

Miami-Dade County
The Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC)

Dr. Raul Moncarz, Chairman
Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW First Street, 6th Floor Conference Room
Friday, May 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <u>Call to Order</u> | Dr. Raul Moncarz, Chairperson |
| <u>Welcome and Introductions</u> | Dr. Moncarz |
| <u>Approval of Minutes</u> | |
| <u>Chairperson's Report</u> | Dr. Moncarz |
| Request from Commissioner Levine-Cava | |
|
<u>General Discussion Items</u> | |
| ➤ American Dream Miami mall & Concurrency | Mr. Jack Osterholt |
| ➤ Health Insurance Seminar & Whitepaper | Mr. Santiago Leon |
| ○ Promotion | |
| ○ Event Tasks/Assignments | |
| ➤ Miami-Dade Economic Conditions | Mr. Manuel Armada |
| ➤ Chairman's Prosperity Initiatives | Dr. Terence Murphy |
| ➤ Intergovernmental Affairs Committee | Dr. Maria Dolores Espino |
| ➤ New Business/Issues of Interest | |
| ➤ Public Comments | |

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting Date: **June 19, 2015** (Note: Beginning with the July meeting Council meetings will move to the 4th Friday of each month)

The Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council Mission

To improve the quality of life of all residents of Miami Dade County by providing the County Commission and Mayor with timely, objective, transparent, and thoughtful advice on significant social and economic issues. The Council aims to pursue a balanced perspective among economic development, social justice, and environmental sustainability, both in the short and long term.

Miami-Dade County
The Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC)

Dr. Raul Moncarz, Chairman
Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW First Street, 12th Floor Rear Conference Room
Steering Committee Meeting, May 1, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2015 SEDC COUNCIL MEETING

I. Roll Call

II. Board Members - Present

Dr. Raul Moncarz; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Marcos A. Kerbel; Santiago Leon; Dr. Kenneth Lipner; Dr. Pedro F. Pellet; Mr. Jesus Permuy; Dr. Brian Peterson; Reinaldo Valdes; Dr. Bernadette West

Board Members – Absent Excused

Jose A. Lopez-Calleja; Dr. Elisa Moncarz; Roberto Saco; Dr. Salazar-Carrillo; Dr. Eunju Suh; Dr. Robert Cruz; Juliana Velez and Retha Boone

Visitors Present

No visitors were present

Staff Present

Manuel A. Armada; Robert Hesler and Helen Rodriguez

III. Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Bernadette West indicated that she should have been excused in the prior meeting because she sent an email and it should be corrected on the minutes. **Reinaldo Valdes** moved for approval of the March 20, 2015 minutes. **Mr. Jesus Permuy** seconded the Minutes. Motion was approved by group vote.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Dr. Raul Moncarz led a discussion of the Dr. Antonio Jorge Scholarship Foundation with respect to the scholarship as well as the Dr. Antonio Jorge Entrepreneurial Award. The Foundation Committee will meet and bring back a report to the Council.

Dr. Moncarz asked for suggestions about speakers for future meetings. Dr. Lipner suggested that we bring in the Police Chief to speak about crime, especially violent crime and where it occurs. Also, Dr. Moncarz reminded the Council that Dr. Lipner had raised the issue about bond financing in the County and again requested bringing in a speaker from the Finance Department or Mayor's Office on this. Mr. Ed Marquez was suggested.

Dr. Moncarz requested staff bring attendance records for members as well as the number of vacancies to the next Executive Committee meeting. Also, to consider the development of an email list for non-SEDC members to be notified of council meetings and agendas.

V. General Discussion Items

➤ **Health Insurance Seminar & Whitepaper**

Mr. Santiago Leon reported that the seminar will be on June 5, 2015. Dr. Espino raised a question as to who was going to sponsor the seminar? Mr. Leon indicated that we are on the BCC Calendar and the BCC will be promoting the Healthcare Seminar on behalf of SEDC. He will complete a new draft of the Healthcare Seminar program by the next meeting to be distributed to the council members so they can begin promoting it to their universities and soliciting sponsorships. The seminar will be from 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

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➤ **Intergovernmental Affairs Committee**

Dr. Maria Dolores Espino requested to schedule the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting from 1 to 2:00 p.m. on 5/1/15 before the Steering Committee meeting.

➤ **Miami-Dade Economic Conditions**

It was suggested to bring an outline to the next Executive Committee meeting for the process of updating the Socioeconomic profile.

➤ **Chairman's Prosperity Agenda**

Mr. Armada indicated that Terry Murphy was not able to attend the meeting and the council members decided to discuss this topic at next month's meeting.

➤ **New Business**

• **Discussion: Affordable Housing & Transportation**

Dr. Brian Peterson gave a summary on this issue and the council members had a lengthy discussion on Affordable Housing and Transportation.

• **American Dream Miami Mall & Concurrency**

Mr. Armada indicated that Jack Osterholt could not attend today's meeting and therefore it was decided by the council to move this topic to next month's meeting.

• **Moody's Maintains Negative Outlook – Finances**

The topic on Moody's Maintains Negative Outlook was discussed among the council members as it relates to County finances and the debt costs.

➤ **ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.**

Dr. Brian Peterson moved the motion to adjourn the meeting and **Dr. Pedro Pellet** seconded the motion. Motion was approved by group vote.

Next SEDC Council Meeting Date: **June 19, 2015.**

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Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No.

Veto _____

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE APPROVAL OF NEW COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND REDEVELOPMENT PLANS PERTAINING TO SUCH AGENCIES AS WELL AS EXTENDING LIFE OF EXISTING AGENCIES AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO REDEVELOPMENT PLANS AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS; AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR THE COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DENY CERTAIN REQUESTS FROM COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES THAT ARE DEEMED APPROVED BY LAW IF NOT MADE WITHIN THE ALLOWED TIMEFRAME

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature during its 1969 Legislative Session enacted the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969 which is presently codified in the Florida Statutes at Part III of Chapter 163, Sections 163.330 through 163.450, as amended ("Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Legislature made the following findings and declarations as set forth in Section 163.335 of the Act:

(1) It is hereby found and declared that there exist in counties and municipalities of the state slum and blighted areas which constitute a serious and growing menace, injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and welfare of the residents of the state; that the existence of such areas contributes substantially and increasingly to the spread of disease and crime, constitutes an economic and social liability imposing onerous burdens which decrease the tax base and reduce tax revenues, substantially impairs or arrests sound growth, retards the provision of housing accommodations, aggravates traffic problems, and substantially hampers the elimination of traffic hazards and the improvement of traffic facilities; and that the prevention and elimination of slums and blight is a matter of state policy and state concern in order that the state and its counties and municipalities shall not continue to be endangered by areas which are focal centers of disease, promote juvenile delinquency, and consume an excessive proportion of its revenues because of the extra services required for police, fire, accident, hospitalization, and other forms of public protection, services, and facilities.

(2) It is further found and declared that certain slum or blighted areas, or portions thereof, may require acquisition, clearance, and disposition subject to use restrictions, as provided in this part, since the prevailing condition of decay may make impracticable the reclamation of the area by conservation or rehabilitation; that other areas or portions thereof may, through the means provided in this part, be susceptible of conservation or rehabilitation in such a manner that the conditions and evils enumerated may be eliminated, remedied, or prevented; and that salvageable slum and blighted areas can be conserved and rehabilitated through appropriate public action as herein authorized and the cooperation and voluntary action of the owners and tenants of property in such areas.

(3) It is further found and declared that the powers conferred by this part are for public uses and purposes for which public money may be expended and police power exercised, and the necessity in the public interest for the provisions herein enacted is declared as a matter of legislative determination.

(4) It is further found that coastal resort and tourist areas or portions thereof which are deteriorating and economically distressed due to building density patterns, inadequate transportation and parking facilities, faulty lot layout, or inadequate street layout, could, through the means provided in this part, be revitalized and redeveloped in a manner that will vastly improve the economic and social conditions of the community.

(5) It is further found and declared that the preservation or enhancement of the tax base from which a taxing authority realizes tax revenues is essential to its existence and financial health; that the preservation and enhancement of such tax base is implicit in the purposes for which a taxing authority is established; that tax increment financing is an effective method of achieving such preservation and enhancement in areas in which such tax base is declining; that community redevelopment in such areas, when complete, will enhance such tax base and provide increased tax revenues to all affected taxing authorities, increasing their ability to accomplish their other respective purposes; and that the preservation and enhancement of the tax base in such areas through tax increment financing and the levying of taxes by such taxing authorities therefor and the appropriation of funds to a redevelopment trust fund bears a substantial relation to the purposes of such taxing authorities and is for their respective purposes and concerns. This subsection does not apply in any jurisdiction where the community redevelopment agency validated bonds as of April 30, 1984.

(6) It is further found and declared that there exists in counties and municipalities of the state a severe shortage of housing affordable to residents of low or moderate

income, including the elderly; that the existence of such condition affects the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of such counties and municipalities and retards their growth and economic and social development; and that the elimination or improvement of such condition is a proper matter of state policy and state concern and is for a valid and desirable public purpose.

(7) It is further found and declared that the prevention or elimination of a slum area or blighted area as defined in this part and the preservation or enhancement of the tax base are not public uses or purposes for which private property may be taken by eminent domain and do not satisfy the public purpose requirement of s. 6(a), Art. X of the State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, all powers arising pursuant to the Act are conferred upon counties with home rule charters, which counties in turn are authorized to delegate certain such powers to municipalities within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”), as the governing body, created or delegated to certain municipalities the power to create 14 community redevelopment agencies, including Miami Beach City Center, Southeast Overtown/Park West, Omni, Midtown Miami, South Miami, North Miami Beach, Homestead, Florida City, North Miami, N.W. 7th Avenue Corridor, Naranja Lakes, West Perrine, 79th Street Corridor and Opa-locka community redevelopment agencies; and

WHEREAS, the County’s Fiscal Year 2014-15 annual appropriation from the general fund to community redevelopment agencies totaled \$30,699,982.00; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the County’s total annual appropriation to community redevelopment agencies over the next 10 years will either remain at the same level as the County’s Fiscal Year 2014-15 total annual appropriation or increase; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Board will likely continue to consider legislation that would lead to the creation of additional community redevelopment agencies or modify the arrangements with existing community redevelopment agencies; and

WHEREAS, therefore, the Board should cautiously consider approving new community redevelopment agencies, redevelopment plans, and related interlocal cooperation agreements, as well as extending the life of existing agencies and approving amendments to existing redevelopment plans and interlocal cooperation agreements (“County Governing Body Approvals”), as such approvals may have a significant impact on the County’s general fund which is overburdened with demands for countywide services that the Act was intended to address, including among other demands, a severe shortage of housing affordable to residents of low or moderate income, including the elderly; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, the Board should establish guidelines for all community redevelopment agencies that set greater controls over or condition County Governing Board Approvals, while still honoring the original purposes of such agencies; and

WHEREAS, efforts to implement controls over contributions to community redevelopment agencies are not new; and

WHEREAS, prior to 1994, the Act required taxing authorities to annually appropriate 95 percent of the tax increment; and

WHEREAS, a 1994 amendment to the Act creating applicable provisions of Florida Statutes Section 163.387 gives Miami-Dade County the authority to enact an ordinance establishing a redevelopment trust fund for a new community redevelopment area that limits the amount of funding each taxing authority is required to annually appropriate to between 50 percent and 95 percent of the tax increment; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 amendment to the Act creating Florida Statutes Section 163.387(3)(b) gives governing bodies, such as Miami-Dade County, the ability to have alternate provisions in an

interlocal agreement that deviate from the requirements of state law pertaining to the redevelopment trust funds; and

WHEREAS, this 2006 amendment would include authority for taxing authorities, by agreement with the appropriate parties, to reduce the percentage of the annual appropriation to less than 50 percent of the tax increment; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-871-11, which requires an interlocal cooperation agreement between a community redevelopment agency, the County, and if applicable, a municipality or taxing authority, to contain a provision requiring the community redevelopment agency to submit timely budgets for approval by the Board prior to the community redevelopment agency borrowing money, advancing funds or incurring indebtedness proposed to be repaid from or secured by the community redevelopment agency's tax increment financing funds; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-1382-09, which requires that, prior to the Board's approval of an interlocal cooperation agreement or an amendment to an existing interlocal cooperation agreement between a community redevelopment agency, the County, and if applicable, a municipality or taxing authority, such interlocal cooperation agreement shall include a provision that permits at least one County Commissioner to serve as a commissioner of the community redevelopment agency; and

WHEREAS, additional fiscal and other conditions and controls should be considered by the Board prior to any County Governing Body Approvals, while still taking steps to (1) ensure that community redevelopment agencies increase the number of affordable housing opportunities, (2) protect existing neighborhoods from gentrification due to redevelopment activities, (3) ensure greater employment opportunities and economic growth potential for the area's residents and

businesses by ensuring that community redevelopment funds are utilized to achieve these purposes, including providing greater employment opportunities for the workforce in the community redevelopment area, and (4) ensure that community redevelopment agencies comply with the County's policies, as reflected by County ordinances pertaining to ethics, auditing, fair labor and small business contracting practices, because of the County's appropriation of funds to such agencies that would otherwise remain general funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Incorporates and approves the foregoing recitals as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Subject to the requirements the Act and other applicable laws, establishes guidelines relating to County Governing Body Approvals, as follows:

