



Housing & Community Development Committee  
May 13, 2009

Prepared by: Mary Smith-York

**EXHIBITS LIST**

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	5/13/2009	----	County Manager's Changes Memorandum
2	5/13/2009	1E1	The Beacon Council – Urban Initiatives Program Outreach & Marketing
3	5/13/2009	1E1	Housing & Community Development Committee Budget Priorities – FY 2009-10
4	5/13/2009	1F1	Emails and Letters from Ms. Silvia Morales Re: Housing Lottery Program
5	4/24/2009	1G1	Letters from Mr. Grady Muhammad to U.S. HUD
6	5/8/2009	1G1	Letter to Mr. Grady Muhammad from the Director of Office of Community & Economic Development
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# Memorandum



**Date:** May 13, 2009

**To:** Honorable Chairperson and Members  
Housing & Community Development Committee

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**Subject:** Requested Changes to the  
Housing & Community Development Committee  
Agenda

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MAY 13 2009

Item \_\_\_\_\_  
Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting HCDC

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## Additions

### 7B SUPPLEMENT

**091490** SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO THE MONTHLY REPORT ON THE  
MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY – MAY 2009 (County  
Manager)

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Item \_\_\_\_\_  
Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit 1E1

**THE BEACON COUNCIL  
URBAN INITIATIVES PROGRAM OUTREACH AND MARKETING**

The Beacon Council, by contract with Miami-Dade County, is charged with implementing a comprehensive economic development strategy for the entirety of the County through general marketing, the aggressive recruitment of new industries and the retention and expansion of existing businesses. The Beacon Council is funded by private sector membership and the Local Business Tax Receipts Surcharge. Pursuant to Chapter 205-33, Florida Statutes Section 817.2, the use of the Local Business Tax Receipts Surcharge is limited to the implementation of an overall Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the entire County.

Within the overall marketing program, the following twelve areas are related to the Enterprise Zone, Empowerment Zone and TUAs.

**I. ENTERPRISE ZONE COMPLETED PROJECTS AND OUTREACH VISITATIONS**

The Beacon Council works with existing companies and new companies to assist them in their expansion plans. We provide assistance in site selection, incentives packaging, labor and training, permitting and business referrals. Since 2000, we have completed 112 projects in the Enterprise Zone, which created 10,324 new jobs, added over 5.6 million new sq. ft. and over \$669 million in new capital investment.

As a major component of local outreach, we visit 150 Miami-Dade County companies annually to offer our assistance. Since 2000, we have completed visitations to 448 companies in the Enterprise Zone. These companies employ a total of 43,391 employees, and occupy over 26.5 million square feet of commercial space.

**II. ENTERPRISE ZONE INQUIRES AND FOLLOW-UP**

As a result of the visitations, outreach from special events, surveys and referrals, the staff responds to hundreds of inquires annually providing follow-up on issues that include permitting, enterprise zone benefits, availability of financial incentives, training and general information requests.

**III. BUSINESS ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS**

The Beacon Council conducts quarterly workshops targeting small businesses throughout Miami-Dade County, including Enterprise Zones and TUAs. This year, workshops have been completed in Doral and Opa-locka, along with participation in the Mayor's Small Business Expos in North Miami, Kendall, Doral and Downtown Miami and programs with the cities of Miami Gardens and North Miami. This year, workshops were also scheduled for Liberty City and Little Haiti, but were cancelled per the partnering organizations. Since 2000, we have completed approximately 30 workshops, partnering with cities, Miami-Dade County, South Florida Workforce, and the Small Business Administration.

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Item 1E1 - Beacon Council  
Exhibit E-13-09 HFD

#### **IV. SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE**

The Beacon Council has served on the Board of Directors and Committees of South Florida Workforce since 1996. We have partnered with Workforce on special events, promotions and work together on visiting local companies, the Business Assistance Workshops and providing coordination of training incentives, financial incentives, recruiting and placement services, and outreach coordination.

