

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN PANEL

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 6 PM TO 8 PM

STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER

111 NW 1ST STREET, COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, SECOND FLOOR

MIAMI, FL 33128 - (305) 375-1799

I. Welcome and introductions

Members in attendance:

Loreal Arscott

Pam Perry

Eddie Dominguez

Jeannett Slesnick

Pedro Mora

Oscar Braynon, II

Joshua Jones

Raymond Melcon

Clemente Vera

Members excused:

Josaphat Celestin

Ruben Paillere

Luis Fernandez

Staff in attendance:

Laura Morilla, Director, Office of Community Advocacy

Monica Skoko Rodriguez

DeAundre Slater

Griselle Marino

Shannon Summerset-Williams, Assistant County Attorney

Called to order at 6:16 PM by Chair Arscott.

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

Jeanne Baker spoke on behalf of the ACLU of Miami. She asked to speak about the

establishment of the Sheriff's Office and spoke to the importance of maintaining the ICP post-implementation of the Sheriff.

A speaker from Family Action Network Movement spoke about the importance of the ICP remaining an oversight body even after the Office of the Sheriff is in place.

Susan Khoury spoke about the Executive Director position and a request for the ICP to petition for an increase in their budget and request 0.5% of the Miami-Dade Police Dept. budget to support the ICP.

III. Presentation by Commissioner Raquel Regalado, District 7, re the new Sheriff's Office

Commissioner Raquel Regalado spoke about the creation of the Office of the Sheriff and the history of the Office. The Commissioner spoke about the fiscal impact this Office will have and suggests that a part of the budget should be reserved for the new Constitutional Officers such as the Sheriff. Constitutional Officers must be elected by November 2024 and in office by January 2025. There will be a special County Commission meeting on May 5th regarding the creation of all of the new Constitutional Officers. Commissioner Regalado believes that the creation of these offices will cost the County more money and will also limit the powers of the Mayor and the Administration's negotiating powers. She further explained that the BCC will likely retain the Corrections Dept. under its purview and not cede it to the Office of the Sheriff, but this will be voted on. She urged the ICP to fight to retain the MDPD and not allow it to be ceded to the Sheriff. Otherwise, the only recourse citizens of Miami-Dade have regarding their police force will be during elections (without term limits). She also explained that she believes the execution of writs is an important part of the Office of Sheriff that is currently being downplayed.

Several ICP members then requested clarification on several matters that Commissioner Regalado addressed in her presentation.

IV. Approval of agenda

Senator Oscar Braynon moved to approve the agenda as presented and Joshua Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

V. Approval of minutes of meetings of 03/29/22

Vice Chair Pam Perry requested to be noted as present via Zoom even though she won't be counted as a present member at that meeting because she appeared via Zoom. Senator Braynon moved to approve the minutes as amended to note that Vice Chair Perry did attend via Zoom. Jeannett Slesnick seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

VI. Chair's report

Chair Arscott summarized the State law on the Office of Sheriff and Mayor Levine Cava's recent memo with her recommendations on the Office of Sheriff. She urged her fellow board members to appear at the May 5th County Commission meeting to support the Mayor's Recommendations as well as Commissioner Regalado's and Chairman Diaz's items that urge peacekeeping in Miami-Dade be retained by the MDPD. She also mentioned the issue of getting municipalities to consent to oversight by the ICP. There is also the issue of whether the Corrections Dept. should come under the purview of the ICP.

The Executive Director candidate, Nicolle Barton, declined the job offer during negotiations. Chair Arscott suggested that the ICP hire an interim consultant to help the Panel navigate setting up the office, assistance with operating procedures, charter and ordinance amendment proposals, and more. She suggested the City of Miami's CIP Director, Cristina Beamud, who will be retiring shortly. At the same time, the ICP can re-open the search for a permanent Executive Director.

ICP members then discussed next steps options. Dr. Pedro Mora stated that the ICP should reach out to the person who finished second and offer him the job. Jeannett Slesnick said she would like to have another Screening Committee meeting in the next two weeks and that she liked the finalists who finished third, fourth, and fifth. Vice Chair Perry said she would like to work on parallel tracks, hired the interim consultant while doing a short search for an Executive Director. Eddie Dominguez said he likes the simultaneous track too. Chair Arscott reiterated that there are two issues - how should the Screening Committee handle this issue and should the ICP hire the consultant?

Cristina Beamud, the current Director of the Citizen's Independent Panel for City of Miami then spoke. She is a former police officer, an attorney, and former prosecutor. She has been with the City of Miami for 8.5 years.

The Chief Procurement Officer for Miami-Dade County, Namita Uppal, spoke about creating a contract under the Mayor's delegated authority for a short term contract that is under \$250,000 and negotiating the rate with Ms. Beamud. The ICP must advise on the scope of work, rate, and length of the contract. An HR representative also spoke to bringing on a contractor for a 6-month period with an option to renew.

The County attorney suggested that she believes this contract would require County Commission approval per the ordinance as written. Chair Arscott disagreed because of what Ms. Uppal had just explained and requested a written opinion from the County Attorney.

Eddie Dominguez moved to approve moving forward with the Mayor's Office, HR, and the Procurement Office in the creation of this contract with Ms. Beamud. Senator Braynon seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of 6-3. The scope of work would include setting up the office, creation of standard operating procedures, and establishing the process for intake and review of complaints.

VII. Committee reports

A. Executive Director Screening Committee – Joshua Jones, Chair

The substance of the report was already presented in the Chair's report.

B. Training Committee – Raymond Melcon, Chair

Senator Braynon moved that the training dates provided by the Committee be adopted. Clemente Vera seconded the motion and the motion passed. Mr. Vera requested to not have to take the training outlined by the Committee as he is currently taking a longer training with the MDPD, the Citizen's Police Academy.

C. Bylaws Committee – Ruben Paillere, Chair. No report was presented.

D. Outreach Committee – Pam Perry, Chair. No report was presented.

E. Charter/Ordinance Review Committee – Pam Perry, Chair. No report was presented.

VIII. Old business

A. Next meeting dates – May 18; June 21, 22, or 29

Members were reminded of dates and conflicts but will stick with the May 18th meeting date. Laura will send out an email about the June dates and the date will be finalized.

B. Creation of ICP website

Laura shared a draft website with members and was briefly reviewed with members. Laura explained that it was a simple website similar to the web pages of the boards under the Office of Community Advocacy and that it will be linked to the main County website when finalized. The new ICP Executive Director will have to sign an MOU with the Communications Dept. for a more elaborate website and the costs will come out of the ICP's budget. The ICP members would like the vanity link to be miamidade.gov/ICP.

IX. New business

A. Financial disclosure due July 1, 2022

Chair Arscott reminded members to submit their financial disclosure statement.

B. May 5th BCC Meeting

Chair Arscott recommended that members attend this meeting and express support for the Mayor's memo and framework for the Sheriff's Office but left it open to each member to express their own opinions at the meeting.

X. Reasonable opportunity to be heard – two minutes per person

Jeanne Baker spoke once again urging the ICP to speak in favor of the Mayor's memo and expressed her belief that the ICP should not need BCC approval to bring on a consultant as discussed. Susan Khoury spoke in favor of a few of the candidates who were discussed in the initial interview process and that their status as current County employees may expedite their hiring. She recommended the Charter amendments spoken about in previous meetings be put off shortly. Ms. Baker spoke once more to express her disagreement with putting off the charter amendment and urged the ICP that they need to use independent legal counsel, not the County Attorney's Office. She believes this to be an important item.

XI. Adjournment

Senator Braynon moved to adjourn the meeting and Joshua Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.