- a). All interlocal cooperation agreements shall include a provision that ensures that all entities or contractors contracting with or receiving a grant from a community redevelopment agency in excess of \$100,000.00 shall execute a labor peace agreement with the labor organization(s) that seeks to represent such entities' or contractors' employees to assure that no labor dispute or unrest, such as strikes, picketing or other economic activity, will disrupt the operations being carried out pursuant to the contract or grant agreement with the community redevelopment agency. Further, the community redevelopment agency's obligation to perform any obligations under such grant or agreement, including paying any consideration to the entity or contractor, shall be suspended during the occurrence of a labor dispute or unrest. In the event such an entity or contractor is unable to reach an agreement with a labor organization regarding the terms of a labor peace agreement, any dispute between the entity or contractor and the labor organization shall be resolved by expedited binding arbitration in which the decision shall be rendered within 10 days of the request for arbitration but in any event prior to any labor dispute or unrest, such as strikes, picketing or other economic activity. The entity or the contractor and the labor organization shall equally share the costs of arbitration. The obligations imposed by the community redevelopment agency on the entity or contractor as described herein shall also apply to all assignees and subcontractors of such entity or contractor.
- b). All interlocal cooperation agreements shall include a provision that ensures all entities or contractors contracting with or receiving grants from a community redevelopment agency in excess of \$100,000.00 shall enter into a community

benefits agreement which will benefit primarily the residents of the community redevelopment area. To the extent allowed by law, a community benefits agreement should include provisions for hiring the labor workforce for the project financed by the grant or agreement from residents of the community redevelopment area that are unemployed or underemployed. Depending on the worker or employee to be hired, the community redevelopment agency will be required to ensure that such entities or contractors comply with wage requirements, as applicable, established by Miami-Dade County's Living Wage or Responsible Wage Ordinances, pursuant to Section 2-8.9 and 2-11.16, respectively, of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "Code") or pay higher wages and benefits, as are feasible.

- c) All interlocal cooperation agreements shall include a provision that ensures that all entities or contractors contracting with or receiving a grant from the community redevelopment agency comply with the following Miami-Dade County ordinances contained in the Code, as may be amended, as if expressly applicable to such entities:
 - a) Small Business Enterprises (Section 2-8.1.1.1.1 of the Code);
 - b) Community Business Enterprises (Section 2-10.4.01 of the Code);
 - c) Community Small Business Enterprises (Section 10-33.02 of the Code); and/or
 - d) Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance (Section 2-11.1 of the Code).

Such entities or contractors shall also submit to Miami-Dade County Inspector General Review, pursuant to Section 2-1076 of the Code, and agree to retain an independent private inspector general review, pursuant to Miami-Dade County Administrative Order 3-20.

- d) All interlocal cooperation agreements shall include a provision that ensures that each community redevelopment agency shall examine projects that it proposes to fund to make a finding, after a public hearing, that the residents and business owners within the redevelopment area primarily benefit from the projects funded by the community redevelopment agency and that the entity or contractor requesting funding has exhausted other funding sources and that, but for the community redevelopment agency's funding, the project cannot be undertaken.
- e) All interlocal cooperation agreements shall include a provision that ensures that community redevelopment agencies shall include in their contracts or grant agreements a "clawback" provision that will require the community redevelopment agency to "clawback" or rescind and recover funding from any entity or contractor to which it provides funding which does not substantially comply with the provisions of its agreement with the community redevelopment agency by demanding repayment of such funds in writing, including recovery of penalties or

liquidated damages, to the extent allowed by law, as well as attorney's fees and interest, and pursuing collection or legal action, to the fullest extent allowable by law, if feasible.

- f) All interlocal cooperation agreements shall include a provision that requires that in the event the community redevelopment agency funds a redevelopment project authorized by the agency's redevelopment plan that may displace persons (including individuals, families, business concerns, nonprofit organizations and others) located in the community redevelopment area, the community redevelopment agency shall prepare plans for and assist in the relocation of such persons, including making any relocation payments under the Act and applicable laws and regulations. Also, the interlocal cooperation agreement should provide that individuals and families who are displaced from affordable housing units shall have a right of first refusal to return to comparably priced affordable housing units located within the redevelopment area. Further, the community redevelopment agency shall be required to make at least a "one-for-one" replacement of each affordable housing unit demolished pursuant to a redevelopment project to ensure that such demolished unit is replaced by a new comparable, affordable housing unit.
- g) In accordance with Section 163.387, Florida Statutes, and if the Board, in its sole discretion, determines that it is in the County's best interest to establish a redevelopment trust fund for a community redevelopment area, the Board shall determine the amount to be funded by each taxing authority annually, however, the approval of any ordinance establishing payment in an amount greater than 50 percent of the tax increment shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board.
- h) In accordance with the Act, community redevelopment plans or amended community redevelopment plans may provide for the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of housing for low or moderate income persons, including the elderly and disabled. Subject to compliance with Paragraph f above, each community redevelopment plan which has an affordable housing component shall include mixed-income housing projects. Such projects shall include a minimum 20 percent extremely low income (30 percent of area median income or less), 40 percent not to exceed moderate-income households (120 percent area median income or less), and 40 percent may be sold at market rate. Developer incentives shall be established by the Board to accomplish these housing goals. If however, the Board adopts guidelines for mixed income housing, such projects shall comply with the adopted guidelines. Further, each community redevelopment agency shall ensure that prior to funding any non-housing project, priority shall be given to rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of housing for low or moderate income persons, subject to compliance with the applicable comprehensive development plan for the area.

Section 3. No item shall be placed on a County Commission or committee agenda seeking a County Governing Board Approval until such time as all of the terms set forth in Section 2 of this resolution are fully considered, negotiated and addressed in the item, unless the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee recommends in writing that it is the best interests of the County to waive the requirement of this resolution, in whole or in part. The Board, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to direct further negotiations on any such item proposed for approval by the Board.

Section 4. Any Board decision required by Section 163.410 of the Act to be made within 120 days of the request for such decision, including any request for a County Governing Body Approval, which is deemed granted by the Act if not made within such timeframe, shall be deemed denied by operation of this resolution, unless the Board makes a decision on the request prior to the 120th day from the date of request or an extension of time is negotiated for the Board to make its decision on the request. The County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee is directed to timely communicate such denial to the community redevelopment agency or municipality that made the request.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of May, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. _____

Terrence A. Smith
Cynthia Johnson Stacks

Approved _____ Mayor Agenda Item No.
Veto _____
Override _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____ DRAFT _____

ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AMENDING SECTION 2-1 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA TO REQUIRE THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO (1) PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE IMPACT OF EACH COUNTY RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE, INCLUDING ANY PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE, ON THE ECONOMIC MOBILITY OF THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AFTER JULY 1, 2015; (2) PLACE SUCH WRITTEN STATEMENT ON AN AGENDA WITH THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION AT THE TIME SPECIFIED HEREIN, EXCEPT FOR THE WRITTEN STATEMENT PERTAINING TO ANY COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE WHICH SHALL BE SUBMITTED WHEN THE MAYOR SUBMITS THE PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR THE COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO DEVELOP AN "ECONOMIC MOBILITY TOOLKIT" AND PROVIDE A REPORT, PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE EXCEPT FOR SECTION 3 OF THIS ORDINANCE WHICH SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, prior to the public hearing on any ordinance to be considered by the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board"), other than an emergency or budget ordinance, the County Mayor is required by Rule 4.01(s) of the Board's Rules of Procedure to prepare a written statement setting forth the fiscal impact of the proposed ordinance and submit it with the ordinance as a part of the agenda; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of this rule, the Mayor routinely prepares the required statements and describes the fiscal impact that proposed County ordinances will have on Miami-Dade County government; and

WHEREAS, there are other related requirements pertaining to notification or evaluation of the impact of ordinances proposed by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Rule 5.08 prohibits any ordinance regulating private business, land development or building code standards from being considered on second reading if the requested statement of fiscal impact on private business is not submitted with the ordinance as part of the agenda; and

WHEREAS, Rule 5.06 directs the Mayor to mail or email any proposed ordinance that may have a fiscal impact on municipalities to designated municipal officials and the Florida League of Cities, Inc. within a specified timeframe prior to consideration of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in these difficult economic times, it is important that the Board of County Commissioners be presented a written analysis of the anticipated impact of proposed resolutions and ordinances ("County legislation") on the economic mobility of residents of Miami-Dade County, so the Board's legislative decisions can be fully informed; and

WHEREAS, County legislation could potentially increase or decrease the monetary and non-monetary costs borne by the citizens of the Miami-Dade County, as well as affect housing affordability, public and private employment opportunities, wages and benefits, and the cost of living, among other things; and

WHEREAS, thus, County legislation can have a positive or negative effect on the economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (the "Department"), *2014 Economic and Demographic Profile*, 56.2% of households in Miami-Dade County in 2012 earn less than \$49,999.00 per year, including 11.5% of households earning less than \$10,000.00 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, certain neighborhoods in Miami-Dade County have even more fragile economies; and

WHEREAS, the Department's 2013 report entitled *Socio-Economic Conditions in Miami-Dade's Targeted Urban Areas 2007-2011* states, in part:

- Per capital income of TUA residents in 2000 was approximately 44 percent below the per capita income in the county as a whole.
-
- The latest unemployment data from the Census Bureau indicates that average unemployment rate in the TUA's is nearly twice as high as the county rate (15.2 v. 7.9).
- The poverty rate in the TUAs was 31 percent in 2000, compared to 14.5 percent in the County. The recession that began at the end of 2007 raised the poverty rate to 16.4 in the-rest-of-the-County, while the poverty rate in the TUAs over the 2007-2011 period remained essentially unchanged from 2000.

WHEREAS, given this data, every effort should be made to determine whether County legislation has a positive or negative effect on the economic mobility of the residents of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, as an example, County legislation that would decrease the hours per day that a park is open to the public would limit recreational opportunities for children and adults, money making opportunities for concessionaires, and after-school tutoring programs for children run by a neighborhood not-for-profit organization; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would disproportionately burden families who rely on the park for recreation and wellness, affect the ability of children to meet the educational goals that are necessary for them to be successful, and result in loss of jobs and income for the concessionaires and not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, these burdens are not apocryphal; and even if they are not monetary burdens, eventually, they will have a monetary consequence; and

WHEREAS, according to Nobel Laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz, rising inequality is putting a brake on growth and promoting economic instability; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Beacon Council, Inc., the County's economic development partner, through its One Community, One Goal and other initiatives, recognizes the necessity of a sustainable economy on a countywide basis; and

WHEREAS, maintaining momentum for structural economic change requires constant, real-time analytics to monitor progress and fine-tune policy, coordinate effort, and manage course corrections when needed, according to Dr. Ned Murray, Ned Murray, AICP, Associate Director of the Metropolitan Center at Florida International University in Miami; and

WHEREAS, one way of developing the necessary analysis for the Board and the County Mayor to consider when proposing County legislation or reviewing adopted legislation would be to analyze such proposed legislation by utilizing an "Economic Mobility Toolkit" to be modeled after the successful Racial Equity Toolkit implemented by the City of Seattle, Washington (http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/RSJI/RacialEquityToolkit_FINAL_August2012.pdf); and

WHEREAS, demonstrating that Miami-Dade County government carefully considers the impact of its policies on the economy of the County would encourage the public to have confidence in the policy decisions of the County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The above recitals are incorporated in this ordinance.

Section 2. Section 2-1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:¹

Sec. 2-1. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION.

* * *

PART 4. COMMITTEES

Rule 4.01. Committees.

* * *

(s) STATEMENTS OF FISCAL IMPACT REQUIRED FOR ORDINANCES; EXCEPTIONS.

- (1) Prior to the public hearing of any ordinance, the Mayor shall prepare a written statement setting forth the fiscal impact, if any, of the proposed ordinance. No public hearing on any ordinance shall be held, if the statement of fiscal impact is not submitted with the ordinance as part of the agenda. The provision of this rule shall not apply to any emergency ordinance or any budget ordinance.
- (2) If the Mayor initially determines that an ordinance has no fiscal impact, but later determines that the

¹ Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

ordinance does have a fiscal impact (such as during the process of implementation), then the Mayor shall so advise the Board in a memorandum. Additionally, if, due to the fiscal impact, the Mayor has not fully implemented all or any part of the program or policy provided for in an ordinance within one year of the effective date, or such other date as set forth in the ordinance, then the Mayor shall so advise the Board in a memorandum. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this rule shall be construed to authorize the Mayor not to comply with the policy direction contained in an ordinance without Board approval.

>>(t) STATEMENTS OF IMPACT OF COUNTY RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCE ON ECONOMIC MOBILITY OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY REQUIRED; APPLICABILITY; EXCEPTIONS.

