

# Memorandum



**Date:** November 9, 2016

**To:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", written over the printed name of the Mayor.

**Subject:** Mayoral Appointment – Director Designee of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

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On January 31, 2017, Jack Kardys, Director of Miami Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Department will retire after a long and distinguished career with the County. Director Kardys has provided outstanding leadership and shepherded the growth of PROS into one of the most diverse and dynamic parks systems in the nation.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 2.02-C of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I am hereby appointing Mr. George Navarrete as the Director Designee of PROS effective November 17, 2016.

As Director Kardys' Deputy Director for Planning and Development, Mr. Navarrete has played a vital role in the department's evolution and in the implementation of its strategic plan. With his experience and exceptional leadership skills and his 34 years of County service, Mr. Navarrete will provide invaluable stewardship during this important leadership transitional period.

Before his appointment to Deputy Director for Planning and Development of PROS in October 2011, Mr. Navarrete served as Department Director for the Office of Capital Improvements (OCI) managing the \$2.9 billion voter-approved Building Better Communities Bond Program, the Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Program (\$200 million), the Quality Neighborhood Improvement Bond Program (\$250 million), and the Miscellaneous Construction Contracts, which awarded an average of \$100 million annually.

Prior to his work at OCI, Mr. Navarrete spent 22 years with the Miami-Dade Transit Department. As Director for Planning and Development for Transit, he oversaw the planning, engineering, construction and project controls for the implementation of the capital construction, components of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP), a \$2.5 billion expansion of the existing rail systems. Mr. Navarrete has a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture and a Master's Degree in Construction Management from Florida International University.

In addition to Mr. Navarrete's appointment, I intend to reclassify Ms. Maria Nardi, PROS Assistant Director for Planning and Design Excellence, to PROS Deputy Director and later appoint her as PROS Director upon Mr. Navarrete's retirement in July 2017. This will allow for an orderly succession that will insure leadership stability and maintain the department's strategic momentum.

As Assistant Director for Planning and Design Excellence, Ms. Nardi is responsible for the acquisition, planning, design, and construction of all park facilities. This unit manages more than \$300 million in General Obligation Bond projects, with an average capital expenditure of more than \$50 million a year. In the process, she is credited with creating invaluable partnerships with other agencies, including Public Housing, Community Development, Transportation and Public Works, Department of Cultural Affairs, Internal Services, and Libraries, as well as other

government agencies such as South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation, and Florida Department of Health.

In her current role, Ms. Nardi also oversees recreation, health, and fitness program planning for PROS. To help accomplish key objectives, she has cultivated collaborations with the Miami Foundation, the Health Foundation of South Florida, Knight Foundation, the Center for Disease Control, the University of Miami, Department of Health, National Recreation and Park Association, City Park Alliance, Trust for Public Land, Baptist Health Systems, and Florida International University, among others.

Ms. Nardi began her career with PROS in 2004 as a Special Projects Administrator where she led the development and implementation of PROS' national award-winning project: the Parks Masterplan. This blueprint is designed to transform Miami-Dade County into a more livable community through parks, public spaces, and natural and cultural areas connected by greenways and complete streets designed as linear parks. Ms. Nardi was then promoted to the Chief of Planning and Research, as which she produced the successful implementation of the Parks Masterplan and its incorporation into the Comprehensive Development Master Plan in 2009.

Ms. Nardi received her Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Miami and her Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University. Prior to serving the County, she led the initiation of the national award-winning Miami21, the bold new zoning vision that continues to transform Miami to a more walkable and vibrant 21st century community. Ms. Nardi's expertise, experience, and collaborative leadership approach to building high performance teams make her the best choice to continue the legacy that our park system has achieved.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. George Navarrete and Ms. Maria Nardi in their new roles in our outstanding park system.

Resumes for Mr. George Navarrete and Ms. Maria Nardi are attached for your review.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, County Clerk  
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney  
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff  
Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board  
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator  
Neil R. Singh, Interim Commission Auditor

George Navarrete  
8961 Southwest 124 Street, Miami, Florida 33176  
786-229-2034

### **ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

Florida International University  
B.S. Architectural/Construction Management - 1978  
Florida International University  
Masters in Construction Management -1994.

