

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN PANEL MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4 PM TO 6 PM

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY

101 WEST FLAGLER STREET, AUDITORIUM, FIRST FLOOR

MIAMI, FL 33130, (305) 375-1799

I. Welcome and introductions

a. **Members in attendance:**

Loreal Arscott, Vice-Chair Gilbert Appointee

Josaphat Celestin, Commissioner Monestime Appointee

Ruben Paillere, Commissioner Hardemon Appointee

Eduardo Dominguez, Commissioner Higgins Appointee

Jeannett Slesnick, Commissioner Sosa Appointee

Pedro Mora, Commissioner Regalado Appointee

Oscar J. Braynon II, Commissioner Cohen Higgins Appointee

Joshua Jones, Commissioner McGhee Appointee

Raymond Melcon, Commissioner Martinez Appointee

Luis Fernandez, Chairman Diaz Appointee

Clemente Vera, Senator Garcia Appointee

Pam Perry, Commissioner Heyman Appointee (this member does not count for quorum but appeared via Zoom as she was out of town)

b. **County Staff in attendance:**

Griselle Marino, Office of Community Advocacy

Laura Morilla, Office of Community Advocacy

DeAundre Slater, Office of Community Advocacy

Retha Boone-Fye, Office of Community Advocacy

Monica Skoko Rodriguez, Office of Community Advocacy

Shannon Summerset, County Attorney

Gabriel Paez, Office of Community Advocacy

Natalie Milian, Office of Community Advocacy

Shirley Plantin, Office of Community Advocacy

Jason Smith, Office of Equity and Inclusion

c. Members of the Public in attendance:

Danny Rivero, Reporter, WLRN

Susan Khoury

Jeanne Baker, ACLU of Greater Miami and FL

Catherine Carbonell, Staff to Commissioner Raquel Regalado

d. Elected Officials

County Commissioner Raquel Regalado

Former County Commissioner Barbara Jordan

e. Zoom Participants

Bobby Bracy

David Payaso

Doug Hanks

Elaine de Valle

Elizabeth Owens

Franzlyne Jean-Louis

George Perera

Gina Beato Dominguez

Ira Thomas

JD Patterson

Jose Gomez

Kevin Roque

Oriley Newman

Rahel Weldeyesus

Pamela Perry*

Allison Cubilos

Deldra Owens, Staff to Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins

Several phone numbers only

- f. Meeting called to order at 4:11 and introductions were made of all members and staff in attendance

II. Remarks by elected officials

- a. Former Commissioner Barbara Jordan made remarks regarding the creation of this board

- b. County Commissioner Raquel Regalado made remarks on the importance of this group and their opinions and guidance regarding the Office of the Sheriff

III. Reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard – two minutes per person

- a. Jason Smith from the Office of Equity and Inclusion spoke on behalf of the Mayor to thank the board and offer help on behalf of the Mayor
- b. Jeanne Baker from the ACLU of Miami-Dade spoke regarding the importance of this group and the work they will do
- c. Brad Brown, Secretary of the South Dade NAACP and former President of Miami-Dade NAACP and spoke on the importance of this group and the long history involved in the creation of the group
- d. Susan Khoury thanked elected officials and Laura Morilla for getting the board up and running. She urged board members to keep a fair, transparent, and independent decision making process going forward
- e. Joseph P.? spoke from the Miami ACLU about some matters the board should consider in the future

IV. Approval of agenda

Eddie Dominguez moved to approve the agenda, Pedro Mora seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes unanimously.

V. Review and discussion of ICP ordinance – Shannon Summerset-Williams, Assistant County Attorney

- a. Assistant County Attorney gave a review of the ICP's powers as listed and explained in their guiding ordinance
- b. Eddie Dominguez asked for clarification on subpoena power. The attorney read from the ordinance stating that the Mayor, Board of County Commissioners, and County employees cannot be subpoenaed but the ordinance compels those groups to comply with requests and participate with investigations of the board and appear or testify to the board
- c. Eddie Dominguez asked about the purview of cases to be selected and reviewed by this board
- d. Eddie Dominguez asked for clarification on referrals from municipalities. The attorney clarified that municipalities may cede investigations to this board
- e. Joe Celestin asked if the ICP can investigate during the same time as internal affairs. It was confirmed that this body can only review closed cases. The attorney also mentioned that the goal of this board is to be an independent, civilian point of view and give the Board of County Commissioners recommendations not an

oversight of internal affairs. The attorney gave clarification that this is an advisory board that gives recommendations, not final decisions

- f. Pedro Mora asked for clarification on whether this board is the first or last place for complaints to be brought. The attorney clarified that it could be either. A person could go through the internal County process and want another chance to be heard or there may be cases that internal affairs did not want to look at so someone comes directly to the board.