- (1) Prior to the public hearing of any ordinance, the Mayor shall prepare a written statement setting forth the impact, if any, of a proposed resolution or ordinance on the economic mobility of County residents "economic mobility statement". No public hearing on any ordinance shall be held, if an economic mobility statement is not submitted with the ordinance as part of the agenda. No resolution shall be considered by a committee of the Board of County Commissioners, unless an economic mobility statement is submitted with the resolution as a part of the committee agenda. If a resolution is not subject to committee review, as allowed under the Rules of Procedure of the Board of County Commissioners, the resolution shall not be considered by the Board of County Commissioners, unless an economic mobility statement is submitted with the resolution as a part of the agenda of the Board of County Commissioners.
- (2) If the Mayor initially determines that a resolution or an ordinance has no impact on economic mobility of the residents of Miami-Dade County, but later determines that the ordinance does such an impact (such as during the process of implementation), then the Mayor shall so advise the Board in a memorandum. Notwithstanding the foregoing,

nothing in this rule shall be construed to authorize the Mayor not to comply with the policy direction contained in an ordinance without Board approval.

- (3) This subsection (t) shall not apply to emergency resolutions or ordinances.
- (4) This section shall apply to resolutions or ordinances adopted or enacted after July 1, 2015.<<

[[~~(+)~~]]>>u<< PROCUREMENT ITEMS. Provided public notice, public hearing and other legal requirements can be met, and notwithstanding and prevailing over any provision to the contrary, all items approved at committee meetings recommending or rejecting award of contracts for public improvements, and purchases of supplies, materials, and services, including professional services, shall be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting, unless placed on the agenda of a special meeting held sooner than the next regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting or unless the chairperson of the commission deems it necessary to place the item on another agenda.

[[~~(+)~~]]>>v<< Upon completion of any report prepared pursuant to a motion or other action of a committee of the Board of County Commissioners, such report shall be placed on an agenda for review by the requesting committee and the Board of County Commissioners, notwithstanding any statement to the contrary in the motion or other action of the committee. For purposes of this ordinance, a report is deemed to include any oral or written document of any kind, including a feasibility study, that is intended to communicate information requested by resolution, motion or other action of a committee of the Board of County Commissioners. This ordinance shall not apply to reports provided pursuant to requests for information made by individual County Commissioners or memoranda from the Office of the County Attorney.

* * *

PART 9. ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES
PRESCRIBING COUNTY COMMISSION PROCEDURE

Rule 9.01. ANNUAL BUDGET.

- (a) The mayor shall prepare and deliver a budgetary address annually to the people of the county in March. Such address shall be prepared after consulting with the budget director and shall set forth the mayor's funding priorities for the county. By July 15, the mayor shall prepare and submit a proposed budget in a line item format pursuant to Section 2-1800 containing a complete financial plan, including capital and operating budgets, for the ensuing fiscal year. Other formats, such as narrative, pie charts and graphs may also be used to supplement the line item format. The budget prepared and recommended by the mayor shall be presented by the mayor or his or her designee to the commission in a line item format pursuant to Section 2-1800 on or before the board adopts tentative millage rates for the ensuing fiscal year. >>The Mayor shall prepare a written statement setting forth the impact of proposed budget ordinances on the economic mobility of the residents of Miami-Dade County. This written statement shall be submitted with the proposed budget and shall be amended, if amendments are proposed to the proposed budget ordinances.<< A summary of the budget shall be published and the board shall hold hearings on and adopt a budget on or before the dates required by law.

Section 3. The County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee shall develop an Economic Mobility Toolkit as an assessment tool to be utilized to determine the impact of proposed County legislation on the economic mobility of the residents of Miami-Dade County. The Economic Mobility Toolkit shall be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in a report. The Mayor or Mayor's designee shall provide the report to this Board within [60] days of the effective date of this resolution and shall place the completed report on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

Section 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 5. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any sunset provision, shall become and be made a part of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, except for Section 3 of this ordinance which shall be excluded from the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 6. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED:

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency:

Prepared by:

Cynthia Johnson-Stacks

Prime Co-Sponsors: [subject to review by Prime Co-Sponsors]



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HEALTH CARE PROSPERITY SUMMIT: REDUCING MIAMI HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

Presented by the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners' Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives in collaboration with the Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council
Friday, June 5, 2015 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM (EDT)
Miami, Florida



Ticket Information

TICKET TYPE	SALES END	PRICE	FEE	QUANTITY
General Admission (includes continental breakfast and lunch) more info	Jun 5, 2015	\$30.00	\$0.00	1



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Who's Going

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Share HEALTH CARE PROSPERITY SUMMIT: REDUCING MIAMI HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

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Event Details

Overview: An estimated 50 cents of every health care dollar spent in the U.S. is wasted, and Miami health insurance costs are 20% higher than the national average. The extra money spent for health insurance is money not available for other needs. Much of the added cost is due to unnecessary services, failure to seek out quality and value, and poor management of chronic conditions. Employers can make a major impact on health care delivery in our community. This summit will give them the tools to do it.

8:30: Registration and continental breakfast

9:15: Understanding the Miami health care jungle: Setting the stage

What are the major forces operating on health care in Miami-Dade? Who are the major players? Among the factors to be discussed are the number of uninsured and under-insured; the roles of public and private insurance programs; the role of profit in shaping the health care industry; and where that industry is moving.

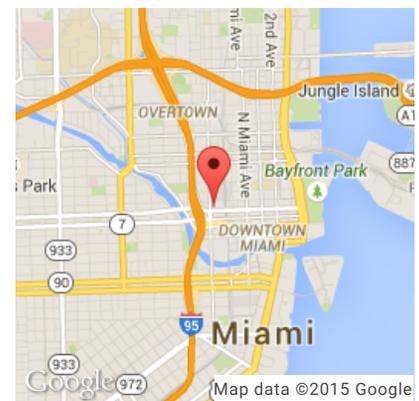
Speakers: Martha Baker, RN, President, SEIU Local 1991 at Jackson Health System; Mark Knight, CFO, Jackson Health System.

9:50: Understanding the Miami health care jungle: The numbers

Why are Miami health care costs the highest in the nation? How good is the health care we are receiving? How do price and quality vary among health care providers, and what can employers do to make sure their employees get high-value services? How can a transparency

Save This Event

When & Where



HistoryMiami Museum
Miami-Dade Cultural Center
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, Florida 33130

Friday, June 5, 2015 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM (EDT)

[Add to my calendar](#)

Organizer

Presented by the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners' Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives in collaboration with the Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council

The Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives is a committee of the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners.

The Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and **23**

program help to improve quality and control costs?

Speaker: Ed Dillabough, CEO, Delphi of Florida and Medical Advocate Program

10:20: Coffee break

10:45: Designing and managing a cost-effective health plan

Even in our challenging health care environment, employers can act to improve quality and reduce costs. However, a health plan has many moving parts: plan design, provider network, insurer or administrator, and many others. What are the advantages of strategies like employer coalitions, self-funding, transparency programs, private exchanges, high-deductible plans and narrow networks?

Speaker: Doug Falcon, President, Florida Health Administrators, Inc.

11:30: Healthy employees, healthy workplace: which comes first?

Members of the South Florida work force, like other Americans, tend to have problems with overweight and its consequences, such as diabetes. In addition, individuals in our community report unusually high levels of stress and mental illness- some of which is due to their work environment. We will discuss what employers can do to help keep their employees healthier.

Speaker: H. Virginia McCoy, Doctoral Program Coordinator, Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Florida International University

12:30: Lunch (provided on site)

1:00: Fixing the delivery system: bringing hospitals, physicians and other providers together to deliver high-value care

The ideal health care system is one in which everyone involved is part of an integrated team, with strong incentives to maximize health and minimize cost. Hospitals and physician groups are beginning to pull together teams like this, creating major opportunities for employers.

Speaker: Kenneth Homer, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Holy Cross Hospital and Medical Director, Holy Cross Physician Partners

2:00: Coffee break

2:15: Helping employees to take charge of their health and health care

On-site, near-site, or by telephone or video conferencing, physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physician assistants and health coaches and navigators can build relationships with employees and their families, helping them to manage their health and successfully navigate the health care jungle.

Speaker: Paul Montgomery, Vice President of Business Development, Healthstat

3:15: Conclusion

FAQs

What are my transport/parking options getting to the event?

HistoryMiami is across the plaza from the main library. With HistoryMiami validation, all-day parking is available for \$5 at the Cultural Center Garage, 50 NW 2d Avenue, Miami 33130. The library and the museum are across NW First Street from the Government Center Metrorail station.

Where can I contact the organizer with any questions?

Contact Santiago Leon at 305-577-4270 x2001 or sleon@accbrokers.com

Have questions about HEALTH CARE PROSPERITY SUMMIT: REDUCING MIAMI HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS?

Contact Presented by the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners' Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives in collaboration with the Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council

Economic Development Council (SEDC) is an advisory board to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of all residents of Miami-Dade County by providing the County Commission and Mayor with timely, objective, transparent and thoughtful advice on significant social and economic issues. The Council aims to pursue a balanced perspective among economic development, social justice, and environmental sustainability, both in the short and long term.

For further information on the SEDC see: <http://www.miamidade.gov/planning/sedc.asp>

Co-sponsors are welcome. For questions on the event, please contact Santiago Leon at 305-577-4270 x2001.

Contact the Organizer

[View organizer profile](#)

1 upcoming event on Eventbrite



MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN JEAN MONESTIME
Board of County Commissioners

TO: The Honorable Vice-Chairman Esteban Bovo, Jr. and Members of the Board of County Commissioners DATE: January 16, 2015

FROM: The Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioner District 2 SUBJECT: County Commission
Committee Structure
and Appointments

Colleagues, by the power of your vote, and as provided for in the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter and the Code of Miami-Dade County, it is my duty and privilege as the Chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission to present the organizational structure and membership appointments for the County Commission committee system.

I have approached this task with the objective of building public confidence in the ability of the Miami-Dade County Commission to provide legislative leadership for our metropolitan region. In order to realize our full potential as a governing body, to set the policy priorities for the government, to provide quality public services, and to be constantly vigilant of the fiscal affair of the county, I am setting forth a committee system that is delineated primarily by the major funding sources.

There are fiscal impacts for every policy decision, and every service provided by the County requires fiscal resources. For the committees to advance policies and recommend service delivery levels to best serve our community, corresponding decisions regarding resource allocations and budget priorities must be made. By remaining vigilant of the budget consequences of our decisions throughout the year, the challenges associated with the annual budget should be fully anticipated.

Therefore, the committee system is structured according to six (6) groups of primary funding sources:

- 1) Countywide property taxes, fire district property taxes, and fees assessed for services across the county;
- 2) Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) property taxes and fees for UMSA services;
- 3) Interdepartmental charges and intergovernmental transfers;
- 4) Fees and charges assessed for use of port facilities;
- 5) Transit sales surtax and fares; and
- 6) Jackson Half-Cent Sales Tax, Documentary Stamp Surtax, Food and Beverage Tax, CDBG, HOME and SHIP.

In addition to the six (6) legislative committees corresponding to the funding sources, I am establishing a Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives. The Council will meet quarterly, or more frequently if necessary, to assess the progress we are making as a governing body in advancing policies to improve the quality of life for our citizens. The Council will also seek input from community leaders, policy experts and academics. Policy initiatives formulated by the Council will be submitted for consideration by the legislative committees.

This new funding-structured committee system is designed to facilitate the development of our annual budget. We must always keep in mind the service priorities of our residents and visitors, and properly fund the departments responsible for delivering those services. Administrative creativity and efficiency should become our hallmarks as we restore the national reputation of Miami-Dade County as an innovative metropolitan government. Your comments and concerns regarding this system of committees are always welcome. If changes need to be made from time to time, I will do so to improve our legislative process.

For purposes of efficiency, there are six (6) members assigned to each committee. Each commissioner is assigned to three (3) committees. There will be three (3) days of morning and afternoon committee meetings each month.

As this committee system is not structured to provide direct oversight of county departments, but rather to focus on the services we provide through various funding sources, several departments are referenced as reporting to more than one committee. This occurs due to the multiple sources of funding for certain multi-jurisdictional departments (countywide and UMSA), and also because certain large departments are composed of service divisions supported by a variety of unique funding sources. The administration is encouraged to clearly identify the particular funding sources associated with agenda items to ease the committee referral process.

To assist every committee to meet its responsibilities and to further its agenda, I will work with the Office of the Commission Auditor to have a staff person dedicated to assist each committee chairperson. The dedicated committee staff person will coordinate efforts to provide the committee with relevant policy information and research findings. The committee staff person will work closely with the appropriate subject matter experts from the administration to ensure legislative solutions are practical and feasible. Efforts will be undertaken to provide internship experience to local college students interested in government policy and procedures, in order to supplement research activities requested by the committee.

As our Charter and Code vests significant powers in the committees, it is my intention to ensure the public and the full board enjoys the full benefit of our committee system. Sponsors of agenda items are encouraged to anticipate the legislative timelines and respect our committee process.

Items requested to be waived from committee review shall first be assigned to the appropriate committee of jurisdiction by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Following committee assignment, the item will be submitted to the Chair of the assigned committee for request of waiver of committee review. If such waiver is granted by the committee Chair, the waiver shall then be submitted to the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. If the requested waiver is then approved by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, the item will be placed on the appropriate board agenda.

If the Chair of a committee is unable to review and approve a preliminary committee agenda in compliance with the established deadlines, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners will review and approve the committee agenda. For regular meetings, I ask my colleagues to timely submit any "pull list" items before the close of business of the prior day.

