

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

---

Dr. Raul Moncarz, Chairman  
Monthly Meeting  
Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW First Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor CITT Conference Room  
March 25, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**I. Welcome and Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**II. Board Members Present:**

Dr. Thomas Breslin; Marcos A. Kerbel (arrived at 3:39 pm); Santiago Leon; Dr. Kenneth Lipner; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Mr. Jesus Permy; Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo; and Reinaldo Valdes

**Members Excused:**

Subrata Basu; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Dr. Elisa S. Moncarz; Dr. Pedro F. Pellet; Dr. Brian Peterson; Roberto Saco; Dr. Robert Cruz; Jose Lopez-Calleja; and Juliana Velez

**Members Absent without Excuse:**

Dr. Alexandra Cornelius; Dr. Bernadette West; and Retha Boone

**Staff Present:**

Robert Hesler and Helen Rodriguez

**III. Approval of the Minutes – No minutes were provided moved to next month’s meeting**

**IV. Chairperson’s Report - Dr. Raul Moncarz**

**Dr. Raul Moncarz:** Stated he wants to award the scholarship, but is waiting on that item to come up. Recommended that Jose Diaz distribute materials from Steering Committee meeting to all council members via email.

**Marcos A. Kerbel** handed out a sample of the Dr. Felix H. Reyler Memorial Scholarship information at FIU, which we can be used as a guide for the Dr. Antonio Jorge Scholarship fund.

**V. General Discussion Items**

➤ **Miami Children’s Initiative – Cecilia Gutierrez-Abety, President/Chief Executive Officer**

**Cecilia Guterrez-Abety:** Gave her presentation on the Miami Children’s Initiative in Liberty City. Indicated that Liberty City has the highest crime rate and there are 16,000 children living in Liberty City. Stated that Commissioner Edmonson likes to challenge neighborhoods and now you can see visual signs of change as to the sluggish parts of Liberty City; the roads; lights and trees have been redone and the teens are looking to find jobs or a summer program. An apartment building was recently converted into a community center with the help of volunteers from United Way and the teens. Stated they have a walking tour of the impact zone in Liberty City on Wednesday’s 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., and would like all council members to attend to meet the teenagers. She indicated there is also a block by block strategy starting across from K-8 and it is her goal to have every single child graduate from college and whether or not if a strategy can be franchised widely?

There was a discussion among the council members and it was agreed to send the TUA report to Ms. Gutierrez-Abety. Also, it was agreed to visit the school in South Miami. Several of the council members went into a long discussion back and forth with Ms. Guterrez-Abety asking questions and her giving back responses.

➤ **Miami-Dade Economic Conditions – Manuel A. Armada**

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

---

Since Mr. Armada was not present at the meeting today it was suggested by Dr. Raul Moncarz, Chair that this item be discussed at the next Council meeting April 22, 2016.

➤ **New Business/Issues of Interest**

**Reinaldo Valdes** introduced Dr. Waldo Castro as well as his wife, Rosa Castro. He explained that he had forwarded a copy of Dr. Castro's resume to Mr. Armada to forward to all Council members, but Mr. Armada was out of the office. **Dr. Waldo Castro** introduced himself to the Council as to his expertise and Dr. Rosa Castro introduced herself as well. Mr. Valdes would like to recommend Dr. Waldo Castro to become a member of the Council.

**Robert Hesler** stated that there is a process that must be followed. Dr. Castro's resume and other credentials must be reviewed by the Executive Committee before being considered.

➤ **Economic Impact of Cuban Immigrants – Mr. Jose Diaz**

**Mr. Jose Diaz** spoke about preparing the community for receiving immigrants. It was suggested by the council members to write a letter to the commissioners to employ them to get jobs regarding Cuban migrant issues. Asked if Mr. Diaz could start a draft and then he can send to staff for the council's review. It was also discussed that we need to consider the more global issue of migration independent of Cuban migrations and to remind staff to email Jose Diaz about the letter.

➤ **Public Comments**

A discussion took place amongst the Council members as to any work being done on the air quality in Miami-Dade County. It was suggested to bring back Jim Murley to discuss this subject further.

➤ **ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

**Dr. Thomas Breslin** moved the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Marcos Kerbel** seconded the motion. Motion was approved by group vote.

Next SEDC Council Meeting Date: **April 22, 2016. Committees: April 8, 2016.**

**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.*