VI. New board member trainings – Ethics and Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention

- a. Laura Morilla reminded the members that these two trainings are mandatory and she will share the trainings with all members of the group

VII. Lengths of terms of ICP members 5 3 4 2 4 1

- a. Laura Morilla clarified the length of terms of members and that a random process will decide which length of term applies to which member. Five members will serve 3 years, 4 members will serve 2 years, and 4 members will serve 1 year

VIII. Hiring of Executive Director

- a. Per the ordinance the ICP selects the Executive Director of their body subject to approval by the Board of County Commissioners. They must use an open selection process and the board will create a screening committee. Next steps are to select members of a screening committee (of 5 members usually) and a chair of the committee will work with the HR Department
- b. Virginia Washington from the County HR Department made herself available to the board for questions. Eddie Dominguez asked about the job description and Ms. Washington clarified that the selection committee will create the job description. She clarified that the Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the board and can be terminated by the board and is hired by them, subject to approval by the Board of County Commissioners
- c. Laura Morilla provided information and samples regarding how to go about this search, create the job description, etc. based on the hiring of the Inspector General
- d. Eddie Dominguez, Jeanette Slesnick, Joshua Jones, Loreal Arscott, Pedro Mora will serve as the Screening Committee. Joe Celestin moved and Jeanette Slesnick seconded that the above five members be the official screening committee and all

approved, motion passes.

- e. Pedro Mora volunteered to Chair the screening committee. Oscar Braynon motioned for Pedro Mora to be Chair of the screening committee, Joe Celestin second, all in favor, motion passes.

IX. Discussion of elections for Chair and Vice Chair

- a. Loreal Arscott asked for this item to be moved to the end of the agenda in the interest of time.
- b. This item was returned to after item XI
- c. Some members did not feel prepared to vote for a Chair and Vice Chair tonight
- d. A member asked for improved sound for future meetings
- e. Someone suggested that people interested in being Chair or Vice Chair send Laura Morilla a presentation about their candidacy and come prepared to vote next meeting. There was discussing about whether this would meet sunshine requirement. The attorney assured members that sharing information with Laura and then Laura sharing information out would be in compliance. The attorney reminded everyone that Selection committee meetings must be held in the sunshine.
- f. Discussion was had about frequency of meetings and whether committee meetings suffice or the full board should meet more than once a month
- g. Members will send resumes to Laura Morilla indicating interest in Vice Chair or Chair position by Friday October 15th to be considered by members in the next meeting. The attorney clarified that the board can determine the roles and purview of the Chair and Vice Chair. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will happen first thing at the next meeting.

X. Next meeting date

- a. Laura Morilla will send out a poll of dates via email to everyone to decide the next date

XI. Selection of ICP member to preside at next meeting

- a. Loreal Arscott asked for clarification on the timeline of the training of the board regarding police practices and when the Executive Director will come on. The attorney said the Executive Director will have more knowledge, understanding, and oversight of the board
- b. Loreal Arscott mentioned her interest in creating a subcommittee to look into what trainings should be completed by the board and when. The board will look into this matter at their next meeting

- XII. Additional comments from the public – 2 minutes per person
- a. Jeanne Baker wanted to share two points: NACOLE (National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) is an entity for all oversight boards such as this one and referred board members to this. She also mentioned, 2-11.45 in the ordinance, this body has the power to review or investigate allegations of misconduct from internal affairs or other matters. They are not limited only to cases that have come before internal affairs. She stressed that the body can review as well as investigate matters
 - b. Susan Khoury wanted to clarify that this body can conduct investigations as well as procedures and systemic procedures and recommended that members of this body sit and observe the City of Miami’s oversight board. She urged the board to consider term limits when thinking about who should be Chair and Vice Chair
 - c. Dwight Bullard, Florida Rising and South Dade NAACP spoke about the weight of the decisions this body makes and the importance of the body. He urged that this entity not fall victim to bureaucratic processes and asked them to expedite measures regarding procedure so the work of the board can actually start
 - d. Commissioner Jordan spoke briefly again to thank the members for their engagement and the seriousness with which they are approaching their duty
- XIII. Announcements
- a. There were no announcements.
- XIV. Adjournment
- a. Luis Fernandez moved to adjourn, Clemente Vera seconded. Unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.