The six (6) standing committees for the 2015-2016 calendar years are:

Strategic Planning and Government Operations Committee	Tue. @ 9:30 AM
UMSA Committee	Tue. @ 2:00 PM
Transit and Mobility Services Committee	Wed. @ 9:30 AM
Metropolitan Services Committee	Wed. @ 2:00 PM
Trade and Tourism Committee	Thur. @ 9:30 AM
Economic Prosperity Committee	Thur. @ 2:00 PM

Metropolitan Services Committee

Chair, Commissioner Barbara Jordan

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Sally Heyman

Commissioners Audrey Edmonson, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Javier Souto, and Juan Zapata

The Metropolitan Services Committee (MSC) will oversee the regional services provided to the residents of Miami-Dade County living in the cities and in the UMSA areas. The MSC will evaluate the equity of the allocation of services throughout the county, address deficiencies in the delivery of services where identified, engage citizens throughout the county to ensure the level of countywide services are adequate and acceptable, and coordinate with municipal officials for the most efficient delivery of countywide services.

Primary Funding Sources: countywide property taxes; fire rescue property taxes; water and sewer fees; and, solid waste disposal fees.

Departments and Affiliated Organizations: Juvenile Services; Corrections and Rehabilitation; Medical Examiner; Animal Services; Miami-Dade Police; Elections; Regulatory and Economic Resources; Water and Sewer; Public Works and Waste Management; Fire Rescue; Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces; and, the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust.

UMSA Committee

Chair, Senator Javier Souto

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava

Commissioners Barbara Jordan, Sally Heyman, Juan Zapata and Esteban Bovo

The Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) Committee will oversee the municipal services provided to the residents who live in the unincorporated areas; will develop a plan to address areas of slum and blight; will develop policies governing incorporation and annexation procedures; will evaluate the zoning, permitting and code enforcement services of UMSA; will evaluate the criteria for defining the Urban Development Boundary, utilizing current hydrological models and elevation mapping to supplement historic considerations; will seek state and federal funding of projects for residents of the “City of Unincorporated Miami-Dade County;” will explore designating UMSA property owners as eligible to participate in property assessed clean energy (PACE) programs; will develop policies for a sustainable agriculture industry; and will also oversee the Miami-Dade Public Library System, ensuring the residents of UMSA and the participating cities in the Library District are being properly served.

Primary Funding Sources: the UMSA property taxes; state municipal revenue sharing; franchise fees; UMSA service fees; and the Library taxing district.

Departments (UMSA Services only): Miami-Dade Police; Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces; Public Works and Waste Management; Community Information and Outreach; Regulation and Economic Resources; and the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

Strategic Planning and Government Operations Committee

Chair, Commissioner Juan Zapata

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa

Commissioners Daniella Levine Cava, Sally Heyman, Javier Souto, and

Esteban Bovo

The Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee will review and update the county strategic plan; coordinate a comprehensive review of the Miami-Dade Home Rule Charter; review and recommend the legislative priorities to be pursued before the State Legislature, Congress, and the executive agencies of the state and federal governments; monitor and improve the quality and effectiveness of the health benefit programs offered to the county workforce; evaluate and recommend the appropriate information technology strategies to serve the needs of the various departments; evaluate the economics of public-private-partnership engagements; monitor financial rating agency reports; review the comprehensive annual financial reports prior to publication; consider ethics and lobbying reform legislation; monitor federal and state funding support for the various county departments and programs; monitor the fiscal impact of successful county grant applications; monitor intergovernmental policy issues at the federal, state, regional and local levels, including matters involving the School Board and other autonomous governmental bodies; oversee regional cooperation agreements; and consider any and all amendments to county commission operating procedures, administrative and implementing orders.

Primary Funding Sources: interdepartmental transfers, intergovernmental grants, revenue sharing and formula transfers; and, miscellaneous fees and charges.

Departments and Affiliated Agencies: Internal Services Department; Human Resources; Information Technology; Community Information and Outreach; Audit and Management Services; Finance Department; Office of Management and Budget; Regulatory and Economic Resources; Ethics Commission; Inspector General; Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; and the South Florida Regional Planning Council.

Trade and Tourism Committee

Chair, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Bruno Barreiro

Commissioners Audrey Edmonson, Rebeca Sosa, Xavier Suarez, and Dennis Moss

The Trade and Tourism Committee will oversee passenger and cargo services provided by Miami-Dade County; will review and recommend the rate schedules associated with these enterprise operations; in consultation with private transportation firms, the committee will develop strategic investment plans to facilitate the movement of cargo and people through our region; the committee will oversee the planning and development of facilities at the general aviation airports; will coordinate the implementation of concierge services at MIA for passengers on behalf of interested cruise lines; monitor efforts to increase cargo traffic associated with the deep dredge of the seaport channel; coordinate intergovernmental efforts to improve security and customs processing at MIA; initiate discussions with the U.S. Navy and allied forces to increase utilization of PortMiami as a port of call; and provide support and assistance to the United States military personnel and facilities in Miami-Dade County.

Primary Funding Source: user fees, rates and charges.

Departments and Affiliated Agencies: Aviation; PortMiami; World Trade Center Miami; Consular Corps of Miami; Beacon Council; Greater Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau; Florida Department of Transportation; the Florida East Coast Railway; and the United States Armed Forces.

Transit and Mobility Services Committee

Chair, Commissioner Esteban Bovo

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Dennis Moss

Commissioners Barbara Jordan, Bruno Barreiro, Xavier Suarez, and Jose "Pepe" Diaz

The Transit and Mobility Services Committee will focus on improving workforce mobility, providing cost-effective alternatives to private vehicle ownership and dependency. The committee will invite all major employers to provide input for transit service improvements; will invite colleges and universities to become transit partners to improve student mobility options; will seek greater coordination with municipal circulator services; explore cost-sharing agreements with MDX to subsidize transit parking facilities; will evaluate the feasibility of providing dedicated public transportation services connecting Fort Lauderdale International Airport and Miami International Airport; will evaluate transit services to PortMiami for crews, workers and cruise passengers; will propose roadway safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists; will coordinate with the GMVCB to promote transit service options for visitors; will develop policies to ensure reliable taxi and limousine services remain available, accessible and viable; and, will evaluate and develop appropriate regulations for alternative transportation services offered through mobility apps.

Primary Funding Sources: transit sales surtax, countywide general fund, fares

Departments and Affiliated Agencies: Miami-Dade Transit; Citizens Independent Transportation Trust; Regulatory and Economic Resources; Public Works and Waste Management; Metropolitan Planning Organization; Miami-Dade Expressway Authority; Florida East Coast Railway; and, All Aboard Florida.

Economic Prosperity Committee

Chair, Commissioner Xavier Suarez

Vice-Chair, Commissioner Audrey Edmonson

Commissioners Bruno Barreiro, Rebeca Sosa, Daniella Levine Cava, and Dennis Moss

The Economic Prosperity Committee will develop policies to address the income inequality gap, community healthcare needs, employment opportunities and the affordable housing challenges of our residents. The Committee will also work with other social service support agencies and the not-for-profit sector to help ensure a coordinated system of services for our citizens. The overall goal of this committee will be to develop prosperity policies and programs that will lift up our residents, increasing their participation in the economic success of our local economy, by improving access to public and private initiatives whose purpose is to promote greater prosperity for all. As international trade is a key economic driver of this community, the Committee will also monitor this activity, tracking foreign investment reports of the Consular Corps of Miami, overseeing the Sister Cities program, and be kept apprised of, and promote, incoming and outgoing trade missions.

Primary Funding Sources: federal CDBG and CSBG funding, SHIP and documentary stamp surtax housing funds, the half cent hospital sales surtax, food and beverage tax proceeds, local business license taxes, federal and state grants, and the general fund.

Departments and Affiliated Agencies: Public Housing and Community Development, Community Action and Human Services, Office of Management and Budget, Regulatory and Economic Resources, Cultural Affairs, Public Health Trust, Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust, Homeless Trust, the Beacon Council and all other economic development related organizations, South Florida Workforce, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and all other local chambers of commerce; the Greater Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau; and the International Trade Council.

Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives

Chairman Jean Monestime
Commissioners Barbara Jordan and Daniella Levine Cava

We live in a community that attracts and celebrates global wealth. We are fortunate to be considered a safe haven for investors from around the world. Unfortunately, among the top ten most populated counties in the U.S., the American Community Survey ranks Miami-Dade County as having the highest rating for income inequality. It is entirely unacceptable for our community to be dead last on a statistic that reflects the quality of life for our citizens. To remain an attractive global destination for business and tourism, and to alleviate the misery associated with a life of poverty, we must engage all of our citizens to become active participants in our local economy. We must build wealth across our community, increase employment opportunities, increase homeownership, support entrepreneurship, expand locally-owned businesses and use every avenue possible to reduce the income inequality gap among our permanent population.

I intend to invite national experts and renowned academics to present to the Council possible solutions to consider for our metropolitan region. We will survey other regions to develop an inventory of proven initiatives and tested policies. My desire is to have an ongoing dialogue among the Council in order to craft solutions applicable to Miami-Dade County. These meetings will be less formal than the legislative committees and not require use of the Chambers. After consulting with my colleagues on the Council, a meeting date will be published.

2015 Calendar of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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- 12 CRC 9:30 AM - HSSC 2:00 PM
- 13 FC 9:30 AM - ICIC 2:00 PM
- 14 PSASC 9:30 AM - TAC 2:00 PM/Cancelled
- 15 LUDC 9:30 AM - EDPC 2:00 PM
- 21 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 22 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 22 ZONING 9:30 AM/Cancelled
- 22 MPO 2:00 PM/Cancelled

FEBRUARY						
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- 3 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 4 CDMP 9:30 AM
- 5 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 10 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 11 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 12 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
- 18 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 19 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 19 ZONING MEETING
- 19 MPO 2:00 PM

MARCH						
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- 3 REGULAR 9:30 AM
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- 10 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 11 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 12 TTC 9:30 AM/Cancelled - EPC 2:00 PM
- 17 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 17 SPECIAL MEETING - 9:30 AM
- 19 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 19 ZONING MEETING 9:30 AM/Cancelled
- 19 MPO 2:00 PM/Cancelled
- 23 CHM'S COUNCIL FOR PROSPERITY INITIATIVES 9:30 AM

APRIL						
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- 8 & 9 DADE DAYS IN TALLAHASSEE
- 14 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 15 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 16 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
- 21 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 23 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 23 ZONING 9:30 AM
- 23 MPO 2:00 PM
- 27 CHM'S COUNCIL FOR PROSPERITY INITIATIVES 9:30 AM
- 30 JOINT MEETING/BCC & MDCYC 3-5 PM

MAY						
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- 5 REGULAR 9:30 AM
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- 4 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 9 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 10 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 11 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
- 16 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 18 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 18 ZONING 9:30 AM
- 18 MPO 2:00 PM
- 30 REGULAR 9:30 AM

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- 7 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 8 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 9 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
- 14 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 14 CMTE. OF THE WHOLE/Public Hearing 9:30 AM
- 16 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 16 CMTE. OF THE WHOLE/Pub. Hearing 9:30 AM (If Needed)
- 22 CDMP 9:30 AM
- 23 ZONING 9:30 AM
- 23 MPO 2:00 PM
- 28 REGULAR 9:30 AM (Millage Rate/If needed)

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 24 1st BUDGET/CMTE. OF THE WHOLE 9:30 AM
 - 25 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
 - 26 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
 - 27 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
 - CMTE. Mtgs. include budget issues per Ord. 12-46 (adopted on 7/31/12)
- (**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR LISTING OF SUNSHINE MTGS)
- ZONING, CDMP & MPO
 - COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE/S (SEE REVERSE SIDE)
 - HOLIDAYS (SEE REVERSE SIDE)
 - BCC RECESS / SUMMER BREAK

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 1 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 3 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 3 FIRST BUDGET HEARING 5:01 PM
- 10 2nd BUDGET/CMTE. OF THE WHOLE 9:30 AM
- 10 ZONING 9:30 AM
- 10 MPO 2:00 PM
- 16 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 17 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 17 SECOND BUDGET HEARING 5:01 PM

OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 6 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 8 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 13 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 14 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 15 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
- 20 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 22 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 22 ZONING 9:30 AM
- 22 MPO 2:00 PM

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 3 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 5 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 10 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 12 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 13 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
- 17 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 18 CDMP 9:30 AM
- 19 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 19 ZONING 9:30 AM
- 19 MPO 2:00 PM

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 1 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 3 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 8 SPGOC 9:30 AM - UMSAC 2:00 PM
- 9 TMSC 9:30 AM - MSC 2:00 PM
- 10 TTC 9:30 AM - EPC 2:00 PM
- 15 REGULAR 9:30 AM
- 17 REG Carry-over 9:30 AM (If needed)
- 17 ZONING 9:30 AM
- 17 MPO 2:00 PM

2015 Calendar of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners

COMMISSION COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Tuesday 9:30 AM - Strategic Planning & Government Operations Cmte. (SPGOC)
 Tuesday 2:00 PM - UMSA Cmte.
 Wednesday 9:30 AM - Transit & Mobility Services Cmte. (TMSC)
 Wednesday 2:00 PM - Metropolitan Services Cmte. (MSC)
 Thursday 9:30 AM - Trade & Tourism Cmte. (TTC)
 Thursday 2:00 PM - Economic Prosperity Cmte. (EPC)
 Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives

LEGISLATIVE SESSION / BREAK RECESS

March 3 - May 1, 2015 Legislative Session
 March 23 - March 27, 2015 Spring Break
 April 8 - April 9, 2015 Dade Days in Tallahassee
 July 27 - August 21, 2015 BCC Recess

SUNSHINE MEETINGS

Mar. 25th	SFRTA Informational Presentation Re: Proposed Tri-Rail Downtown Miami Link	10:00 AM
Mar. 25th	Neat Streets Miami (formerly known as the CIAB)	10 AM-12 PM
Mar. 26th	Lottery - Distribution of 2015 Miami Marlins Baseball Season Tickets	3:00 PM
Mar. 27th	Levine Cava-Moss to discuss South Dade plans/Cancelled	9:00 AM
Mar. 30th	MPO Board Members-Monestime-Mayor Gilbert to discuss the MPO Executive Director Selection Cmte.	10:00 AM
Mar. 31st	Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council - Ad Hoc Meeting	9:30 AM
Mar. 31st	Levine Cava-Monestime to discuss prosperity and animal services/Cancelled	10:00 AM
Mar. 31st	Municipal Leaders Meeting sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission	11AM-12:30 PM
Mar. 31st	MPO's Beach Corridor Transit Connection Study Policy Executive Committee Meeting/Cancelled	2:30 PM
Apr. 1st	Monestime-BCC Members/Presentation by UM regarding selection process for new President	10:00 AM
Apr. 1st	Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board Meeting/Cancelled	6:00 PM
Apr. 2nd	Edmonson-Civic Leaders/school safety, community efforts & strategies to address violence in MDC	10:00 AM
Apr. 6th	Sosa-Suarez to discuss primary healthcare facilities and the Ludlam Trail	12:30 PM
Apr. 9th	Public Health Trust (PHT) Nominating Council Meeting	11:00 AM
Apr. 14th	MPO's Beach Corridor Transit Connection Study Policy Executive Committee Meeting/Cancelled	3:00 PM
Apr. 15th	Levine Cava-Heyman to discuss women's issues and animal services	1:15 PM
Apr. 20th	MPO Executive Director Selection Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
Apr. 21st	Levine Cava-Suarez attending the Community Redevelopment Area Mtg. Re:CRA's in Miami-Dade Co.	6:00-800 PM
Apr. 22nd	Public Safety Coordinating Council	9:30 AM
Apr. 23rd	Levine Cava-Jordan regarding The Children's Trust and Housing Issues/Cancelled	12:00 PM
Apr. 23rd	Levine Cava-Suarez regarding transportation issues	1:00 PM
Apr. 23rd	Levine Cava-Edmonson regarding community issues	1:30 PM
Apr. 24th	Gimenez-Souto-Ana Botella, Mayor of Madrid (Signing Ceremony between Madrid and MDC)	3:00 PM
Apr. 27th	Levine Cava-Jordan regarding The Children's Trust and Housing Issues	8:45 AM
Apr. 28th	Levine Cava-Suarez regarding transportation issues	11:30 AM
Apr. 30th	Levine Cava-Sosa regarding environmental issues and honor code/Cancelled	2:00 PM
Apr. 30th	Monestime-Zapata to discuss the proposed Budget Ordinance	2:30 PM
May 4th	MPO's Beach Corridor Transit Connection Study Policy Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 PM
May 5th	Levine Cava-Moss regarding the South Dade Summit	3:00 PM
May 6th	Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board Meeting	6:00 PM
May 7th	Levine Cava-Moss participating in the Economic Development Council of South Dade Meeting	7:30 AM
May 7th	Suarez-Suarez/underground connection MIC to Douglas Station/waterborne transportation along the riverwalk	2:00 PM
May 20th	Library Advisory Board Meeting	12:30 PM
Sept. 16th	Library Advisory Board Meeting	12:30 PM

2015 HOLIDAYS

Thurs. January 1	New Year's Day (Observed)*
Mon. January 19	MLK's Birthday (Observed)*
Mon. February 16	President's Day (Observed)*
Thurs. April 2	Holy Thursday
Fri. April 3	Good Friday
Fri. April 3	Passover @ Sundown
Sat. April 4	Passover
Sun. April 5	Easter Sunday
Sat. April 11	Passover Ends
Mon. May 25	Memorial Day (Observed)*
Fri. July 3	Independence Day (Observed)*
Mon. September 7	Labor Day (Observed)*
Sun. September 13	Rosh Hashana @ Sundown
Mon. September 14	Rosh Hashana Day 1
Tues. September 15	Rosh Hashana Day 2
Tues. September 22	Yom Kippur @ Sundown
Wed. September 23	Yom Kippur
Mon. October 12	Columbus Day (Observed)*
Wed. November 11	Veterans Day (Observed)*
Thurs. November 26	Thanksgiving Day (Observed)*
Fri. November 27	Day After Thanksgiving (Observed)*
Sun. December 6	Chanuka begins @ Sundown
Mon. December 7	Chanuka Day 1
Fri. December 25	Christmas Day (Observed)*

* HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY THE COUNTY

STATE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATES

Tuesday, February 17	Tuesday, May 26
Tuesday, March 3	Tuesday, June 2
Tuesday, March 17	Tuesday, September 8
Tuesday, April 7	Tuesday, October 6
Tuesday, April 14	Tuesday, November 3
Tuesday, April 21	Tuesday, November 3
Tuesday, April 28	Tuesday, November 10
Tuesday, May 5	Tuesday, November 17
Tuesday, May 12	
Tuesday, May 19	
Thursday, May 21	

Publication: The Miami Herald; Date: May 7, 2015; Section: Business; Page: 1C

TECHNOLOGY

Miami Innovation District developers bet on tech future

› Among the Simkins' plans: building a \$2 billion complex designed to host technology incubators and start-ups.

BY DAVID SMILEY dsmiley@MiamiHerald.com

Michael Simkins has a bit of a problem.

His family just spent \$120 million on 10 acres near downtown with plans to lure the likes of Google and Yahoo! to a roughly \$2 billion Miami Innovation District in Miami. But even with the buzz of the week's eMerge Americas tech convention still lingering in South Florida, getting people to see and understand the big picture has been difficult.

"I love the innovation center aspect of it," Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez said Tuesday after giving a presentation at eMerge. "But I'm not so crazy about the 600-foot billboard."

The "billboard" Gimenez referenced is a twisting, three-sided observation tower planned on Northwest First Avenue as the focal point of the 7 million-square-foot district. Most of the discussion about the Simkins' big plans has focused not on the district, but on the observation tower and its large digital signs, which would broadcast ads and function as the tower's skin.

To Simkins, that's the tail wagging the dog. And so after saying little to nothing for months as whispers of the project floated around Miami, the family is finally opening up, promoting a district they say would bring 13,000 "high-paying" jobs to Miami and finally turn the city into a Silicon Beach.

"Miami is on everybody's radar," Simkins said recently from his family's Miami Beach offices. "The question that comes around is, what is needed? What do we need to move the ball? My answer to that question is a major technology company."

And Simkins, the scion of a paper manufacturing magnate, believes his family is positioned to make that happen. Companies belonging to the family and their partners own more than a dozen properties in an area south of Interstate 395 known now for nightclubs and drab, boxlike buildings. Last month, they submitted plans to the city for a special district designed by SHoP Architects, which also designed an "innovation hub" in Botswana and aspects of the Konza Techno City in Nairobi, Kenya.

SHoP has planned a complex that includes a quarter-million square feet of retail, 2.4 million square feet of residential units, and nearly 4 million square feet of office space with performance and exhibition zones geared toward incubators, start-ups and the globe's largest technology firms. Apartments include "micro" 300-square-foot units marketed to millennials. The shops and offices would be tucked into buildings that curve and rise above an almost floating, horizontal mall where architects envision innovators collaborating.

"I haven't seen the details," said Manny Medina, the founder of eMerge and former owner of Terremark, which runs the NAP of the Americas server hub next to Simkins' properties. But, he added, "there's no question in my mind that the need is there."

The \$250 million Miami Innovation Tower — a 633-foot beacon with restaurants, observation decks, and a bottom floor amphitheatre — would be the center piece of the district. Simkins projects the site would get 1.2 million visitors each year.

It has been derided by activists as the ugliest building ever designed in Florida, and Miami's mayor says he was "blindsided" when The Herald first revealed the details of the project last month. But Simkins and SHoP co-founder Bill Sharples say the opposition to the project is due to a lack of understanding and context.

"I think there's just a lot of people looking at it like what they think it can be based on their experiences, and obviously the first experience they think of is the bright lights of Times Square," Sharples said. "In the context of what we're thinking about, it's got to be something different. It's got to be something unique. It's got to be something nobody has seen before."

Sharples envisions a tower that functions as something more sophisticated than a money-maker, with the potential to act as a promotional tool for tech companies, an Art Basel installation and public messaging machine. His team is still playing with the tower’s materials and technology — he says even calling it an LED tower is probably outdated

— and they’re not yet sure exactly how art, public messaging and lucrative advertisements will mesh. But they know this:

“We wouldn’t have taken the job [if it were a billboard], and that’s not how it was presented,” Sharples said. “There was no way this office would have done a billboard. There’s just no way. That’s not what this office is about.”

Rather, Sharples says the tower is supposed to function in the context of the district, with its green roofs, expansive oculi and outdoor promenades. He believes, like Simkins, that the district will fill a void of large, cohesive office space that has kept major technology companies away.

Simkins pointed to a recent study by commercial real estate firm CBRE that found that Miami is 50th out of 50 among large office markets in terms of tech-talent growth. The firm also found that technology companies are leasing office at a faster pace than other businesses in Miami, and are poised to increase in number.

“The reason we’re 50 out of 50 is there’s no location for these companies to come here,” said Simkins, who hopes to break ground on the Innovation Tower in about one year.

Medina believes perception is holding Miami back right now more so than a lack of space for tech companies. Ken Krasnow, CBRE’s South Florida managing director, feels similarly. But, with many leaving eMerge Americas feeling that the hype of Miami becoming a technology hub is closer to reality, both say more space will soon be necessary.

“The market is growing,” Krasnow said. “Tech, media companies and new age digital companies are looking to grow and expand here — and that’s relatively new.”



SIMKINS



SHOP ARCHITECTS/CITY OF MIAMI

RENDERING: The Miami Innovation District would be between Northwest First Avenue and I-95.

FIU Biomedical Engineering Studies Neural Links to Prostheses

By Brian Peterson

The leading research project of FIU's Department of Biomedical Engineering is working on developing a sense of touch between human nerves and artificial arms and hands.

The interface would be wireless – like a pacemaker for the hand.

The effort's principal investigator is Dr. Ranu Jung who holds the Wallace H. Coulter Eminent Scholars Chair at FIU.

She came to FIU from Arizona State University (ASU) in 2011.

During her career, Dr. Jung has been awarded \$9.5 million in grants for which she was the sole Principal Investigator (PI) and \$17.7 million for grants in which she has been involved in some capacity, including co-PI.

Dr. Jung has a grant of \$3.4 million to work the interaction between nerves and prostheses that was awarded to her when she was at ASU. One patent has already been filed from this research.

This research is linked to other research which is going on at many sites, most notably Johns Hopkins University. The United States military extensively funds this work on prosthetics.

A team of 15 researchers are employed in the Adaptive Neural Systems Laboratory in the FIU Department of Biomedical Engineering. (This may include some who are still at ASU.)

Dr. Ranu Jung is also working on recovering nerve function to the leg with partial paralysis from spinal cord injuries.

<http://news.fiu.edu/2012/01/of-life-and-limb/34616>

*

In 2004, while at Arizona State University, Professor Jung established a commercial company to develop, manufacture and market prosthetic devices:

“The products will integrate biologically-inspired adaptive neuromorphic control systems technology with biomorphic compliant actuators, sensor systems, and lightweight orthotic/prosthetic components.

“Advensys’ first product, NOCS (neuromorphic orthotic control system), is a prototype control system based on neuromorphic principles that senses and controls an active powered orthosis for the lower extremity.”

http://www.neurotechreports.com/pages/adaptive_control_neuroprosthetics.html

*

James Abbas worked closely with Dr. Jung at ASU, and a close relationship still exists between the FIU program and ASU’s program.

https://www.academicwebpages.com/preview/fiu_ans_lab/about/labnotes.html

Another research professor who was with Dr. Jung at ASU and is now with her at FIU is Kenneth Horch.

<http://www.bme.fiu.edu/people/research-faculty/kenneth-horch/>

*

Neuroprosthetic research takes place at the UM med school in the Jackson Memorial Hospital District.

<http://www.bme.miami.edu/nrg/>

Locating FIU’s neuroprosthetic research in that district might be conducive to faster progress.

*

MER is proud that FIU has established a research group in neuroprosthetics.

We congratulate the FIU central administration for their far-sightedness in this.

We acknowledge that they are doing many things right in building a research university, and that they won recognition for this from The Chronicle of Higher Education in May, 2011.

<http://news.fiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/chronicle.pdf>

MER urges the FIU central administration to “pile on” resources in this neuroprosthetic effort which appears to be the most promising research currently taking place at FIU as far as its potential for spinoff companies is concerned.

