

Date: August 1, 2013

Memorandum



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

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Carlos A. Gimenez, the Mayor mentioned in the 'From' field.

Subject: Library District - Budget and Programmatic Update

In a recent memo titled *Library District – Budget and Programmatic Update* distributed on July 25th, 2013 (attached), I shared what our work process would entail as we develop the framework for a sustainable library system. As noted, it is my intent to provide updates that will include key milestones as we progress towards a final operational recommendation that will consider efficiencies, savings, targeted services that will minimize the impact to our residents, and partnerships that will leverage collaborative service delivery. Our recommendation will demonstrate innovation and sensitivity to our diverse county's needs.

Update on Process

Since our meeting with The Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library last Thursday, staff has already reached out to each of your offices and has met with most of you to discuss your perspectives and ideas regarding the role of libraries within our County. We have also reached out to the cities in the Library District and have scheduled meetings with municipal leadership to provide an update on our efforts and to discuss their viewpoints as we develop our plan for the future of the library system. These meetings will not only be an opportunity for information sharing, but also an opportunity to receive feedback regarding library schedules. As we narrow down to a final list of libraries that will remain open, our next step will be to strategically and collaboratively finalize a recommendation regarding library schedules.

We have also contacted Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). It is important for us to be cognizant of the impacts different options could have on the families we serve. It is very clear to me that our libraries are safe havens for many children during the after-school hours and I have directed my staff to look for solutions that keep libraries open during these critical time frames. To that end, staff will remain in close communication with M-DCPS as final library schedules are determined. Additionally, we will be working on solutions that enable us to continue working together on programmatic efforts. I believe that this established bridge can be strengthened further in a manner that would complement both of our missions.

To that same end, we are scheduling meetings with the Children's Trust, The Miami Children's Initiative, the Knight Foundation, the Miami Foundation, City Year, The United Way, The Early Learning Coalition and our local college and university partners and will be having similar conversations with these organizations over the next two weeks. We have coordinated our second working session with South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) to continue defining how the Library System and SFWIB's plans to share sites can shift to a model of joint service delivery. My team has also been directed to work with our long-term partners that have historically participated in the Mayor's Initiative on Aging to determine how we can work with public and private partners to best program our libraries for the older adults of Miami-Dade. I know that our County's senior citizens are avid patrons of our libraries and we will be scheduling meetings next week to gather feedback and explore new programming partnerships I anticipate that

conversations with all of these critical partners will allow unique community-tailored innovations to emerge in our libraries --- building upon past success with the future in mind.

Finally, we have set up additional meetings with the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library to continue the discussions that began last week. Their priority was clear – protect the footprint of our library district. I am committed to working closely with them as we finalize a final recommendation for the upcoming year. We also value working together to leverage volunteers in our libraries and had a brainstorming session regarding revenue generating ideas. My representatives will meet with them on August 2nd and the following week too. This work will continue through the budget process and into the next fiscal year.

Update on Progress

As I shared last week and earlier in this communication, we will not have a final proposal until we work through the process; however, in our effort to find efficiencies and savings – I can confidently say that we will be able to bring the maximum number of libraries that may be considered for closure down to 14. The work is not done. The assessment of days, hours, staffing levels, budget reviews and service impacts continues. We have also reviewed our leases and I have directed my staff to make every effort to renegotiate lease terms. The outcomes of this step could also contribute to savings and additional libraries remaining open, but the Miami-Dade Library System will have a **minimum of 35 open libraries** within a sustainable system.

The launch of the Technology Learning Centers, referenced in last week's memo, will take place on August 9th and you will be receiving additional information regarding the announcement that will highlight the new sites that will have provide free community access to computers and Wi-Fi for both youth and adults.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to provide you regular updates of our progress. If you have any questions regarding the Library Department, please do not hesitate to contact, Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor, at 305-375-2911, Raymond Santiago, Director, Miami-Dade Public Library System, at 305-375-5026, or me directly.

c: Municipal Mayors - Library District

Ed Marquez, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Raymond Santiago, Director, Miami-Dade Library System
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department
Jennifer Moon, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Angel Petisco, Director, Information Technology Department
Henry Sori, Director, Community Information and Outreach Department
Michael Spring, Director, Cultural Affairs Department
Suzet Alvarez-Cleary, Assistant Director, Miami-Dade Library System
Beatriz J. Jimenez, Senior Advocate, Community Action and Human Services Department
Charles Auslander, President and CEO, The Children's Trust
Roderick Beasley, Executive Director, South Florida Workforce
Sister Linda Bevilacqua, O.P., Ph.D., President, Barry University
Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Dennis J. Crudele, Acting President, Florida Atlantic University
George L. Hambury II, President/CEO, Nova Southeastern University
Alberto Ibarquen, President and CEO, Knight Foundation

Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Page | 3

Harve Mogul, President/CEO, United Way of Miami-Dade
John Quick, Board President, Friends of Miami-Dade Public Library
Eduardo J. Padron, Ph.D., President, Miami Dade College
Mark B. Rosenberg, President, Florida International University
Donna E. Shalala, President, University of Miami
Javier Soto, President and CEO, The Miami Foundation
Evelio Torres, President and CEO, Early Learning Coalition