MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN PANEL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 6 PM
STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 NW 1ST STREET, COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, SECOND FLOOR
MIAMI, FL 33128 - (305) 375-1799

Welcome and introductions

Members in Attendance:

Loreal Arscott
Ruben Paillere
Eddie Dominguez
Jeannett Slesnick
Oscar Braynon, II
Joshua Jones
Raymond Melcon

Pam Perry, attending via Zoom with a Medical Exemption to participate

Members Excused:

Pedro Mora Luis Fernandez Clemente Vera

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Morilla, Director, Office of Community Advocacy Monica Skoko Rodriguez, Office of Community Advocacy Griselle Marino, Office of Community Advocacy De Aundre Slater, Office of Community Advocacy Shanika Graves, Assistant County Attorney

Called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Chair Arscott.

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

Susan Khoury spoke and shared that she is a current candidate for County Commission District 10. She asked the ICP to place the bylaws on the website. Chair Arscott clarified that the bylaws are not yet final. A representative from the Family Action Network Movement (FANM) spoke in support of the ICP and for holding law enforcement accountable.

III. Presentation by Lyle Grandison and Leroy Jones from the Circle of Brotherhood

Brother Lyle Grandison, Executive Director of the Circle of Brotherhood, spoke on the importance of making the ICP public and visible. He showed a video about the training the Circle of Brotherhood provides to police cadets regarding mutual and community understanding. He urged the ICP to look at enhancing police and community relations. He mentioned the Truth and Reconciliation hearings from apartheid South Africa and recommended a similar type of work as well as implementing a public awareness campaign to make the community aware of the ICP and the services it offers. He mentioned that the public does not distinguish between police of different cities and he suggested that the ICP should travel and hold meetings in different parts of the County.

The Circle of Brotherhood will extend invitations to future trainings to the ICP.

IV. Approval of agenda

Joshua Jones moved to approve the agenda and Eddie Dominguez seconded the motion. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

V. Approval of minutes of meeting of 04/25/22

Joshua Jones moved to approve the minutes and Senator Oscar Braynon seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

VI. Chair's report

Chair Arscott gave her report regarding the importance of engaging the community and about the work the ICP has been doing to have a website, take trainings, and more. Chair Arscott would like the Circle of Brotherhood trainings to be added to the best practices for the ICP's future training. She assured that the ICP will take meetings into the community and have community involvement. She mentioned that the next NACOLE conference is September 11-15 in Ft. Worth, TX.

The County HR representative, Virginia Washington, shared that the Executive Director position for the ICP garnered 70 applications, 31 qualified applications, and 6 candidates were selected to be interviewed. Five candidates confirmed and will be interviewed on June 30th.

VII. Committee reports

A. Executive Director Screening Committee – Joshua Jones, Chair

Joshua Jones ceded his report as Chair Arscott already covered what he wanted to discuss

B. Training Committee – Raymond Melcon, Chair

Raymond Melcon briefly reported that the official trainings for members are underway and going well. He anticipates that trainings will be done every six months.

C. Bylaws Committee – Ruben Paillere, Chair

Ruben Paillere aims to have the first Bylaws Committee meeting in the second or third week of July, as he has a current draft of the bylaws that has had input from the Assistant County Attorney. Laura will email the draft bylaws to the ICP members.

D. Outreach Committee – Pam Perry, Chair

Pam Perry reported that she has prepared a database of community organizations that is ready to go for outreach when the Executive Director is hired.

E. Charter/Ordinance Review Committee – Pam Perry, Chair

Pam Perry reiterated her concern on moving forward without an Executive Director on matters pertaining to the Charter/Ordinance Review Committee.

VIII. Old business

A. Status of Independent Consultant

Chair Arscott reported that the ICP is in the process of contract negotiations with the independent consultant. She reminded that at the last ICP meeting the board agreed to hire a consultant while it waits to hire an Executive Director.

Virginia Washington from County HR confirmed that HR is in the process of finalizing the deliverables for the consultant and the process will move into negotiations over the next few weeks.

B. Next meeting dates – July 25, 26, or 27

After the ICP members checked their calendars, it was determined that the next meeting will be held on Monday, July 25th.

C. ICP website

A basic website is up and ICP members can contact Laura with suggestions. Loreal suggested that the pics and bios of ICP members be added to the website.

D. Financial disclosure due July 1, 2022

Chair Arscott reminded everyone to file their financial disclosure form and ICP members were told that one consequence of not filing is removal from the ICP.

- E. Next ethics training date July 20 at 12 noon. Chairs Arscott reminded the members.
- F. Next sexual harassment awareness training date TBA. Chair Arscott reminded the members.

IX. New business

Virginia Washington offered that in case live stream is not available for the interviews tomorrow, HR is able to record the interviews and post later if ICP members are interested in watching.

Several ICP members are terming out. Joshua Jones (expired in May) and Ruben Paillere (expired in May) are able to continue serving until their Commissioner reappoints them or makes a different appointment. There is also a vacancy as Joe Celestin stepped down to run for office.

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

The representative from FANM spoke again with concern about how trainings mentioned during the meeting will lead to real change in a police system she described as racist.

Brother Lyle Grandison spoke again to share that he will be bringing information back to the community about the work the ICP is doing.

XI. Adjournment

Jeannett Slesnick moved to adjourn and Joshua Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.