#### **V. PARTNERSHIPS WITH LISTINGS**

The Beacon Council partners and participates, when feasible, with other organizations on marketing Enterprise Zones and TUAs including but not limited to the following.

- Coalition of Chambers
- Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW)
- Community Redevelopment Agencies
- Economic Development Practitioners
- Economic Development Council of South Dade
- Enterprise Florida
- Florida Manufacturers Extension Partnership
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC)
- Industrial Association of Dade County
- Liberty City Trust
- Mayors Taskforce for Urban Revitalization
- Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce
- Miami-Dade County Office of Community & Economic Development (OCED)
- Minority Business Development Council (MBDC)
- Miami Workers Center
- Municipalities
- National Association of Industrial Office Properties (NABOB)
- National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)
- Seed America
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
- South Florida Workforce
- South Florida Manufacturer's Association
- Vision Council
- War on Poverty

## **VI. OUTREACH THROUGH SURVEYS**

The Beacon Council conducts numerous surveys and direct mail inquiries to local businesses throughout the year. The Local Business Local Jobs survey targets over 3,000 businesses and additional surveys are done for multinationals and target industries, such as aviation and manufacturing. The surveys are sent to businesses in the Enterprise Zone and TUAs. Surveys ask for information on expansion plans, issues impeding business growth and provide a vehicle for companies to respond to us asking for our assistance. Follow up with those companies identifying a need for support are always undertaken by Beacon Council staff.

## **VII. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The Beacon Council works closely with the following local organizations and County departments on time sensitive projects impacting Enterprise Zones and TUAs.

- Enterprise Florida; Urban Working Group focused on urban legislation
- Miami Dade County; Scott Carver Hope VI Project
- MiMo District; Proposed Enterprise Zone Inclusion
- Miami Workers Center; Proposed Poinciana Green Initiative
- Miami Dade Chamber; Urban Partnership for Prosperity (UPP)
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; Black Business Initiative
- Miami-Dade Retail Skills Center; National Retail Federation (NRF)
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Project Funding
- War on Poverty; SmartEdge Financial Workshops

## **VIII. EVENTS AND TRADE SHOWS**

The Beacon Council has partnered with other organizations on the following special projects targeting urban revitalization and business development.

- International Trade/Commerce Workshop for Minority Businesses; Minority Enterprise Development Council (MEDC)
- Minority Enterprise Development Week (MEDWeek); Minority Business Outreach
- Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC); Venture Capital Training Workshop for Inner City Companies
- Liberty City Trust; 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Initiatives and Proposed Workshop

## **IX. MISSIONS AND TRAVEL**

The Beacon Council promotes Miami-Dade County throughout the world, meeting with prospective new businesses, site location consultants and targeted industry executives at selected trade shows. At these meetings and events, we annually make between 100-500 briefings, providing information on Miami-Dade County's assets, as well as the benefits of TUA's, which include Enterprise Zone incentives.

## **X. PROSPECT/PROJECTS PROPOSALS**

On an ongoing basis, The Beacon Council works with approximately 100 active projects. Projects are presented an information package that highlights the benefits of locating their business in the Enterprise Zone. Also, included in the packages is information on other inducement incentives that may apply including the enhancements to those traditional incentives if the location chosen is in an Enterprise Zone.

## **XI. MARKETING REAL ESTATE AND SITES**

The Beacon Council periodically sends to its proprietary list of 600 corporate relocation consultants and site selectors a mailing (electronic and USPS) that highlights key commercial properties that are available in Miami-Dade County. In recent mailings, five of the nine properties highlighted were located within the Miami-Dade Enterprise Zone. Based on site requirements, staff identifies suitable properties from a countywide real estate database, populated by commercial brokers. The database includes Enterprise Zones and TUA sites.

Further, all commercial prospects and projects are thoroughly informed about Enterprise Zone benefits. This includes the fiscal enhancements to the QTI and Miami-Dade County Targeted Jobs Incentive Fund (TJIF) inducement incentives that are available to companies locating within an Enterprise Zone.

The Beacon Council also partners in marketing with CRAs that have developable properties for commercial/industrial job creation.