Without the creation of large numbers of private sector manufacturing jobs, FIU will have a very hard time winning local and state recognition as an important research university.

MER wants FIU to become a strong, balanced research university in which all departments have an important research agenda. If a department has a purely teaching mission, we should give that department to Miami Dade College.

We do not want all of the money for new hires to go to the Biomedical Engineering Department, but we do want them to get much more than their proportionate share.

We regard the requirement that FIU first has to create private sector manufacturing jobs from its research as simply the price of admission to the elite club of research universities in a hostile state and local environment which does not have much knowledge-based industry.

The success of FIU’s neuroprosthetic research today could have an important impact on the availability for research funding for all departments in the future.

This could be the key to recognition by the State of Florida of FIU as a first-tier research university.

As a result of such recognition, we could become eligible for special state research allocations in the future.

*

Who Benefits?

An Analysis of THE MIAMI WORLDCENTER “Economic Incentive Agreement”

By Alayne Unterberger, PhD
Associate Research Director

Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy (RISEP)

Center for Labor Research and Studies

Florida International University, Miami, Florida



Who Benefits?

An Analysis of THE MIAMI WORLDCENTER “Economic Incentive Agreement”

In December 2014, the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency (SEOPW CRA) approved an “Economic Incentive Agreement” with the developers of the Miami WorldCenter. This agreement provides an estimated \$105 to \$175 million in tax increment financing¹ to Miami WorldCenter [1]. In return, the developer made pledges regarding local hiring and wage rates. In this paper, we compare the Miami WorldCenter (MWC) “Economic Incentive Agreement” (EIA) with four other similar agreements to provide a perspective on how well the MWC agreement lines up with the benefits secured by other communities.² Like the MWC, these projects were planned near or within low-income communities.

Project Name	Construction Jobs		Permanent Jobs		Job Training Funding	Community Organizations Negotiated
	Local Hiring	Living Wage	Local Hiring	Living Wage		
Kingsbridge Armory (NY)	25% Bronx	PLA ³	51% Bronx	√	√	√
Oakland Army Base (CA)	50% Oakland	PLA	50% Oakland	√	NONE	√
Yale New Haven Hospital (CT)	NONE	PLA	500 city residents	NONE	√	√
Staples Center (CA)	NONE	PLA	50%	√	√	√
Miami WorldCenter (FL)	25% Miami Dade County	\$11.53/hr	15% Miami Dade County	NONE	NONE	NONE

The four projects used in this comparison are:

- the Kingsbridge Armory (KA) in northwest Bronx, NY
- the Oakland Army Base (OAB) in Oakland, CA
- the Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) in New Haven, CT, and
- the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District development (Staples Center) in Los Angeles, CA.

We examined the commitments made by the developers in those agreements on four main criteria: 1. Construction Jobs, 2. Permanent Jobs, 3. Job Training, and 4. Community Organizations Involvement in Negotiations.

This analysis separates construction jobs, permanent jobs and job training as three distinct commitments. The chart on page 1 presents our findings on the similarities and differences between and among the agreements. Two questions guided this analysis:

- Does the agreement provide a mechanism to make sure that the construction and permanent jobs go to local residents?, and
- Does the agreement contain wage requirements for these jobs that exceed the state minimum wage?

We considered this quote from Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency’s press release, dated January 5, 2015:

“The incentive package assures local hiring and an increase in wages for residents in the Historic Overtown area and residents living in high poverty zip codes throughout the city.”[3]

The quote, like the EIA itself, sheds light on a weakness of the current EIA in guaranteeing local priority hiring within the stated zip codes. At the heart of the issue is the lack of enforcement mechanisms connected to hiring within priority zip codes that were present in the other CBAs examined here. Developers currently only face penalties for not hiring within the greater Miami-Dade area and face a “one-time only” penalty. We go into greater detail below.

Developers currently only face penalties for not hiring within the greater Miami-Dade area and face a “one-time only” penalty.

Construction Jobs

In examining the five agreements, most agreements include both local hiring provisions and “living wage” rates for the construction phase of the project. We found that four of the five developments had a project labor agreement (PLA) with construction labor unions which lays out the terms of employment and conditions, including wage rates and benefits [4,5,6,7,8]. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Project labor agreements also increase the cost of such jobs by imposing higher wages”[9]. The Miami WorldCenter development does not have a PLA, but does include an “enhanced living wage rate” of \$11.58 per hour, which will be raised as per the local Living Wage Ordinance as cited [10].

Three agreements reference local hiring for the construction work. The Kingsbridge Armory and Oakland Army Base agreements secured the narrowest definition of “local hiring”: the Kingsbridge agreement requires hiring from within the Bronx borough, while the Oakland Army Base agreement’s hiring area is the city of Oakland [11,12,13]. Both agreements focused on the area most affected by the projects, a goal stated by the authors of the MWC agreement [14]. However, the MWC agreement’s priority hiring areas by zip code are low in comparison to other agreements, and contractors could conceivably come from the entirety of Miami-Dade County. The geographic area of Miami-Dade County is 30 times larger than the city of Oakland and has 2.5 million more people. As a result, the construction jobs could be filled by workers from other areas of the county and not include a single worker from the neighboring community, Overtown. Further, this agreement has secured a “Responsible Wage” only for one group, Electrical Journeymen, at \$30.11 per hour plus \$6.50 per hour for a health benefit in 2014, with no provision for them to reside in priority zipcodes.

The Oakland Army Base agreement secured the highest percentage of locally hired construction workers, at 50%, from within the City of Oakland. The Kingsbridge agreement includes 25% from the Bronx. The MWC EIA requires the developer to hire 25% of construction workers from Miami-Dade County (30% of unskilled and 10% of skilled construction workers). The MWC EIA does state that the hiring priority begins with “City residents living within the Redevelopment area”, then to “City residents living within the boundaries of the Overtown community”, and it continues to three other “priority” areas [15]. However, when it comes to the enforcement provisions, penalties are assessed only if the developer fails to hire 25% of employees from Miami Dade County. Subcontractor Non-Compliance Penalties are to be monitored by a yet-to-be-named “SBE Construction Services certified firm” and the penalties for firms are one-time only starting at \$10,000, regardless of how many times the contractor does not hire locally. Essentially, one could read this agreement to mean that, as long as county residents are hired, whether or not they are the “priority” areas, there would be no penalty for failing to hire from the “targeted zip codes” [16,17,18,19].

Furthermore, the MWC EIA requires disclosure of hiring percentages, but it does not require disclosure of hiring within the targeted zip codes or redevelopment area. It only requires disclosure of county-wide hiring percentages [20]. This review concludes that the “targeted zip codes” are merely aspirational and not operational because the developer can easily satisfy the “local hiring” by hiring from non-priority zip codes across Miami-Dade, which we conclude can and should be changed if Miami-Dade really wants priority areas to benefit from the MWC development.

Permanent Jobs

The Kingsbridge, Yale-New Haven, and Staples agreements secured a higher number of locally hired permanent jobs than they did construction jobs and the Oakland agreement was the same percentage, at 50%.

All four of the other agreements also require compliance with existing living wage ordinances or create a “living wage” within the agreement [21,22,23,24]. This ensures that the permanent jobs created will not be minimum-wage jobs and aim to uplift the impoverished communities surrounding the projects. While there is a living wage requirement for the construction phase, the MWC EIA contains no living wage requirement for the permanent workforce.

The final draft of the Miami Worldcenter EIA requires that 15% of the permanent workforce at the project be residents of Miami-Dade County. The other agreements reviewed above each had higher local hiring goals for the permanent workforce than the construction workforce, so Miami Worldcenter’s lower goal (15% county-wide, rather than 25%) is disappointing. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how 85% of the permanent workforce could live outside Miami-Dade County. Furthermore, the Developer is only required to “use commercially reasonable efforts to include the obligation of Tenants” (Exhibit G-2, §4.2). Since tenants will employ the majority of the permanent workforce, this requirement will be of minimal effect.

While there is a living wage requirement for the construction phase, the MWC EIA contains no living wage requirement for the permanent workforce.

Job Training

We found that three of the agreements outlined above held developers accountable for paying for job training for local residents. In Kingsbridge, the Developer is required to pay “any fees associated with the services” by hiring, referral, and training agencies [25]. The Staples agreement required the developer provide \$100,000 in funding to staff and operate a referral and training system [26]. In the Yale-New Haven agreement, the developer provides \$500,000 to establish a “career ladder” for the purpose of giving access to healthcare jobs to those not in the healthcare industry and increase the existing nursing career ladder program by \$500,000 “to create employment opportunities in the nursing field for residents of the City of New Haven” [27].

The MWC EIA takes a two pronged approach to job training, which is to be decided solely by the Executive Director, with no money attached to it in the EIA: 1) Job Fair (minimum of one per year) and 2) Job training, via “workshops” seemingly in conjunction with CareerSource South Florida at Lindsey, Hopkins Technical Center [35]. Under section 3.3, the EIA states that job training will occur two times per year during the first two years and will require that residents get “adequate notice.” Some of the language in this section is unclear, however, and refers to Job Fairs and Job Training Workshops interchangeably.

Community Involvement in Negotiations

According to Good Jobs First and the California Public Subsidies Project, Community Benefits Agreements: Making Development Projects Accountable (2002), “project-specific contracts between developers and community organizations – are safeguards to ensure that local community residents share in the benefits of major developments. They allow community groups to have a voice in shaping a project, to press for community benefits that are tailored to their particular needs, and to enforce developer’s promises” [28]. This process was not followed in the MWC and there is no provision within the current EIA to create space at the table for community involvement in negotiations. The other four agreements were negotiated with coalitions of community organizations directly: The Figueroa Coalition for Economic Justice (SAJE), East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy’s (EBASE) Revive! Oakland, the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), and the Connecticut Center for a New Economy (CCNE) [29,30,31,32].

Conclusions

The Miami WorldCenter EIA falls short in comparison to these other four community benefit agreements. The MWC EIA:

- Fails to narrow the defined area for local hiring for construction jobs in a way that will ensure that the residents closest and most affected by the project will benefit from the jobs;
- Fails to include hiring requirements for the permanent jobs;
- Fails to require living wages for the permanent jobs;
- Fails to include funds for job training; and
- Fails to include community organizations in the negotiations.

Next Steps

Specific issues that should be addressed stem from the shortcomings we identified above:

1. Tighten the requirements and tracking of priority zip codes with stiffer penalties per occurrence instead of one-time fines;
2. Increase the percentage of local hiring in both construction and permanent jobs to 50%, more in keeping with previous CBA;
3. Community members should be “at the table” during negotiations for a community benefits attachment to any interlocal agreement or future economic incentive agreement. Such an attachment should include community benefits, including local hiring, job quality, and adherence to other applicable city and county policies.

Fortunately, the MWC EIA is only one step in a long process of approvals. The Agreement itself only requires approval by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), not by the City or County. The Agreement is contingent, however, on future approval by the City and County as part of their annual approval of CRA budgets. Furthermore, two additional fundamental steps remain:

1. There remains another Economic Incentive Agreement, yet to be negotiated or approved, covering the Miami Expocenter EIA (Expocenter EIA), an 1,800-room hotel and convention center adjacent to the Miami WorldCenter. Any perceived inadequacies of the current WorldCenter EIA could be addressed and fixed in the pending Expocenter EIA. On March 5, 2015, the Herald reported that the developers of the Expocenter were requesting \$115 million [35].
2. The developer does not have any public approval allowing issuance of bonds supported by tax increment financing at either the Miami World Center or Expocenter sites. Such bonds could be issued by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), after approval by Miami-Dade County. However, according to §4.2.3, the WorldCenter Developer has indicated another path: “Master Developer intends to petition the County to establish Miami WorldCenter District, pursuant to the authority provided under Chapter 190, Fla. Statutes... Master Developer intends to convey the Public Infrastructure Improvements or construction contract(s) therefore, and convey its interest in the same, to the Miami Worldcenter District, and contemporaneously therewith to issue an Assignment Notice of a portion of the Incentive Payment to Miami Worldcenter District for the term of any then existing bond issuance...” [34] This Community Development District (CDD) will require County Approval, but the subsequent approval of any CDD bonds will not. The Board of County Commissioners has broad discretion to determine, however, whether a CDD or a CRA is the most appropriate model for financing this project, and to first require a Worldcenter Interlocal Agreement between the CDD, the CRA, the City, and the County.

