

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, 19th Floor Conference Room
June 24th, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions and Roll Call – Dr. Maria Dolores Espino, Vice Chair

II. Board Members Present:

Subrata Basu; Retha Boone; Dr. Thomas Breslin; Dr. Robert Cruz; Dr. Maria Dolores Espino; Santiago Leon; Dr. Kenneth Lipner; Jose Lopez-Calleja; Dr. Brian Peterson; Roberto Saco; Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo and Dr. Bernadette West

Members Excused:

Dr. Raul Moncarz, Dr. Elisa Moncarz; Marcos A. Kerbel; Dr. Pedro F. Pellet

Members Absent without Excuse:

Juliana Velez and Reinaldo Valdes

Visitors:

Antonio Crawford, Office of Commission Auditor
Alice Hidalgo-Gato, Small Business Development Section Chief

Staff Present:

Manuel A. Armada and Robert Hesler

III. Approval of the Minutes – May 27, 2016

Dr. Thomas Breslin moved to approve the Minutes of May 27, 2016. **Dr. Kenneth Lipner** seconded the motion. Motion was approved by group vote.

IV. General Discussion Items

➤ **Discussion on Living Wage Policy – Ms. Alice Hidalgo-Gato**

Ms. Alice Hidalgo-Gato: She is the Section Chief for Compliance in Small Business Development. They are responsible for the enforcement of the small business wagger workforce programs that the County has. Living Wage applies to county contracts and services valued at over \$100,000 per year in covered services that are privatized (done by employees) such as the Head Start program. Stated that Aviation has their own compliance and they do the contracts and permits at the airport and Jackson Hospital does their own compliance as well. She discussed the covered services that the County has; and the covered services by Aviation. They have five big contracts that do these services, but other companies are allowed to obtain permits so that all of those companies are covered. The Living Wage has two parts to it, the base minimum wage and a health portion that has a value that is contributed to it. A contractor can comply with the living wage by paying the base rate and providing the health benefits at the value of the specific year in which the work is performed and if they don't, the value combined of this total is the amount of the living wage is paid. Currently the living wage if \$1.83 and only counts for the 1st 40 hours of work performed. If a contractor provides the health care benefit plan, then there is no fee. They have a maximum of a 90 day eligibility period and any employee can refuse the health coverage. This year the code was amended to require the health care benefit portion starting next year to be indexed to the CPI for a medical coverage. She went over the entire Living Wage booklet she provided to the council members.

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

Several council members went back and forth asking questions to Ms. Hildago-Gato and they all went into a lengthy discussion with regards to the Living Wage item.

The council also talked about writing a letter to the County Commissioners to enforce the Living Wage on employees. She stated Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Levine-Cava and Commissioner Edmonson seemed to be most interested in the Living Wage.

Subrata Basu: Suggested that someone whom is knowledgeable about this should put the issues down in a letter and send it to the Commissioners and that is what we need to do.

Dr. Brian Peterson moves a motion to address the County Commissioners on behalf of the Antonio Jorge Social & Economic Development Council expressing our concerns regarding the rate and the probability of getting caught is very low, and concerns regarding repeat offenders on the Living Wage are still allowed to get new contracts. **Subrata Basu** seconded the motion. Motion was approved by group vote.

Dr. Kenneth Lipner: Agreed to do a rough draft of the letter and send it to staff and to be discussed with the executive council.

V. Chairperson's Report - Dr. Maria Dolores Espino

- **Antonio Jorge Foundation Website – Dr. Bernadette West**

Dr. Bernadette West: Asked if anyone had a chance to review the website antoniojorgefoundation.org. There is not much on the website yet, but only a website for potential candidates for the scholarship to visit and start their application online. She also placed information with regards to the council's mission and some council members already submitted their bios and pictures and to please continue to do so.

Robert Hesler, Staff: Stated under members it needs to state "members of the foundation" and list the members of the foundation such as: Dr. Raul Moncarz, Chairman; Dr. Robert Cruz, Vice Chairman; Marcos Kerbel, Treasurer; Dr. Bernadette West, Officer and then the registered agent.

Dr. Bernadette West: Suggested we need to make some editorial adjustments and would like to get feedback from the foundation members, but they need to make some editorial adjustments and review the website. We need the deadline for the scholarship submission since it already passed and also need to know whom will be the contact person for the scholarships, it was decided that Dr. Maria Dolores Espino would be the person to contact. Several of the council members and staff went back and forth as to the titles should be corrected.

Dr. Maria Dolores Espino: Suggested the members of the foundation have a luncheon to discuss the finals of the scholarship.

- **Local Student Outreach – Dr. Maria Dolores Espino**

Dr. Maria Dolores Espino: Decided it would be students that are local, but can go anywhere.

➤ **Discussion: Concept of a County Economic Development Department/Office – Dr. Brian Peterson**

Dr. Brian Peterson: At the present time there is no economic development office. Did research as to what is done in an economic development office and learned that there is a range of selecting something very minimal and feels that we should try for a bigger and advanced economic development office as we can. Stated that in NY they have an economic development office which carries out projects that are transformed into individual neighborhoods and counties. Feels if we can try that, and would be interested to see how the commission would react to an office like this. We discussed in prior meetings about the State funding being taken away from enterprise Florida and some of the funds going to the Beacon Council were going through the business

Miami-Dade County

The Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC)

tax and have them come and do a presentation as to how we can work together. Not saying to knock out the Beacon Council totally, but in the State level they are not going to be as prominent or as powerful as they have been in the past. What's controversial is whether or not to have an economic development department that carries out projects. Several council members went into a lengthy discussion with regards to this item.

➤ **Pet Rescue – An Economic Analysis of Public Policy – Dr. Kenneth Lipner**

Dr. Kenneth Lipner: Stated it's an economic and social issue. The County operates on a basis that they are able to take any dog or cat that is surrendered to them and hopes that this can be an action item down the road. In the past the County had a very poor record and was told that they euthanize the dogs and feels that this is a very poor issue. The dog or cat can get hit by a car over 30,000 a week in Miami-Dade County. Many complaints came through to the County and recently they opened a new facility in Doral replacing the antiquated facility which was hard to get to and they have gotten the kill rate down to 8,000. This includes puppies, kittens, full breeds, mixed breeds and mostly healthy. He stated he's been bothered by this in a lot of ways. Made reference to a letter in the Miami Herald and is disappointed that things have not changed and demand that we get a license. The County budget is about \$4M dollars and animal services runs on a \$20-\$25M dollar budget. For lower income fees become very aggressive. The penalties and enforcement are harsh and this creates a disincentive for low income folks whom \$40 to \$50 is real money. He went over what the letter contained with the council members and they went into a lengthy discussion on this issue.

Dr. Maria Dolores Espino: Suggested that we write a memorandum to the Commissioners and state we are going to reduce the supply/demand with this, this, and this...and these are the ways that we can raise money to create financing ideas to meet these needs.

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

Manuel A. Armada, Staff: Mr. Armada went over the economic conditions of Miami-Dade County.

➤ **New Business/Issues of Interest –** The council members discussed attendance of future council meetings and it was agreed that the July 22nd council meeting will not be moved.

➤ **Public Comments –**

➤ **ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.**

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

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