## **XII. JOINT MARKETING CAMPAIGN - MIAMI: WHERE WORLDS MEET**

The "Miami: Where Worlds Meet" program is a joint marketing campaign with seven partners: The Beacon Council, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, American Airlines, MIA, Port of Miami, Downtown Development Authority and Baptist Health Systems. The campaign markets all of Miami-Dade County with a comprehensive advertising, public relations, and e-commerce program combined with business development missions. In addition, the following marketing items highlight Enterprise Zone benefits available to businesses in those designated areas:

- Miami Business Profile,
- Life Sciences, Aviation Brochures,
- Beacon Council Website,
- Beacon Council Annual Report, and the
- Beacon Council Incentives Booklets.

These items are disseminated to thousands of recipients during Business Development Missions, Trade Show Attendance, Prospect/Project Meetings, and Direct and e-mail campaigns.

MAY 13 2009  
 Item 1E1-Budget Priorities

Exhibit HCDC

Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners  
 Housing and Community Development Committee Budget Priorities  
 FY 2009-10

Committee	Commissioner	Affected Departments	Budget Priority	Selections	Item Nr.
Housing and Community Development Committee	Audrey M. Edmonson	MDHA	Aggressively raise public awareness and lobby for the Surtax extension.		HCDC-1
		Various	Maintain the current level of funding for Community Based Organizations.		HCDC-2
		CAA	Continue funding the Head Start Program at the current levels.		HCDC-3
		CAA	Maintain the current level of service in the Community Action Agency.		HCDC-4
		Community Advocacy	Increase funding to address caseload activity for the Equal Opportunity Board.		HCDC-5
		DHS	Maintain current level of service for the Department of Human Services.		HCDC-6
		OCED	Continue funding Mom & Pop Grant Program at current levels.		HCDC-7
		DHS, OGC	Monitor social service agencies to ensure that the use of funding is consistent with County Commission and federal government guidelines.		HCDC-8
		HFA	Establish programs to help homeowner's avoid foreclosure.		HCDC-9
		MDHA	Construct government subsidized affordable rental units for the elderly and for families.		HCDC-10
		CAA, DHS, HFA, Homeless Trust	Establish programs to assist families in crisis with homelessness avoidance measures.		HCDC-11
		MDHA, HFA	Provide funding to implement outcomes of the Affordable Housing Master Plan.		HCDC-12
		Community Advocacy	Provide funding for additional staff in the Office of Community Advocacy.		HCDC-13
		CAA	Continue current funding level for Greater Miami Service Corps.		HCDC-14
		Various	Allocate funding for the planning and development of Landmark.		HCDC-15
		MDHA, HFA	Provide funding to implement outcomes of the Affordable Housing Master Plan.		HCDC-16
		Community Advocacy	Provide funding for additional staff in the Office of Community Advocacy.		HCDC-17
		OGC	Maintain the current level of funding for Community Based Organizations within the Office of Grants Coordination.		HCDC-18
		CAA	Continue funding the Head Start Program at current levels to ensure the needs of children are being met.		HCDC-19
		CAA	Maintain the current level of service in the Community Action Agency.		HCDC-20
		Community Advocacy	Increase funding to address caseload activity for Equal Opportunity Board.		HCDC-21
		DHS	Maintain current level of service for the Department of Human Services.		HCDC-22
		OCED	Continue funding to support the Mom & Pop Grant Program at current levels.		HCDC-23
		CAA	Continue current funding level for Greater Miami Service Corps.		HCDC-24

**Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners  
Housing and Community Development Committee Budget Priorities  
FY 2009-10**

