenance; the proposal to displace services at the Naranja Neighborhood Center; the West Perrine Senior Citizen's Program; the Goulds Senior Citizen's Program; and proposed fees for park programs, including Little League Park programs. He suggested the proposed fees be revisited by the County Commission.

Commissioner Sorenson noted while she had not heard any complaints about increased transit fares; she had heard complaints from her constituents about cutting bus routes. She inquired what action would be taken at the September 18th Second Budget Hearing if the transit fare issue was reconsidered on September 16th.

In response to Commissioner Sorenson's inquiry, County Manager Burgess said without the fifty cents fare increase, service reductions would be required resulting in approximately 28.1 million miles of bus service versus the current 32.6 million miles of service. He pointed out that this represented a significant reduction in revenue miles of service. Mr. Burgess said a subtle reduction could be done on a phased based basis over time, targeting the least utilized routes. He noted that a significant difference existed in the service with and without the fifty cents increase and unification of the system.

Commissioner Sorenson noted the County Commission must do everything it could to maintain mass transit.

Commissioner Sorenson referenced the issues discussed in the public hearing, including park programs for seniors and the decontamination vessel for the Miami River. She suggested commissioners decrease their discretionary funds and office budgets in order to reinstate programs.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry whether municipalities had

adopted the State's request to maintain low millage rates, County Manager Burgess noted a State mandate rate was not in existence. He said the State determined a maximum millage rate and any amount above this rate would require a super majority vote. Mr. Burgess noted it was his understanding that in the current year, 13 municipalities had adopted millage rates which exceeded the maximum millage rates, including Coral Gables and Hialeah. He stated in the current year, 26 municipalities had advertised proposed tax rates which exceeded the maximum millage rates as defined by the State, and a super majority vote would be required to adopt these rates.

Responding to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry whether savings could be realized by municipal residents if municipalities adopted tax rates which exceeded the State defined parameters, County Manager Burgess noted that based on the preliminary property tax rates advertised by the cities and the County, residents with a homestead exemption and a home valued at approximately $200,000 could realize savings at or above $200.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's concern regarding the proposed fees for sports development programs in the parks, Budget Director Glazer-Moon said a needs-based system would be developed for park participants who might not be able to absorb the proposed fee increase. She noted the Administration wanted to ensure no one was limited in accessing park programs.

Responding to Commissioner Jordan's comment regarding the timeframe for accessing resources for small businesses, Ms. Glazer-Moon noted a proposal to create the Office of Grants Coordination was included in the proposed budget to address grant coordination within the county.

Commissioner Jordan expressed concern regarding the elimination of Team Metro and its inclusion within the Office of Neighborhood Compliance. She asked that staff provide the Board with comprehensive information regarding the outreach component of Team Metro to determine the extent of the County's response to community issues. Commissioner Jordan also expressed concern regarding the elimination of in-kind services for community based organizations and noted this would be detrimental to these organizations.

Referring to the County Commission's reconsideration of the fifty cents fare increase for Miami-Dade Transit on September 16, 2008, Commissioner Jordan said she was hopeful that the County Commission would not eliminate routes that were critical to people retaining employment.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding the layoff notification timeline for Transit employees if the Board's action regarding the fifty cents fare increase was reversed on September 16, County Manager Burgess said a 21-day notice of layoff action was required and potential reductions could occur during the first quarter of the year based on the Board's action. He noted service reductions would probably be implemented by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Harpal Kapoor, Director, Miami-Dade Transit, said the public would be notified of the bus route elimination subsequent to the Transit Committee meeting scheduled for October 2008.

Commissioner Jordan noted the County Commission could not continue to

support a transit system where 75% of the ridership was free or paying half fare and only 25% of the ridership paid full fare.

Commissioner Rolle expressed concerns regarding potential layoff of Transit employees during the holidays or in the New Year. He noted he would not support the bus routes being cut as a result of the Commission's reconsideration of the vote taken on September 2, 2008 regarding the transit fares.

Commissioner Rolle expressed concern regarding the closing of the 27th Avenue Boxing Gym and the closing of the North Team Metro office(s), especially the Northside office which was regarded as the number one outreach office in the county.

