

INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL MINUTES

May 26, 2009

LOCATION: 140 West Flagler Street, Conference Room 908
Miami, Florida 33130

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT

Julia Dawson, Esq. Chairperson
Jean-Robert Lafortune, 1st Vice Chairperson
Tangier Scott, Ed.D. 2nd Vice Chairperson
Doris Shellow, Substitute
Moiez Tapia, Ph.D.
Glenn P. Falk, Esq.
Julie C. Ferguson, Esq.
Michael R. Band, Esq.
Josie Perez Velis, Esq.

PANEL STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Eduardo Diaz, Executive Director
Carol Boersma, Assistant to the Director
Kristin Anderson, Conflict Resolution Specialist
Anna Sidan, Conflict Resolution Specialist

AUDIENCE

MDPD: Sgt. Orlando Reyes
Complainant: Keisha Culmer

Finish

Agenda Item #1) Call to Order. Ms. Dawson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and asked staff to call roll.

Agenda Item #2) Adoptions of the Minutes from April 28, 2009. Dr. Tapia made a motion to ratify the April 28th minutes as being approved. Mr. Lafortune seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Dr. Tapia made grammatical corrections on page 1& 2 of the May 26 meeting on items 3 and 4. Mr. Lafortune requested that it be notated in the May 26 meeting that he was excused as opposed to being absent. Dr. Diaz stated that the record can reflect what the panel calls for. He reported that Mr. Lafortune did advise that he was ill after the panel meeting.

Ms. Ferguson moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Dr. Tapia seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3) Complaint A 2008.074 Culmer v. Miami Dade Police Department (MDPD)

Agenda Item #4) Financial Disclosure Forms due July 1, 2009 Dr. Diaz reported that Panel Members have a duty to file a disclosure form. He stated that as a member of the panel one should have received at the place of residence a financial disclosure form package. As a result of a number of Panel Members stating they did not receive a package, Dr. Diaz asked Ms. Boersma to ensure that those Panel Members receive one. He added that it is very imperative that Panel Members submit these forms by the deadline of July 1st; otherwise those in the Elections Department would have to give a public record of “non compliance” to whoever asks for it. Dr. Diaz commented that such forms are available on the Elections website, in addition to informing the Panel Members of the different ways to satisfy the requirement.

Agenda Item # 5) Panel member appointment Dr. Diaz stated that staff reviewed the record of absentees and made calls based on those records. He made mention to the panel that Mr. Reynardus did choose to step down. Dr. Diaz commented that with his (Mr. Reynardus’) new responsibilities to being out of town frequently, he is unable to commit to the panel’s scheduled meetings. Dr. Diaz added that Mr. Reynardus is able to serve as a substitute member when needed. He added that that means the panel has a vacancy that needs to be filled and stated that the criterion is that the four members shall be appointed by the panel based on a consensus of integrity and community representation, considering ethno-cultural and gender balance. Dr. Diaz asked panel members to look

Ms. Dawson reported that in the past the panel has sent out letters to various organizations asking them to if they have or know of someone who they would like to consider serving on the panel. She suggested doing so again. Dr. Diaz wrote down the names of suggested organizations from the panel. Dr. Diaz inquired if the panel wishes to send individual nominations and also invite two organizations to nominate. Ms. Dawson stated that she believes that is the consensus.

Agenda Item #6) Executive Director’s Report Dr. Diaz reported that the County has a 350 to 400 hundred million dollar short fall to fill. He stated that County Manager, George Burgess, and Mayor, Carlos Alvarez, would normally have their purposed budget out by this time but have chosen to postpone putting out their purposed budget until after the July 1st Certification of the Property Appraisers Estimate.

Community Outreach

Dr. Diaz mentioned that staff has been reaching out to other organizations such as the Department of Juvenile Justice. He mentioned that more community conflict resolution workshops with Juveniles will be administered as a result.

Follow-up with Director Parker

Dr. Diaz reported that he personally called Director Parker and personally spoke to him about the follow-up regarding the Naidoo case. Director Parker was not familiar with the case; therefore, Dr. Diaz stated that he personally emailed him the letter and the panel’s disposition. Dr. Diaz commented that that was the last communication they have had. Dr. Diaz reported that he asked Director Parker specifically who he wanted it sent to and Director Parker stated he wanted it to be sent to himself and his Senior Secretary.

Meeting with Director Ryan, May 29, 2009

Dr. Diaz reported that he and Ms. Boersma met with Director Ryan and presented him with the Panel's resolution of the Panel's willingness to explore oversight involving inspections and monitoring at the jails. Dr. Diaz added that Director Ryan is not closed to the idea, but would like to have more input from the Vera Institute of Justice who is doing a special study specifically addressing oversight in jails and prisons. Director Ryan's request is that we remain open to it and at the next time there is a Vera meeting, that it be addressed again, and seek additional input.

Agenda Item #7) Adjourn Dr. Tapia made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Shellow seconded. It was passed unanimously.