Committee	Commissioner	Affected Departments	Budget Priority	Selections	Item Nr.
Housing and Community Development Committee (cont'd)	Barbara J. Jordan (cont'd)	Various	Allocate funding for the planning and development of Landmark		HCDC-25
	Joe A. Martinez	DHS, JSD, CAA	Continue to provide adequate support services to our residents. There are too many families in dire need of assistance, from healthcare to social service programs. Our elderly and youth cannot be ignored; as such we must continue to find ways to provide adequate services to assist their needs.		HCDC-26
		DHS, JSD, CAA	We need to incorporate measures to better monitor these social service agencies so that the use of the funding is in-line with our guidelines as well as the guidelines set forth by the Federal Government.		HCDC-27
	Dorrin D. Rolle	MDHA, HFA, OCED	Develop and implement strategies to provide sufficient and affordable workforce housing, as well as tax relief to targeted sectors of our community, with special attention to the needs of the low income segments of the population (i.e. those segments that are defined as high need and/or underserved geographic areas).		HCDC-28
		MDHA, HFA, OCED	Ambitiously strive to obtain the completion of the HOPE VI Project, in its entirety, which will provide affordable housing--both rentals and homeownership opportunities--for former residents of the Scott Carver Community who have been waiting over 10 years for this Project to come to fruition.		HCDC-29
		SBD	Improve access to capital for small businesses; help small businesses that are struggling with existing debt; and spur investment in small, high-growth firms.		HCDC-30
		Various	Expedite and finalize the funding for the completion of the Regional Head Start Center, Northside Police Station, Arcola Library Project, as well as the Arcola Lakes Senior Center--this would provide jobs and act as a stimulus to the local economy at a time when it is most needed.		HCDC-31
		DHS, JSD, CAA	Concentrate on social service needs for all segments of the community, including meals for the elderly, children's programs, healthcare and insurance; intervention, prevention and diversion programs.		HCDC-32
		Various	Utilize our economist for economic forecasting that should lead to policies which accelerate social and economic development in Miami-Dade County.		HCDC-33
		Various	Provide effective services and improve such through technology and application of best practices.		HCDC-34
	Katy Sorenson	DP&Z, OOS	At a time of economic uncertainty and while there is less building activity we are presented with a unique opportunity to do some real planning for the future of our community -- planning that takes into account issues of climate change and allows us to benefit from the experience of smart growth in other communities who are making wise development choices		HCDC-35
		Various	We need to continue our commitment to services such as Transit and the Public Health Trust. Not only do they have the biggest fiscal challenges of our County entities, both have become more important at times of greater need to our residents		HCDC-36

**Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners**  
**Housing and Community Development Committee Budget Priorities**  
**FY 2009-10**

Committee	Commissioner	Affected Departments	Budget Priority	Selections	Item Nr
Housing and Community Development Committee (cont'd)	Katy Sorenson (cont'd)	Various	In order to do the productive and important work of this County, and to not add to our community's unemployment problem, I would like to retain as many employees as possible. We need to work closely with unions to protect our employees as much as possible by exploring ideas of cutting back hours, voluntary leaves, furloughs, or other options to avoid lay-offs		HCDC-37
		BCC	As a commission, we do have options, and I hope we seriously consider that with a super majority vote we will be able to help protect social services, parks, public safety, and our employees		HCDC-38
		HFA	Establish programs to assist homeowners avoid foreclosure so that they don't join the ranks of homeless families and the number of abandoned/derelict foreclosed homes does not continue to rise.		HCDC-39
		MIDHA	Take advantage of falling real-estate prices and available construction labor to pursue the construction of government subsidized affordable rental units for the elderly and for families in order to fulfill this growing need and to stimulate our local economy with these construction projects.		HCDC-40
		OCED, HFA, DHS	Prioritize the construction of thousands of units of affordable rental units to serve the needs of our aging population.		HCDC-41
		OCED, HFA, DHS	Provide a variety of products ranging from rental units for independent/self sufficient seniors, to housing products that provide some nursing care or assistance to less self sufficient seniors.		HCDC-42
		CAA, DHS, HFA, Homeless Trust	Establish programs to assist families in crisis with homelessness avoidance by subsidizing their rental deposits and first month's rent.		HCDC-43

From: Silvia <theprfirm@aol.com>  
To: mdha@miamidade.gov  
Subject: Request for Lottery Attendance  
Date: Mon, 11 Aug 2008 3:28 pm

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*Exhibit 1F1*

MAY 13 2009

Item 1F1  
Exhibit 1  
Meeting HCDC

Good Afternoon Sherra,

I spoke with you today, August 11th. I am requesting to be present when the computer will be generating the lottery ranking numbers. Since this is a public process, there should not be an issue with having a member of the public present during this process.