In response to Commissioner Rolle's inquiry regarding funding for the Metro-Miami Action Plan (MMAP), County Manager Burgess said MMAP would now be funded from the General Fund, versus funds generated from the Business License Tax. He noted approximately $330,000 that was allocated from the Beacon Council would now be allocated from the General Fund. Mr. Burgess said MMAP's funding was whole and was being allocated from a different source.

Commissioner Rolle expressed concerns regarding the removal of Hope VI case managers and outreach workers from the Department of Human Services' budget and inquired whether the case management service would be absorbed by the Housing Department. He also expressed concern regarding the proposed fees for the Sports Development Program and after-school activities being cut from after-school programs. Commissioner Rolle pointed out that some of those activities that were being cut might be eligible for funding from the Children's Trust. Commissioner Rolle asked that these concerns be added to the ones he discussed with Mr. Burgess and Budget Director Glazer-Moon.

Commissioner Rolle commented on delays concerning District 2 beautification projects.

Responding to Commissioner Rolle's inquiry regarding the case management service, County Manager Burgess said it was the decision of the Oversight Administrator that the case management service be absorbed by the Housing Department.

Commissioner Heyman noted elected officials had expressed concerns regarding the potential cost burden the County Commission was passing on to their cities without the prevailing savings that were promised. She expressed concern that the savings were reduced in all cities within District 4.

Commissioner Heyman expressed concern regarding the proposal to remove the Team Metro office in Northeast Dade. She noted that Team Metro was one of the most successful programs she had seen in Northeast Dade, averaging over 650 telephone calls, 675 walk-ins and 640 sales each month. Commissioner Heyman said she felt it was a disservice to remove this office. She also expressed concern regarding the proposed reductions in the Miami Beach Courthouse, noting this would create a burden on the North Dade Justice Center and the Downtown Justice Center; the lack of funds for operation of the County's two fire boats; the proposed elimination of beach maintenance from the beach erosion control activities; and the reduction of

hours for the 311 Answer Center.

Commissioner Heyman noted she voted against the fifty cents fare increase because she felt the increase would be too burdensome on the riders.

Commissioner Heyman said while she could support consolidation of services for efficiency, she felt these services should be readily available and easily accessible. She suggested the County Administration look at better auditing and the areas to which certain funds were being shifted when considering potential savings. Commissioner Heyman asked the County Manager to consider maintaining the 311 Answer Center and Team Metro; and increasing community service and other areas in which unskilled labor could be used.

Commissioner Heyman said that unless she obtained some redress on some of these issues, she would not be supporting this proposed budget, beginning with the millage rate which she felt placed a tremendous burden that was shifted to the cities.

Commissioner Sosa noted the County Commission needed to prioritize its issues. She expressed appreciation to Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez and the County Administration, and noted she supported the Administration's consolidation of services in order to avoid duplication. Commissioner Sosa expressed support for the enforcement portion for Team Metro and noted she felt the County Commission should review preservation of the Transit routes to respond to the community.

Commissioner Sosa noted direct services to the community must be preserved. She asked that funding be restored to the Public Works Department for fumigation services, and mowing and landscape cycles. Commissioner Sosa pointed out that maintaining these services would attract more visitors to Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Sosa also asked that the vacant positions within the Office of Inspector General and the Ethics Commission be reinstated; a "Mini QNIP 6" be created to respond to community needs regarding drainage, sidewalks and to provide jobs in the community; the continuation of funding to the Community Outreach Programs, including the Radio Public Information Program and the Community Periodicals; and the Mom and Pop Grant Program. She emphasized the importance of programs for seniors and park programs for children.

Commissioner Sosa noted she respected the public vote and the State defined rollback rate.

Commissioner Martinez indicated he would either support or not support the proposed budget.

Commissioner Edmonson expressed appreciation to County Manager Burgess and Ms. Glazer-Moon. She expressed concern regarding the proposed fees for park programs and asked the Administration to continue addressing these fees. Commissioner Edmonson said she could not support cutting bus routes and suggested the Board obtain the fifty cents increase through another method. She expressed appreciation to the County Administration for leaving the Mom and Pop program in tact and asked the Administration to assist small businesses in accessing grant funds. Commissioner Edmonson asked that no changes be made to Team Metro.

