



Miami-Dade County

**Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)**  
**Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, Florida 33128**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 18-4**

	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday, October 16, 2014</b>	
	<b>Time:</b>	<b>1:30p.m. – 4:00p.m.</b>	
	<b>Call to Order Time:</b>	<b>2:14p.m. est.</b>	
	<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	<b>3:31p.m. est.</b>	
<b>I.</b>	<b><u>Opening and Attendance:</u></b> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed		
	District 1 <b>Commissioner Jordan</b>	<b>Damian Gregory</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Employment Committee Chair	Present
	District 2 <b>Commissioner Monestime</b>	<b>Jackson David</b> Housing Committee Chair	Present
	District 3 <b>Commissioner Edmonson</b>	<b>Jose Granda</b> Access Committee Chair	Present
	District 4 <b>Commissioner Heyman</b>	<b>Earl Oaks</b> Housing Committee Co-Chair	Present
	District 5 <b>Commissioner Barreiro</b>	<b>Jose (Ernie) Martinez</b> CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 <b>Commissioner Sosa</b>	<b>Vacant Appointment</b>	
	District 7 <b>Commissioner Suarez</b>	<b>Harry Horgan</b> Outreach/Education Chair	Present
	District 8 <b>Commissioner Zapata</b>	<b>Jesus Garcia</b> CODI Secretary and Transportation Committee Chair	Present until 3:17p.m.
	District 9 <b>Commissioner Moss</b>	<b>Ronald Fulton</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	Present
	District 10 <b>Commissioner Souto</b>	<b>Vacant Appointment</b>	
	District 11 <b>Commissioner Zapata</b>	<b>Maria Orfila</b>	Excused Absence
	District 12 <b>Commissioner Diaz</b>	<b>Marilyn Larriue</b> Housing Committee Co-Chair	Excused Absence
	District 13 <b>Commissioner Bovo</b>	<b>Alan Rigerman</b>	Excused Absence

	<p><b>Miami-Dade County Staff Present</b></p> <p>Speakers:</p>	<p><b>Heidi Johnson-Wright</b> ISD, ADA Coordinator</p> <p><b>Skarlex Alorda</b> ISD, ADA Office Support Specialist II</p> <p><b>William "Bill" Velez</b> MDT, Paratransit Operations</p> <p><b>Penelope "Penny" Townsley</b> Supervisor Of Elections</p>	
<p><b>II.</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of Agenda</b></p>	<p>Chairman Ernie Martinez requested a motion to approve the October 16, 2014 agenda. Jesus Garcia made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Harry Horgan. Agenda unanimously approved.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> To amend the agenda to move the Action Items after the Open comments and add Penelope "Penny" Townsley. Ms. Townsley will speak on the plan of action for individuals with disabilities at the polling places. Ronald Fulton made the motion, which was seconded by Chairman Martinez. Agenda amendments unanimously approved.</p>	
<p><b>III.</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of CODI Minutes</b></p>	<p>Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the September 17, 2014 CODI minutes.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> Jesus Garcia made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Harry Horgan. Minutes unanimously approved.</p>	
<p><b>IV.</b></p>	<p><b>Open Comments</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Delay; ASL Interpreters</b></p> <p>Chairman Martinez stated that the start of the meeting would be delayed until the arrival of an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter. Heidi Johnson-Wright said two ASL interpreters had been scheduled: one had an emergency with her car and the other was delayed by traffic. A few minutes later, Chairman Martinez asked for someone to write a note to Jose Granda and ask if the meeting could start despite the absence of an interpreter. In response to Chairman Martinez's request, Skarlex Alorda wrote a note and presented it to Mr. Granda. He read the note and agreed that the meeting could begin before the interpreter arrived.</p> <hr/> <p><b>MIA International Access Committee Meeting Date Change</b></p> <p>Ricardo Fernandez from Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD), Landside Operations, stated that the date of the next Miami International Airport Access Committee meeting has changed. The new date is Wednesday, October 29, 2014. Same time and same place: 2-4 p.m. in the MIA Terminal Auditorium, 4<sup>th</sup> floor.</p> <hr/> <p><b>CODI Board Condolences</b></p> <p>Damien Gregory requested a moment of silence in light of the recent passing of Ann</p>	