As I mentioned to you today, given all the issues which HUD has had to deal with, I am very concerned and dissapointed that HUD would place itself in a "lottery" system instead of just going with a transparent process based on a well documented first-come basis.

Please let me know the date/time and location when this computer lottery will be taking place.

Silvia Morales  
786-287-0775

It's time to go back to school! Get the latest trends and gadgets that make the grade on [AOL Shopping](#).

**From:** Silvia <theprfirm@aol.com>  
**To:** lindsey.s.reames@hud.gov; mdha@miamidade.gov  
**Bcc:** mpinzur@miamiherald.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request for Lottery Attendance  
**Date:** Thu, 28 Aug 2008 11:53 am

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Good Morning Ms. Reames,

I contacted Sherry, Public Information Officer for Miami Dade Housing on August 11th regarding the lottery process (see below). I specifically requested both verbally and in writing to be present during the "lottery based" assigning of ranking numbers. I had also explained to Sherry that I have extensive experience with programming and wanted to see which software was utilized to assign the order of the ranking. I am also very familiar with government and our rights as citizens to have open access -

I called today as a follow-up and was advised by Sherry that a letter was being sent to me - when I asked about the date/time of the ranking assignment process, I was told that it already had taken place. My original request had been forwarded to your office, you had both my email and cell number, I do not understand why I was not allowed to be present during this process, even after making an official request. HUD/Miami-Dade Housing Agency are not private entities, and as such, we the public have as much right to be present as your staff or consultants.

Please respond to the following questions:

- 1) Which department retained the services of Berman Hopkins, CPA? Did anyone outside staff and their consultant witness the actual process?
- 2) How many members of the public officially requested to be present during the ranking assignment?
- 3) Why was my request denied?
- 4) Why is there a 35+ day interim period between the "random" ranking assignments and Miami-Dade Housing making that information public?
- 5) Are there any "manual" changes/overrides made to the computer generated assignment list during this interim period or at any time thereafter-for whatever reason?
- 6) Where could I find the Master Assignment List which has already been generated? How can I arrange to see it? - Why isn't that immediately posted online being that there should be no changes to the "random" assignments?

Please respond as soon as possible-

Silvia Morales  
786-287-0775

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Silvia <theprfirm@aol.com>  
**To:** mdha@miamidade.gov  
**Sent:** Mon, 11 Aug 2008 3:28 pm  
**Subject:** Request for Lottery Attendance

Good Afternoon Sherra,

I spoke with you today, August 11th. I am requesting to be present when the computer will be generating the lottery ranking numbers. Since this is a public process, there should not be an issue with having a member of the public present during this process.

As I mentioned to you today, given all the issues which HUD has had to deal with, I am very concerned and disappointed that HUD would place itself in a "lottery" system instead of just going with a transparent process based on a well documented first-come basis.

Please let me know the date/time and location when this computer lottery will be taking place.

April 24, 2009

**Commissioner Audrey Edmonson**  
**District 3**  
**Downtown Office**  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 220  
Miami, Florida 33128

Cc: Jose Cintron – Public Housing Agency  
Sherra McLeod – Public Housing Agency

Dear Commissioner Edmonson,

I am writing this letter in order to request being placed on the next Agenda of the Housing and Community Development Committee which you Chair. I would like to address serious concerns which I have with regards to the current procedures in place for our citizens to acquire public housing and Section 8 Vouchers.

I would like to list the specific items I will be discussing in an effort to provide Staff with sufficient time to address these items and make the most of the time that I am allotted at the Committee Meeting.