### **EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department – (October 2011 to present) – Deputy Director

This is highly responsible executive level position assisting in planning and directing the activities of the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department. I am directly responsible for the Planning, Design Excellence, Landscape Design, Capital Development and Maintenance functions of the department. In addition, I oversee the Park Stewardship and Operations divisions. These divisions include managing the Natural Areas Management, Landscape and Grounds Maintenance sections, including the golf courses and Nature Centers. Emphasis of the work is on developing departmental objectives, policies and procedures, assuring adequate staffing for departmental activities and supervising fiscal operations of the department. I am also responsible for the supervision of professional, administrative, technical and clerical employees with assigned responsibilities in various phases of operations and locations of the department. General direction is received from the Department Director who reviews work through personal conferences and written reports and holds me responsible for the efficient and effective management of departmental fiscal and operational activities. My duties include representing and assuming authority and responsibility for the director in his absence, including appearing before the Board of County Commissioners and private meetings with elected officials.

Miami-Dade Office of Capital Improvement – (June 2010 to October 2011) – Director

As the Director of OCI, I was responsible for providing support services to the Capital County departments and agencies for a wide range of pre-construction and construction activities. This included the \$2.9 billion voter-approved Building Better Communities Bond Program that is still making improvements to public buildings and facilities throughout Miami-Dade. Also under my purview was administering the Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Program (\$200 million) and the Quality Neighborhood Improvement Bond Program (\$250 million). I also managed the Miscellaneous Construction Contracts Programs (MCC) which awarded an average of \$100 million in contracts per year.

My duties include monitoring federal, state and local legislative initiatives to ensure that projects meet regulatory requirements and working closely with other County departments and the County Attorney's Office to mitigate construction claims and ensure that the County's relationship with the construction industry remained fair and balanced. I also managed the solicitation process for architectural and engineering and design/build services countywide.

Miami-Dade Office of Capital Improvement – (November 2008 to June 2010) – Assistant Director

Responsible for monitoring, oversight and implementation of Miami-Dade County's \$2.9 billion General Obligation Bond program, the Safe Neighborhood Parks bond program, the Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program bonds and the Construction Division. Also responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of the Capital Improvements Information System, the oversight of the Construction Management Training and Miscellaneous Construction Contracts Programs and the Economic Stimulus Plan. In addition, responsibilities include the development of standard construction contract language to be implemented Countywide.

Miami-Dade Office of Capital Improvement – (July 2005 to November 2008) – Chief, Bond Programs and Construction Division

Responsible for monitoring, oversight and implementation of Miami-Dade County's \$2.9 billion General Obligation Bond (GOB) program, the Safe Neighborhood Parks bond program, the Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program bonds and the Construction Division.

George Navarrete  
8961 Southwest 124 Street, Miami, Florida 33176  
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Miami-Dade Transit Agency - (January 2004 to July 2005) – Acting Assistant Director, Planning & Development  
Responsible for planning, engineering, construction, project controls and contract administration for the implementation of the capital construction components of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP), a \$2.5 billion expansion of the existing rail system. Also responsible for providing litigation support to the County Attorney's Office.

Miami-Dade Transit Agency - (September 2000 to January 2004) - Chief, Project Control  
Responsible for all scheduling, cost control, budgets, construction claims, contract administration and configuration management for the \$87 million Palmetto extension to Miami's Metrorail system and other transit capital projects.

Miami-Dade Park & Recreation - (May 1999 to September 2000) - Interim Assistant Director for Planning & Development  
Responsible for all planning, design and construction for the Parks department during the Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond capital program (\$200 million). Responsible for organizing group, developing a staffing plan, defining scopes-of-work and schedules for over 400 projects and

Miami-Dade Transit Agency - (April 1989 to May 1999) - Chief, Project Control  
Responsible for all scheduling, cost control, budgets, construction claims, contract administration and configuration management for the \$248 million extension to Miami's people mover system and other transit capital projects.

Morrison Knudsen Engineers - (October 1988 - April 1989) - Senior Cost and Scheduling Engineer  
Responsible for all scheduling for the \$580 million expansion to Interstate 95 in South Florida.

Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency - (March 1984 - December 1986) - Manager, Project Control and Claims for Metro-Dade Transit  
Responsible for all project control duties for Miami's one billion dollar transit system. Also responsible for the administration of construction claims. Began as Contract Administrator.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Scheduling Principles of the Miami Metromover Project*  
*Computer Scheduling and Construction Specs*  
*Resolving Claims with Network-based Scheduling Systems*  
*Project Management Principles of the Miami Metromover Extension Project*  
*Contemporaneous Development of Field Data: Transportation Construction Claims Defense*  
*Cost-Loaded CPM in Major Capital Projects*  
*The Use of Personal Digital Assistants in Construction*

## **REFERENCES**

Honorable Steven Leifman  
Associate Administrative Judge  
11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court  
305-548-5394

Lt. Carlos Alfaro  
Doral Police Department  
305-970-5034

Johnny Martinez  
City Manager  
City of Miami  
305-333-2245

# Maria I. Nardi

## Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

### ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Harvard University Graduate School of Design: Master in Landscape Architecture 1995-1998  
University of Miami School of Architecture: Bachelor of Architecture 1987-1991

### EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

Assistant Director of Planning and Design Excellence 2015-Present

Responsible for the development of department wide strategic frameworks that connects policy and implementation to guide local, state and federal legislative platforms and initiatives. Responsible for acquisition, planning, design, property management including facility asset inventory and maintenance, pre-development approvals, recreation, health and fitness program planning and agricultural extension services. This unit of the department is responsible for design and construction of park facilities and for managing more than \$300 million in General Obligation Bond projects with an average capital expenditure of more than \$50 million a year.

Chief of Planning and Design Excellence 2008-2015

Assistant to the Director, responsible for the development and implementation of key strategies and initiatives to advance the department mission and vision including: department Sustainability, Design Excellence, Health and Fitness, Conservation and Performance Excellence pillars; department realignment; capital development goals and priorities. Responsible for directing the implementation of the department's cornerstone projects; the award winning Parks Masterplan and the Recreation Program Plan that guide department wide policy and practices.

Led the successful implementation of the Parks Masterplan's unanimous approval by Board of County Commissioners in 2008 and incorporation into the Comprehensive Development Master Plan in 2009 the policies effecting department wide service delivery. Responsible for the development of the South Florida Park Coalition that resulted in 34 municipalities, two national parks and the School Board adopting the Masterplan goals and principles. Developed the Great Park Summit, a unique and signature event in our community that brings together national and local leaders and decision-makers to expand the discussion of parks and open spaces to address the larger aspects of the quality of life and economic prosperity of Miami-Dade County. Responsible for design and recreation program development of over 270 parks; managed over \$1 billion worth of real park property; developed park plans and recreation programs that guide operations and program delivery for local and regional parks; local and regional land acquisition strategies and the county's agriculture extension services .

Direct the Planning and Design Excellence Division to implement long and short range planning projects including the County's adopted Recreation Open Space, including: the strategy, design and implementation of projects like: The Underline, Ludlam Trail, Biscayne Everglades Greenway, Western Greenway, and 500 miles of trails. In partnership with UM School of Architecture and Medicine developed measures for health and fitness programs and park improvements, the implementation of Resiliency Centers and sea level rise strategies, and the development of masterplans for Heritage Parks, regional and local parks.

Represent the department at local, state and national forums including National Recreation and Park Association Conferences and Innovation Labs, White House Urban Affairs Advisor's Forum, Tufts University School of Medicine Public Health Dept, National PolicyLink Equity Summit, National American Public Health Association, National American Planning Association and its Florida Chapter, National American Institute of Architects Design Health Research Consortium, Robert Wood Johnson Active Living Research, City Park Alliance, University of Miami School of Architecture, Florida Recreation and Planning Association and multiple local organizations interested in advancing the goal to build a strong, healthy, prosperous community.

Special Project Administrator 2004-2008

Directed the vision and development of the Parks Masterplan: a 50 year vision for a seamless and sustainable model park system for the 21st century. Assembled a multidisciplinary team of consultants including park professionals, landscape architects, urban designers, economists, environmental and transportation planners. The Masterplan was developed as a response to thousands of participants in hundreds of meetings who expressed their desires for a more livable Miami-Dade County. The Masterplan was unanimously approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2008

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## Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

and adopted as CDMP policy in 2009. It stands as a key guiding document for existing and future development to build a healthier community.