Commissioner Seijas concurred with Commissioner Sosa's request for creation of a mini QNIP. She asked County Manager Burgess to explore the feasibility of community based organizations being allowed to conduct after-school programs in the parks; and the use of sliding scales for scholarships. Commissioner Seijas noted the County Commission needed to ensure services were not being duplicated. She indicated that she would not support reconsideration of the fifty cents fare increase without a proposed solution.

Commissioner Seijas referenced a memorandum from the Water and Sewer Department Director regarding clerical and secretarial organizational review within the Department. She noted it appeared 20 filled positions would be eliminated, 4 positions would be reclassified and 27 positions would be transferred, with a total of 51 secretarial positions being impacted. Commissioner Seijas inquired about reports from other departments and why an administrative support function review only impacted secretaries. She also questioned whether the Human Resources staff assisted in this effort, whether the Office of Fair Employment Practice reviewed this memorandum and whether any collective bargaining issues were associated with the elimination and transfer of these employees.

Commissioner Seijas asked that implementation of this report be delayed until the County Commission had an opportunity to consider the consequences of this action. She noted she applauded the Department for its bold and aggressive efforts to identify savings; however, she felt the Commission needed to wait until the Department of Human Resources could evaluate this recommendation.

Commissioner Seijas said she was not supportive of Team Metro, however, she felt the 311 Answer Center was successful and could absorb the outreach issues. She noted that she felt code enforcement issues should be addressed directly by departments.

Commissioner Diaz expressed appreciation to Mayor Alvarez, members of the County Commission and the County Manager for their support of Fisher House. He expressed concern regarding Team Metro and noted he would be meeting with County Manager Burgess and Ms. Glazer-Moon. Commissioner Diaz noted he was supportive of the proposed budget with some changes.

Commissioner Souto expressed concern regarding the transportation issue. He said the fifty cents fare increase would impact many families in Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Souto also expressed concern regarding the proposed cuts to Team Metro, noting he felt this was a functional department. He commented on proposals to purchase hybrid cars and proposed that for one year, the County impose a freeze on buying equipment and vehicles, unless indicated as necessary by the department director(s). Commissioner Souto said the savings to be achieved could be invested in transportation and other areas. He noted he felt it was totally irresponsible to eliminate bus routes.

Chairman Barreiro asked County Manager Burgess to consider maintaining countywide in-kind services for major community events, including the Book Fair, Art Basel, the Film Festival, Inter-American Conference of Mayors, Pow Wow and the Super Bowl. He expressed support for funding for the Miami Beach Courthouse; beach renourishment and maintenance; and the scavenger boat. Chairman Barreiro noted he would be supportive today of

the budget items. He reminded Mr. Burgess that a super majority vote of the County Commission would be required at the second budget hearing on September 18th, and he suggested Mr. Burgess meet with representatives of the cities and each County Commissioner to make sure they were comfortable with the issues before the September 18th meeting.

091010 **Report**

NON-AGENDA REPORT

Report: *In response to Commissioner Moss' request for an update on Hurricanes Ike and Hannah, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez invited members of the County Commission to attend a press conference scheduled for tomorrow (9/5) at 11:00 a.m., at the Emergency Operations Center, to discuss preparations for Hurricane Ike.*

In response to Chairman Barreiro's comment that various models indicated Hurricane Ike within the South Florida vicinity, County Manager Burgess noted the County Administration continued to watch Hurricane Ike carefully.

Mayor Alvarez said the public should stay informed and utilize the weekend to be prepared.

Chairman Barreiro noted he would release a memorandum tomorrow morning (9/5) outlining the process in moving forward to address issues that were raised at today's meeting and in the past, with the County Manager and the Mayor.

Commissioner Diaz asked the County Administration to contact representatives of the South Florida Water Management regarding lake capacity due to the impending hurricane.

2 ADJOURNMENT

Report: *There being no further business to come before the County Commission, the First Budget Hearing was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.*

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman

ATTEST: HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: Kay Sullivan, Deputy Clerk