1) The "Lottery"

I registered my mother online during the latest open enrollment period (Summer 2008). I actually was online at 8am on the very first day of open enrollment in order to be able to ensure that my mother's request could be considered. My first surprise came when I became aware that it made no difference whether we were the first to apply or waiting until the last day/minute – A "lottery" would rank all the applicants.

Though I might not agree with that procedure, I decided that I as a Miami-Dade Citizen I at the very least wanted to be present to witness this "lottery". I called the Public Housing Agency on August 11, 2008, spoke with Sherry McLeod (at the time Public Information Officer) I verbally made the request and sent a follow-up email (below).

I decided to follow-up on August 28<sup>th</sup> as to when the Lottery would be taking place. This was to be my second "surprise", the lottery had already taken place. Now, being that I am very familiar with Government under Sunshine, I was taken back at the news that The Public Housing Agency would choose not to afford me the opportunity to be present after having full knowledge of my desire to be present. On August 28<sup>th</sup> I was advised that staff along with a CPA had been present, being that the CPA is on retainer with the same agency conducting this lottery disqualifies them as an "independent" observer in my opinion. There is a reason why when conducting a "Lottery" it is required for it to be done in an open process, it is to ensure that there is no room for manipulation of the results. The State spends millions on air time daily to show the Florida Lottery numbers actually being picked - live – we do not find out after the fact as to the winning numbers for that same reason. I know that there are strict guidelines for engaging in a "lottery" system and I am certain that not allowing the public to witness the

event is unacceptable. I submitted a follow-up email upon learning of the denial of my desire to be present (see attached). I asked specific questions about the process – to date I have not received a reply to that email.

I would like to know:

What are the State Statues for conducting a lottery as it relates to doing government in the “Sunshine” – I would also like to have the answers to the questions that I submitted.

## 2) The Qualifiers

When I assisted my mother in filling out the application, I noted that there were many questions which I deemed to be “pre-qualifiers” – questions such as income which obviously determine whether or not a person is even eligible for these programs. My third surprise was that nothing is done with the answers provided as it relates to ranking applicants. The mere reason as to why there are over 71,000 applicants is that a portion of those applicants don’t even qualify BUT by not immediately filtering out those that apply without basic qualifications, there are two detrimental results for the others that do qualify and do “desperately need” public assistance:

- a) The Public Housing Agency can technically claim to process for example 25,000 applications even though a large % of those “processed” should have never been considered to begin with. This number gives the public a false sense of how many deserving citizens are actually receiving the opportunity to be processed.
- b) All of those applicants which do not qualify based on the pre-qualifying questions that are already being asked take up room in the lottery based ranking list. Now you have individuals in need that do qualify that are intermixed with those that don’t – resulting in an unnecessary longer wait since staff is presently taking the time to set up appointments and meet with anyone no matter whether or not they meet the most obvious and basic requirement of income, along with a number of other questions which are answered in the application process. Given the enormous number of applicants and the fact that pre-qualifiers are being already asked, wouldn’t it make sense to actually do something with those answers?

### 3) The Reality of the Ranking System

As previously mentioned, we took the time as responsible citizens to be online on the first day, first minute of the open registration process. After the "closed door" lottery took place came my fourth surprise, my Mother's ranking (number on line)

For Section 8 she is 24,908

For Public Housing she is 14,473

One is left to wonder just how many of the 24,907 people before her on the list for Section 8 and how many of the 14,472 for Public Housing even meet the basic age and income requirements – something which common sense would dictate should have been filtered prior to the rankings. One is also left to wonder why a closed-door "lottery" is even permitted by law – How a request to be present from a citizen can be ignored.

During the last eight months the Public Housing Agency has interviewed:

Up to #446 for Section 8

Up to #1915 for Public Housing (1 bedroom/elderly)

At that current rate it would take my mother approximately 50 years for her number to come up for Section 8 and approximately 8 years for Public Housing. That is if there are no more "open registration" periods during which she would completely lose her current place in line since no consideration is currently granted to those that have been previously waiting once a new "open registration" is declared. Chances are that somewhere during the next 5-8 years a new "open" period will be announced and then this entire unregulated process will begin all over again.