End Notes

- 1 These figures are calculations based on the MWC EIA (2014:1) which states “Master Developer and Retail Developer have requested that the CRA provide economic incentives to assist with the cost of providing certain infrastructure and parking in view of the additional taxes and the job creation that will result from construction development and operation of the Project.” The schedule for these incentives conforms to the construction phase, which is not set in stone; therefore, we are offering a range as a “best estimate.” See also, reference 1.
- 2 Our goal is not to focus on the tax incentives but rather to illustrate the potential poverty lifting opportunities that other communities similar to Miami have gained in the past.
- 3 A PLA, also known as a “Project Labor Agreement”, means a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project and is an agreement described in 29 U.S.C. 159(f). According to President Obama, “Project labor agreements are a tool that agencies may use to promote economy and efficiency in Federal procurement. Pursuant to Executive Order 13502, agencies are encouraged to consider requiring the use of project labor agreements in connection with large-scale construction projects.”[2]

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TIF year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030 Q1	TOTAL
Phase 1A	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 3,579,505	\$ 894,876	\$ 40,269,431
Phase 1B	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 3,201,669	\$ 800,417	\$ 36,018,776
Phase 1C north			\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 3,129,143	\$ 782,286	\$ 28,944,573
Phase 1C south			\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 2,175,778	\$ 543,945	\$ 20,125,947
Block A						\$ 4,945,800	\$ 4,945,800	\$ 4,945,800	\$ 4,945,800	\$ 4,945,800	\$ 4,945,800	\$ 1,236,430	\$ 30,911,250
Block B						\$ 3,662,559	\$ 3,662,559	\$ 3,662,559	\$ 3,662,559	\$ 3,662,559	\$ 3,662,559	\$ 915,640	\$ 19,228,435
TOTAL													\$ 175,498,412
Values from Exhibit C													

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Publication: The Miami Herald; Date: May 4, 2015; Section: Local & State; Page: 1B

MIAMI

Study: Worldcenter deal falls short

› Developers of the Miami Worldcenter project are defending their commitments to the community.

BY DAVID SMILEY dsmiley@MiamiHerald.com

As Miami commissioners consider awarding public subsidies to developers of massive projects in exchange for local wage and workforce commitments, a new study is criticizing the last deal they cut.

Florida International University's RISEP center is publishing a paper Monday on the economic incentive package negotiated with the developers of the Miami Worldcenter, a 27-acre, \$1.7 billion complex planned in Miami's Park West neighborhood. That agreement, awarded in late December, provides up to \$108 million in property-tax rebates through 2030 if the entire project is built on time.

In exchange for the money, which will be used to fund infrastructure improvements around the complex's shops, condos and watering holes, the Worldcenter's developers agreed to hire specific percentages of its construction and permanent labor force from local pools, with the threat of modest penalties if they fail. They also agreed to pay higher wages.

City Commissioner Keon Hardemon, chairman of the Southeast Overtown/Park West Redevelopment Agency, says the deal he negotiated is among the toughest ever crafted on behalf of Overtown residents. But the new study — entitled "Who Benefits?" — found that the Worldcenter deal fell far short of arrangements in other corners of the country that, unlike the Worldcenter deal, were crafted between community alliances and the developers.

"These economic incentives provide huge amounts of leverage, and we should be getting a huge bang for our buck," said Alayne Unterberger, associate director for the FIU Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy and author of the study.

Unterberger compared the Worldcenter agreement to four community benefits agreements: Staples Center in Los Angeles, KingsBridge Armory in New York, the Oakland Army Base and Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut. She focused on whether local jobs had hard commitments, and whether wages were guaranteed to be above the minimum wage.

The Worldcenter agreement calls for the developers to hire 30 percent of its unskilled contractors, 10 percent of its skilled contractors, and 20 percent of its subcontractors from local pools countywide, with high priority to Overtown. Contractors on the project must pay a \$12.83 an hour "living wage" for jobs without benefits, and electrical journeymen are to be paid a \$30.11 "responsible" hourly wage. The developers are hit with penalties that increase the further they fall short of their workforce goals.

In comparison, the developers of the massive KingsBridge ice skating rink and 360-acre Oakland Army Base redevelopment projects secured 25 percent and 50 percent construction workforce commitments respectively within the tight boundaries of the Bronx and Oakland, Unterberger writes. Those projects also guaranteed half their permanent jobs to locals.

She says community groups negotiated the wages they wanted on the other four projects and secured living wage commitments for permanent jobs. Worldcenter was negotiated privately and gives a "responsible wage" only to electrical journeymen and no wage commitments for permanent jobs.

Unterberger also questions job training commitments, saying that only the developers of the Worldcenter and Oakland Army Base declined to pay for jobs-training programs. Worldcenter is working with South Florida Workforce and the school district's Lindsay Hopkins training center.

"The Miami Worldcenter [deal] falls short in comparison to these other four community benefit agreements," Unterberger writes.

Unterberger's RISEP is releasing the study publicly Monday, hoping to influence pending votes for similar incentives for a planned expo center near the Worldcenter project and for the All Aboard Florida transit hub. The CRA is also negotiating a covenant that includes workforce and wage commitments with the developer of a 10-acre tech hub in order to build a 633-foot tower with large LED signs.

But the Worldcenter's developers and the head of the Overtown redevelopment agency that negotiated the deal defended their agreement and the promises made to the community. (Unterberger's study also incorrectly lists the values of World-center's property tax rebates at \$175 million due to an apparent misunderstanding of public documents published along with the agreement in December.)

"The CRA's investment of approximately 5 percent of the total project cost will supplement \$1.7 billion in total private investment for Miami Worldcenter's two phases," Worldcenter spokesman Aaron Gordon said. "As a result of our agreement, Miami's Over-town and Park West neighborhoods will receive significant community benefits in the form of job creation and new opportunities for local businesses."

Clarence Woods, executive director of the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency, declined to comment on the study because he said he'd only been able to read the conclusion of Unterberger's study, which the Miami Herald provided. He did say, however, that he did not agree with the conclusions.

Hardemon did not respond to a call to his cellphone or an email sent to his chief of staff with the study attached.



RENDERING : Miami Worldcenter, a 27-acre, \$1.7 billion complex planned in Miami's Park West.

CIVIC ACTION BULLETIN

EVENTS

Saturday, May 9, 2015: Citizenship Clinic

10am-5pm at South Florida AFL-CIO Union Hall, 4349 NW 36th Street Miami Springs, FL 33136. This citizenship clinic will be hosted by the Laborers' International Union (LIUNA), the Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) and South Florida AFL-CIO. For more information contact: Cynthia Hernandez at 786-301-6665 or chernandez@flaflcio.org

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Saturday, May 9, 2015: Hands Off Iraq and Syria! Wynwood Artwalk Event

"The South Florida anti-war community is gathering on Saturday May 9 @ 6:30PM at the Wynwood Artwalk to inform the public of the human costs of the US "War On Terror" and denounce current and future US-led and supported attacks in the Middle East. We will have speeches and artistic displays to share with passers by."

6:30pm at the Wynwood Art Walk, Miami. For further information go to:

<http://heyevent.com/event/361700584016162/hands-off-iraq-and-syria-wynwood-artwalk-event>

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Tuesday, May 12, 2015: The Age-Friendly Summit: Shaping Our Community For All Ages

"An interactive series of discussions and presentations with local government officials and community leaders aimed at making Greater Miami a better place for our citizens of all ages, especially older adults. Miami-Dade County's population is getting older, and we're not prepared. So we need to act now and act locally to make our community age-friendly. Let's work toward change - together.

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Newman Alumni Center, University of Miami, 6200 San Amaro Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33146. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Program planned by AARP Florida, Alliance for Aging, Health Foundation of South Florida, Miami-Dade County, Urban Health Partnerships, United Way of Miami-Dade. RSVP at www.AgeFriendlyMiami.org or 786-224-2309

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Wednesday, May 13, 2015: Free Immigration Resource Fair

6 - 8 pm at Miami Coral Park S. High School, 8865 SW. 16th Street, Miami, FL 33165. This event is hosted by United Teachers of Dade (UTD), the Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) and South Florida AFL-CIO. For more information contact: Cynthia Hernandez at 786-301-6665 or chernandez@flaflcio.org

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Wednesday, May 13, 2015: Town Hall Meeting to ensure local hire in development projects

“Living wages, Good Jobs, Affordable Housing and more”

6:30 - 8 pm at Grand Central Miami, 697 N. Miami Avenue.

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Thursday, May 14, 2015: Reversing the School To Prison Pipeline regional town hall forum

“The American Bar Association's Joint Task Force on Reversing the School To Prison Pipeline will hold a regional town hall forum in Miami, FL. This town hall is free and open to members of the public. The "School-to-Prison Pipeline" has become shorthand for the continuing failures in the education system where students of color are disproportionately incorrectly or over-categorized in special education, disciplined more harshly, stigmatized by lower than average achievement levels, and funneled directly from schools into juvenile justice facilities and prisons.

“Speakers drawn from local and regional education, community and government stakeholders, judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, public and private criminal defense attorneys, and academicians will explore strategies to reduce referrals to juvenile courts while utilizing alternative or school-based responses to combat disruptive behavior. Confirmed speakers include and more to come:

Hon. Orlando Prescott, Senior Administrative Judge in the Miami-Dade Juvenile Division

Carlos Martinez, Public Defender for Miami-Dade County

Colleen Adams, Founder/Executive Director, Empowered Youth

Dwight Bullard, Florida State Senator

Norman Hemming, Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida

Maurice Sikes, Coral Gables Police Department Sergeant

“Join this collaborative dialogue aimed at highlighting current research, successful programmatic intervention and to develop an action plan to address the School To Prison Pipeline crisis in South Florida.”

3:30 - 5:30 pm at Miami Dade College - Wolfson Campus, 300 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33132 in the James K. Batten Community Room (Room 2106). This event is hosted locally by the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association and the Law Center at Miami Dade College. Co-sponsored by the ACLU of Florida Greater Miami Chapter. Attendees are strongly encouraged to RSVP at: www.miamischoolprisonpipelinetownhall.eventbrite.com

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Thursday, May 14, 2015: Movie Night: "Koch Brothers Exposed"

“Koch Brothers Exposed is a hard-hitting investigation of the 1% at its very worst. This full-length documentary film on Charles and David Koch—two of the world's richest and most powerful men -- is from acclaimed director Robert Greenwald. The billionaire brothers bankroll a vast network of organizations that work to undermine the interests of the

99% on issues ranging from Social Security to the environment to civil rights. This film uncovers the Kochs' corruption—and points the way to how Americans can reclaim their democracy. Snacks and drinks will be provided!”

6-8 pm at South Florida Central Labor Council, 4349 NW 36th Street, Miami Springs, FL 33136. For more information contact: Cynthia Hernandez at 786-301-6665 or chernandez@flaflcio.org

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Tuesday, May 18, 2015: Young Workers Meeting

“With close to twenty people taking part in our first meeting, we believe millennials are searching to create new opportunities for organizing and developing the next generation of public servants. Together we’re advancing a generation of young workers who are active, engaged and ready to reverse the economic and social injustice impacting South Floridians. To get engaged contact: Charlie at cramos@flaflcio.org or Frank at frankzapata63@gmail.com”

5:30-7:30 pm at South Florida Central Labor Council, 4349 NW 36th Street, Miami Springs, FL 33136. For more information contact: Cynthia Hernandez at 786-301-6665 or chernandez@flaflcio.org

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Monday, May 18, 2015: Awake Miami meeting

Speaker will be Jack Lieberman, VP of Miami-Dade County .350 Org, who will be presenting about the danger of climate change denial and how it could affect South Florida.

7:00 pm at Denny's Restaurant, 5825 NW 36th St. Miami. RSVP to:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1573500509604916/>

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Thursday, May 21, 2015: Common Sense Economic Training

This training is designed to inform others of why this economy is not working for working people and that the economy is not inevitable, but is shaped by policy. The tool's main goal is to immediately connect people to action and put workers in the driver's seat to start changing the direction of this economy.

6-8 pm at South Florida Central Labor Council, 4349 NW 36th Street, Miami Springs, FL 33136. Please RSVP to Cynthia Hernandez at 786-301-6665 or chernandez@flaflcio.org

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Saturday, May 23, 2015: March Against Monsanto Miami 2015

“Our mission is to educate Miami on the vast and dire threat that GMO's pose to our health and environment. We are not

marching to alienate or antagonize our community, but to antagonize and expose Monsanto and the truth about what the biotech industry is doing...”

2 pm at the Omni / Adrienne Arsht Center Metromover Station, Miami. For further information go to: <http://heyevent.com/event/847841778587193/march-against-monsanto-miami-2015>

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Tuesday, May 26, 2015: Immigration Round Table Discussion

“Join us for a lively discussion and strategic planning with other labor and community groups on how we move forward on our immigration initiative and how we build our work together to strengthen our movements. Food and beverages will be served. “

5:30-7:30 pm at South Florida Central Labor Council, 4349 NW 36th Street, Miami Springs, FL 33136. Please RSVP to Cynthia Hernandez at 786-301-6665 or chernandez@flaficio.org

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Friday, May 29, 2015: Social Justice Community Gathering

“We welcome everyone who is doing social justice work to bring information about your efforts, and to invite others to join your cause.”

3:30-6:00 pm, followed by social hour. Location to be determined. For further information, contact Camilo E. Mejía at (786) 527-2575 or camilom@catalystmiami.org

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Friday, June 5, 2015: Health Care Prosperity Summit: Reducing Miami Health Insurance Costs

“This event is intended to provide employers with the tools needed to address the cost (20% higher than the national average) and quality (“second and a half-world” in the words of one physician) of health care in South Florida in general and Miami-Dade County in particular.”

General topics to be addressed will include: why are health insurance costs so high in South Florida?; quality: how to measure quality, how to find it, and its impact on costs; designing a cost-effective health plan; transparency services-empowering health care consumers; integrated service delivery; worksite wellness programs; employer-sponsored health clinics.