Managed Park System Planning staff and consultants on core division functions including: land acquisition, pre-development approvals, policy and long range planning, park design, recreation program plans and real property management.

City of Miami

Chief of Urban Design

1998-2004

Led the initiation of the national award-winning Miami21, the City of Miami's bold new zoning vision that continues to transform the City to a more walkable and vibrant 21st century community. This is the City of Miami's first master plan that encompasses the rewriting of the zoning code to establish a framework and build a more walkable community based on Smart Growth principles. It replaces traditional zoning code based on land use segregation to a SmartCode based on mixed use and walkability; the first form based code to be implemented at this scale in the country.

Led City of Miami's Parks Masterplan framework; led the development of Bicentennial Park (museum park) options - worked with elected officials, team of staff, consultants and community through a workshop attended by over 350 citizens and developed 3 alternative solutions for the future development of Bicentennial park.

Directed the development of key ordinances (tree and neighborhood conservation district NCD ordinances) to enhance quality of life and economic vitality of neighborhoods. NCD's enhance neighborhoods through architecture and landscape architecture guidelines for new development and the preservation of historic architecture and landscapes; developed multiple neighborhood plans and urban design standards to guide existing and future development builds a healthy pedestrian friendly community.

Ceo & Nardi Inc. Architecture, Landscape, Preservation and Urban Design Firm

1991-1995

Co-Principal

In partnership with Rocco Ceo and Margot Ammidown, Director of Miami Dade County Preservation Department, developed the Redland: A Preservation and Tourism Plan. The preservation of South Dade's historic architecture, landscape and agriculture district through the development of MDC Greenway System and an Agri-tourism Plan.

Developed the University of Miami's Gifford Arboretum plan vision that led the way for the University of Miami campus development as an arboretum. Co-designed multiple residential projects that included architecture and landscape.

### **PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS**

*American Journal of Preventive Medicine.* 2016  
"Neighborhood Greenness and Chronic Health Conditions in Medicare Beneficiaries,"

*National Recreation and Park Association: "How Parks Create Healthier Communities"* 2015

*National Recreation and Park Association: "Masters of the Plan"* 2012

*Studio Works 6 Harvard University GSD Magazine* 1998  
*2020 New York World's Fair*

*Studio Work 5 Harvard University GSD Magazine* 1997  
*Swimming pool Hall in Walden Pond, Ma.*

*Between Two Towers* 1995  
Author: Vincent Scully

The Monacelli Press  
Interpretive Map of Coral Gables, Fl. 1925-1926

*Metropolis: "Welcome to Miami"* 1995  
By Marisa Bartolucci

# Maria I. Nardi

## Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

*Redland - A Preservation and Tourism Plan* 1993  
Co-Author: Rocco Ceo, Maria Nardi, Margot Ammidown

### **AWARD HIGHLIGHTS**

Great Park Summit: MDPROS & Miami Foundation Achievement Award 2016

Mayor's Pioneer Award: In the Company of Women 2016

National American Institute of Architects Design, Health and Research Consortium 2015

FASLA award for Haulover Park Planning Program Plan 2013

Led MDPROS selected as host of the First Lady's Let's Move Campaign celebration 2013

National Association of County Organizations Awards 2011, 2012, 2013

- City and County Partnership Summits 2011
- Make Healthy Happen Partnership 2012
- Red Fields to Green Fields (Best in Parks and Recreation Category) (2012)
- Park-School Partnership for Nature Preserve Management (2013)
- Access & Equity Plan (2013)

Miami-Dade Health Department Make Healthy Happen Award 2010

Urban Environment League Honor Award for Parks Masterplan 2008

University of Miami School of Architecture Alumna Award 2003 & 2008  
Honor Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Architecture Profession  
For Miami21 and the Miami-Dade Parks Masterplan

Harvard American Society of Landscape Architects 1998  
Honor Award for Excellence in the Study of Landscape Architecture

Progressive Architecture International Urban Design Award 1995  
*Redland: A Preservation and Tourism Plan*

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

International Women's Forum

National Recreation and Park Association

Florida Recreation and Park Association

National Recreation and Park Association Health Committee

National Recreation and Park Association Publication Committee