		<p>Kimble. Ms. Kimble served as a CODI Vice Chair years ago. After the moment of silence, Mr. Fulton suggested a resolution or proclamation for the Ms. Kimble recognizing her contributions to the disability community. The other members advised Mr. Fulton to make such a request online on the webpage of the Mayor’s office.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> Damien Gregory made the motion for CODI to make the request of the Mayor. Motion seconded by Mr. Fulton. Motion was unanimously approved.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Recognition of CODI Applicants</b></p> <p>Ms. Ora Prilleltensky was introduced. She has been a professor at the University of Miami and is active with Shake-A- Leg.</p> <p>Ileana Rodriguez is an architect and Paralympian. She works for HKS Architects and is also active with Shake-A-Leg.</p>
<p><b>V. Information Items</b></p>		<p><b>Focus on Elections – Penelope “Penny” Townsley, Supervisor of Elections</b></p> <p>Ms. Townsley, Supervisor of Elections, spoke about accessibility at the polling places. The Elections Department is focusing on making this election year comfortable for everyone. This applies to various factors, including the size of the ballot and the convenience of early voting. The Elections Department has expanded the amount of equipment available at the polling sites. New technology will allowed increased efficiency during voter check-in.</p> <p>Ms. Townsley mentioned that there are three ways to vote: absentee ballot, early voting and voting on Election Day. Absentee voting is under a supervised voting program where the Elections Department staff visit independent living facilities and nursing homes to collect ballots from the residents. This program allows the Elections Department to physically carry these ballots to these individuals and back to the department. Ms. Townsley announced that the department is carrying out a pilot project for early voting that allows people who are disabled or elderly to make appointments in advance in order to eliminate wait time.</p> <p>Damian Gregory asked Ms. Townsley about poll worker training to ensure their sensitivity to disability issues. Also, how would any training be reviewed for its efficacy? Ms. Townsley said poll workers receive disability sensitivity training, including a video produced by the State Division of Elections. Elections staff must also view the video and provide proof of this. Also, Elections reached out to the Orange County, FL Center for Independent Living. They provided their curriculum, which has been incorporated into Elections Department training manuals.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory said that the numbering system used during the 2012 election was not helpful. Has this system been revised? Ms. Townsley clarified that it was not intended as a numbering system but rather as a proxy waiting system. Voters with disabilities who could not wait in line could give their proxy to someone else who would wait in their place. This proxy waiting system has been replaced with the appointment scheduling system.</p>

		<p>Mr. Granda told Ms. Townsley that the vocabulary used to explain issues on the ballots is above the ability of many deaf individuals. The average deaf individual has a 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading level when it comes to conventional reading and writing. Could this be addressed? Ms. Townsley explained that ballot language is not set by the County but rather by the State. However, the State of Florida has a process by which voters can request assistance with reading ballots. A voter can bring an individual with him or her, such as an interpreter. This requires the filing of forms prior to voting. A discussion ensued. Furthermore Ms. Townsley encouraged Mr. Granda to address this issue at a state level as a concerned citizen. Chairman Martinez suggested that Mr. Granda explore possibilities for ballot language simplification with the Access Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Fulton raised concerns regarding the availability of accessible parking for disabled voters coming to the Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC) for early voting. Where are voters to park? Ms. Townsley said she would investigate and respond.</p>
<p><b>VI.</b></p>	<p><b>Action items</b></p>	<p><b>Election of CODI Officers</b></p> <p>Nominating Committee Chairman Harry Horgan said that the slate of officer nominees was put together – as per the CODI bylaws -- on September 17, 2014, immediately before the CODI monthly meeting. The slate is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Chairman: Ernie Martinez</li> <li>• For First Vice-Chairman: Alan Rigerman (self-nomination)</li> <li>• For Second Vice-Chairman: Jesus Garcia</li> <li>• For Secretary: Damian Gregory</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Garcia explained the rules regarding nominations: from the Nominating Committee, self-nominations and nominations from the floor. He stated that if someone self-nominates -- but is absent for the actual election – the nomination is void. This rule applies to Mr. Rigerman self-nomination for First Vice-Chairman.</p> <p>This left the nominating slate without a nominee for First Vice-Chairman. Mr. Garcia said he would not accept the nomination for First Vice-Chair. A discussion ensued.</p> <p><b>MOTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Fulton made a motion to nominate Mr. Gregory for Chairman (in addition to Mr. Martinez’s nomination.) This motion was seconded by Mr. Oaks. Motion unanimously approved.</li> <li>• Mr. Fulton made a motion to nominate Mr. Horgan for First Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Mr. Gregory. Motion unanimously approved.</li> <li>• Mr. Gregory made a motion to nominate Mr. Garcia for Second Vice Chair. (Mr. Garcia accepted the nomination.) Motion was seconded by Mr. Fulton. Motion unanimously approved.</li> <li>• Mr. Oaks made the motion to nominate Mr. Fulton for Secretary. Motion</li> </ul>

		<p>seconded by Mr. Horgan. Motion unanimously approved.</p> <p>After voting, the newly elected CODI officers were announced -- as follows -- by Ms. Alorda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman: Damian Gregory.</li> <li>• First Vice Chair: Harry Horgan.</li> <li>• Second Vice Chair: Jesus Garcia.</li> <li>• Secretary: Ronald Fulton.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Good-bye from Chairman Martinez</b></p> <p>Chairman Martinez congratulated all new Commission on Disability Issues officers. In addition Mr. Martinez said his good-byes and said it's been an honor to serve as CODI Chairman. He said this would be his last meeting. He will not seek reappointment by his Commissioner by overriding his term limit before the Board of County Commissioners.</p>
	<b>Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned 3:31pm
	<b>Next CODI Meeting:</b>	The next CODI meeting will be Wednesday, November 19, 2014