At the HistoryMiami Museum, Miami-Dade Cultural Center, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130 (across the plaza from the main library). Presented by the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives in collaboration with the Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council. For further information

and to register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-care-prosperity-summit-reducing-miami-health-insurance-costs-tickets-16795166796>

or contact Santiago Leon at 305-577-4270 x2001.

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Thursday, July 9- Sunday, July 12, 2015: 2015 Southern School for Working Women: Know your Rights: Working in a Globalized Environment

“Join working women throughout the South for four days of training and networking. Women representing several unions, and backgrounds join forces to share and develop leadership skills that will impact their dedication and hard work in the labor movement. Participants will have the opportunity to attend various workshops and sessions on the latest economic, social and political trends affecting labor and women.”

For further information go to: <http://labor.fiu.edu/2015-southern-school-for-working-women/>

PERSPECTIVES

Addressing Baltimore 1: Race, Class & Uprisings, by Bill Fletcher Jr.

<http://zcomm.org/sendpress/eyJpZCI6OTcyOTg1LCJ2aWV3IjojZW1haWwifQ/>

Excerpts:

An insurrection is aimed at either overthrowing an individual or regime and, in a best case scenario, bringing into existence a new system. It may start as a riot, but it gels into something very different, and that takes place when there is organization, leadership and vision.

Riots or unfocused uprisings express anger, rage and sometimes despair. As Martin Luther King so well noted, they represent the voice of those who are not being heard. This is so clear when one looks at Baltimore.

Baltimore is a classic example of a city that has been de-industrialized over the last forty years. This was a city with a thriving, and well-organized, working class that has witnessed nothing short of a large-scale devastation as industries relocated or shut-down entirely. As whites moved away into the suburbs, segregation came to be represented at a metropolitan level, i.e., a largely Black city surrounded by white suburbs.

Yet the situation does not end with race. The de-industrialization of Baltimore has brought with it increased poverty. The ground zero of the recent rebellion is an area with an unemployment level of at least 30% and with an average income of \$17,000/year. Yet this poverty is something that one will not necessarily see on a visit to Baltimore because the renovation of the city has created zones of glitter, particularly around the harbor and the sports stadiums. You can go there as a tourist and have no sense that within a short distance you will witness the deadly results of reorganized, late

20th century capitalism.

People will lash out in fury when they feel that the situation is hopeless. In the absence of a clear vision or direction in which to channel one's anger, any direction becomes the direction. Yet this is not what makes a political movement. The energy and direction of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, however, can be at the core of a new racial justice movement, one that actually can—and I would argue must—unite race, class and gender as part of a thrust for social transformation.

Essential for us on the political Left, especially but not limited to the Black Left, is to engage in that discussion about strategy. Strategy is not planning out this or that demonstration but it involves thinking through the 'how's' of building a movement and the direction or objectives of such a movement. And strategy is irrelevant if it is not connected to the process of building or, in some cases, rebuilding organizations that are instruments of liberation.

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[Addressing Baltimore 2: Inequality Is a Choice, by Nicholas Kristof](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/03/opinion/sunday/nicholas-kristof-inequality-is-a-choice.html)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/03/opinion/sunday/nicholas-kristof-inequality-is-a-choice.html>

Excerpts:

The eruptions in Baltimore have been tied, in complex ways, to frustrations at American inequality, and a new measure of the economic gaps arrived earlier this year:

It turns out that the Wall Street bonus pool in 2014 was roughly twice the total annual earnings of all Americans working full time at the federal minimum wage.

Yet while we broadly lament inequality, we treat it as some natural disaster imposed upon us. That's absurd. The roots of inequality are complex and, to some extent, reflect global forces, but they also reflect our policy choices.

In his new book, "The Great Divide," Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prizewinning economist, includes two chapters whose titles sum it up: "Inequality Is Not Inevitable" and "Inequality Is a Choice."

As Stiglitz notes: "Inequality is a matter not so much of capitalism in the 20th century as of democracy in the 20th century."

So if we were to choose to make inequality a priority, what policies could we turn to? This month, Harvard University Press

is publishing "Inequality: What Can Be Done?" by Anthony B. Atkinson, a British economist, in which he lays out 15 steps to reduce inequality. A few of his recommendations:

-Government should be more concerned with monopolies and competition policy.

-Trade unions should be bolstered to represent workers' interests.

-Government should provide public-sector jobs at minimum wage to those who want them, in areas such as meals-on-wheels, elderly care, child care and so on.

-In addition to a minimum wage, there should be a framework to restrain pay at the highest levels. Atkinson cites companies that have voluntarily decreed that executive pay should be capped at 65 or 75 times the average pay in the firm.

-Personal income taxes should be made more progressive, with a maximum rate of 65 percent.

-Every child should get a "child benefit" payment, to help keep kids out of poverty.

So if we're all upset at inequality, these are ideas to debate. Others, including Stiglitz, have put forth many more. Research groups like MDRC have rigorous evidence of what breaks cycles of poverty. In short: We're not helpless.

In the case of inequality, there's a bizarre disconnect between the scale of the challenge and the tools politicians are prepared to use. This is, according to a Pew survey last year, what the American public viewed as the greatest threat to the world, yet Congress won't even lift the federal minimum wage to the inflation-adjusted level it reached in the 1960s. Indeed, answer this question on how Congress responds to inequality. More than one choice could be correct.

Congressional leadership is showing resolve to slash: A) subsidies for private jets; B) the carried interest tax loophole for billionaires; C) food stamps; D) the estate tax on couples with estates worth more than \$10.9 million.

The answer is C and D — steps that would hurt low-income children while offering a helping hand to billionaires. Congress is addressing inequality by exacerbating it at both ends. Inequality is a tough problem, but we have tools that could begin to make a difference. The problem isn't inequality; the problem is us. We're paralyzed.

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Minnesota vs. Wisconsin

The Spring 2015 issue of The American Prospect, "Plutocracy Forever?" is a treasure trove of useful perspectives. You can download the whole issue here:

<http://prospect.org/magazine/issue/plutocracy-forever>

I particularly liked two articles, neither of which is easily available on the Internet:

The High Road Wins: How and Why Minnesota Is Outpacing Wisconsin, by Ann Markusen, and The Politics of Offense and Defense, by Sam Ross-Brown. The Markusen article lays out how and why Minnesota, with its progressive policies, is outpacing Scott Walker's Wisconsin. The Ross-Brown article lays out the practical progressive political strategy and tactics that made it happen.

Here is an excerpt from the Markusen article:

Minnesota and Wisconsin offer something close to a laboratory experiment in competing economic policies. Since the 2010 elections of Democratic Governor Mark Dayton in Minnesota and Republican Governor Scott Walker in Wisconsin, these neighboring states with similar populations and economies have pursued radically different strategies. Dayton embraces good government, progressive taxation, and high-wage policies, while Walker has chosen shrunken government, fiscal austerity, and a war on labor.

More than four years later, the two states' achievements in population growth, jobs, pay, and quality of life offer a clear contrast. Minnesota's economy has outpaced Wisconsin's. These results suggest that Walker, in his expected run for president, may have difficulty promoting a "Wisconsin Miracle" as a model for national policy. This story also offers a cautionary tale to newly elected conservative governors like Bruce Rauner in nearby Illinois: An attack on government and workers' wages is not a prescription either for prosperity or for political success.

While the "experiment" is not perfect--there are minor differences in urban and industrial structure between the two states--it is clear that imposing fiscal austerity and undermining residents' standards of living are not successful prescriptions for economic prosperity. As the presidential election ramps up, the hard economics of these two states offer us evidence on the choice between markedly different futures.

And here is an excerpt from the Ross-Brown article:

About a decade ago, progressive organizers in Minnesota had a different idea. Recognizing the need for a broad-based, but also deeply organized, progressive alliance, leaders of Progressive Minnesota and the Wellstone-era Alliance for Progressive Action began holding regular meetings. What they aimed for was a coalition based less on immediate goals and more on deeply shared values- an organization that could develop a long-term political infrastructure and then fight for change on its own terms.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Urge The Legislature To Expand Health Care For Florida's Families

Sign the petition at: <http://act.progressflorida.org/sign/expandhealthcare>

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Sign the new petition for medical marijuana

Sign the petition at: <http://www.unitedforcare.org/petition>

Sponsored by People United for Medical Marijuana, <http://www.unitedforcare.org/>

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Sign the petition "to allow more homes and businesses to generate electricity by harnessing the power of the sun. Currently, Florida is one of only five states in the nation that prohibit citizens from buying electricity from companies that will put solar panels on your home or business."

Sign the petition at: <http://www.flsolarchoice.org/sign-the-petition/>

Sponsored by Floridians for Solar Choice, <http://www.flsolarchoice.org/>

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Give Floridians a Second Chance

'Florida's Voting Restoration Amendment would allow people who've paid their debt to society to earn back their right to vote.

'We need your help to put the Amendment on the 2016 ballot!

'Floridians believe in second chances. Restoring a person's right to vote once they've fulfilled their obligations to society gives them an opportunity for redemption and a chance to be full members of their community.

'As a coalition of nonpartisan civic and faith organizations, we work every day with men and women who've served their time and are now putting their lives back together. With your help, we can mobilize a broad array of Floridians who believe in redemption and second chances and build a successful campaign to restore voting rights.

'What the Voting Restoration Amendment Does

'Florida is one of only three states with a lifetime ban on voting. The Amendment modernizes Florida's criminal justice rules by bringing our state in line with others nationwide.

'People must fully complete all terms of their sentence, including probation and parole, before they earn back their right to vote.

"The Amendment doesn't apply to people who've committed murder or sexual offenses."

For further information go to:

<http://www.floridiansforafairdemocracy.com/>

Download the petition here:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/64388-1.pdf>

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Be trained as a community economist

"The transformation to fair and sustainable regional economies requires place-based, citizen-driven tools. The principles behind these tools are universal, but their effective application will be shaped by the landscape, the people, the history, and the culture of each particular region..."

"The initiative grows from a common recognition: every local economy will need its own community economists – part visionary theorists, part activists – imagining what can be achieved and organizing to achieve it. Schumacher College was formed to train these new economists.

"Program graduates may not have all the answers – but they will have the resources and connections to know where to look. They will know, and be known by, their community, and be committed to sharing and applying what they have learned.

"They will find allies in the Maker Community who value the hand-crafted over the mono-culture products of an anonymous global economy, in the new agrarians cultivating small lots to produce for a regional food system, in community bankers who still make loan decisions based on face to face interviews, in environmentalists who understand the carbon cost of transporting goods over long distance, and in all those who love the "sidewalk dance" of a vibrant local economy.

"On September 14, 2015 Schumacher College for New Economists will welcome its first class of students to the Berkshires for the first two months of a nine month program. The program will be unprecedented, involving over twenty partner organizations at multiple locations across the US and UK.

"Interested students should request a formal application form. Visit our website for eligibility criteria:

<http://www.centerforneweconomics.org/college>

"Priority will be given to students sponsored by their communities.

“Foundations, businesses, and community groups who wish to sponsor a student or students from their communities are encouraged to do so by establishing a scholarship fund for that purpose and setting up a selection process. Scholarships are not available through the Schumacher Center for a New Economics directly.”

For questions on this process or to pre-qualify a recommended student, contact Sam Willsea, Director of College operations at: Samwillsea@centerforneweconomics.org

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Introducing the Dade Coalition for Education and Economic Justice (DCEEJ)

The Dade Coalition for Education and Economic Justice (DCEEJ) aspires to three goals: full, adequate and equitable funding of public schools; rich curriculum and robust educators who develop critical thinking, social and relational skills, and prepare all students for the workforce as well as social engagement; and a respectful and nurturing school environment that is secure and engaging for all students, parents and staff. At this moment, its focus is on the harm being done by high-stakes testing. You can read the organization's platform here:

<http://www.poweru.org/uploads/content/DCEEJ%20Platform%20Final.pdf>

The organization is staffed by Jasmine Harris, Community Engagement Coordinator from the AFT Human Rights and Community Relations Department. You can contact her at 202-716-9867 or jharris@aft.org

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Introducing The Next System Project

“The Next System Project ...will bring leading activists, scholars, and policy advocates together to think big about pressing concerns around economic inequality, ecological threats, and political dysfunction.

“Co-chaired by political economist and historian Gar Alperovitz and leading environmental activist and former presidential adviser James Gustave Speth..[it is] a major new program of The Democracy Collaborative, a national leader in the development of innovative strategies to rebuild community and democratize ownership of the economy.”

The full statement and complete list of signatories can be found... along with a video highlighting some of the voices endorsing the statement and shaping the project, and an initial report from the project leadership exploring the question of system transformation in greater detail at:

thenextsystem.org

To learn more about The Next System Project, contact Executive Director Joe Guinan at jguinan@democracycollaborative.org

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Public Allies is looking for Miami's most talented leaders and change-makers

In conversation, here's some language you can use when you talk to someone about becoming a Public Ally. You can say: "You would be a good candidate for this: Public Allies are the young adults who help nonprofits make Miami a thriving city."

To apply for the 10-month, paid apprenticeship, go to:

<http://apply.publicallies.org/>

Fill out the application before May 23. For further information contact Adele Coble, Public Allies Director, Catalyst Miami at 786.414.1290 or adelec@catalystmiami.org

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