Please advise me as to the date and time of the next Housing and Development Committee Meeting during which I can be placed on the agenda. I would like to request for Public Housing Agency officials to be present. I am copying them on this letter as well so that they may have time to prepare to answer these questions prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Edmonson, in closing, this experience has opened my eyes as to the actual level of the crisis that exists in Miami-Dade has when it comes to taking care of our elderly and the lack of transparency that has been allowed to exist.

Sincerely,

Silvia Morales

[theprfirm@aol.com](mailto:theprfirm@aol.com)

786-287-0775

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Sincerely,

Silvia Morales

[theprfirm@aol.com](mailto:theprfirm@aol.com)

786-287-0775



MAY 13 2009

Item 161  
Meeting 5/13/09 HCDC

Friday, April 24, 2009 5:03 PM

Complaint - Dade County

From: "Bustamante, Fiordaliza" <fiordaliza.bustamante@hud.gov>  
To: "gradymuhammad@yahoo.com" <gradymuhammad@yahoo.com>

April 24, 2009

To: Grady Muhammad  
President  
GMA, Inc.  
[gradymuhammad@yahoo.com](mailto:gradymuhammad@yahoo.com)

Dear Mr. Muhammad:

SUBJECT: Miami-Dade County - CDBG Program  
Webmanager Complaint

Our office has received your complaint through HUD's FL web-manager site regarding the County's NRSA Little River previously awarded funds under the CDBG program.

HUD's procedures require that local government agencies make every reasonable effort to respond to complaints in a timely manner. We have, therefore, forwarded your correspondence to Miami-Dade County, and requesting that a written reply be sent to you with a copy to us.

We thank you for bringing this problem to our attention. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact our Office.

Thanks.

Lisa Bustamante  
Senior CPD Representative  
Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD)  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
909 SE First Avenue, Suite 500  
Miami, FL 33131-3028  
Telephone: (305) 520-5008  
Fax: (305) 536-4781  
Visit HUD in Florida on line at <http://www.hud.gov/florida>



Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

May 8, 2009

Mr. Grady Muhammad, President  
Grady Muhammad Associates, Inc.  
6130 N.W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33127

RE: Community Development Block Grant Hotline Complaint

Dear Mr. Muhammad:

On April 28, 2009 US HUD advised us that it received a recent complaint against Miami-Dade County. Through this letter, we are responding to your concerns regarding the allocations from the 2009 reserve account of the West Little River Community Advisory Committee.

Guidelines that apply to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations made through the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Reserves were originally identified in Resolution #R-618-02. Only the CAC funding recommendations of projects that meet the criteria listed below are considered by the Board of County Commissioners for review and final approval:

- The eligible activity must meet one of US HUD's National Objectives.
- The eligible activity must have a Request For Application that was submitted to Miami-Dade County for the current funding cycle.
- The eligible activity was not recommended for funding through the County's review of eligible applications.
- The eligible activity's description is consistent with the priorities cited in the Consolidated Plan.
- The eligible activity's national objective cannot be public service.

In late November 2008, Miami-Dade County issued letters of notification to the agencies that were recommended for funding by the West Little River CAC but that failed to meet the previously mentioned criteria. Your agency, which applied for \$50,000 in CDBG funding for its Economic Development—Technical Assistance Project, was among those that received such correspondence. A copy of that notification accompanies this letter.

I encourage you to meet with our staff members so that they may discuss with you strategies to improve the quality of your agency's future applications. Please contact Brian Gillis, Supervisor of the Planning, Community Outreach, and Real Estate Section at 786-469-2129 to schedule a technical assistance meeting or to discuss the topics mentioned in this letter.

Sincerely,

  
Shalley Jones  
Director

Copies: Maria R. Ortiz, Director CPD Division, US HUD  
Ann Chavis, Program Manager, USHUD  
Tangie White-Jackson, Director, CED Division

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MAY 13 2009  
Item 161  
Exhibit  
Meeting 5/13/09 #CDC