

# Brief History of the Domestic Violence Oversight Board

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Board Retreat  
February 26, 2009

**domestic**  
**violence**  
**OVERSIGHT BOARD**

# Florida Statute §212.0306: Local option food and beverage tax

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- On May 18, 1993, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners created a Task Force on homelessness and charged it with developing a plan for addressing the needs of persons, who have become, or are about to become, homeless to comply with Section 212.0306 of the Florida Statutes (1993) which authorized a Local Option Food and Beverage Tax. For the first 12 months, the proceeds from the tax would be used by the county to assist persons who have become, or are about to become, homeless. Thereafter, not less than 15 percent of the funds would be made available for construction and operation of domestic violence centers.

Homelessness—85%

Domestic Violence— 15%

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# Procedure for Levying

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- Under Florida Statute §212.0306, the tax is imposed on food, beverages, or alcoholic beverages in establishments licensed by the state to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises. Establishments with gross annual revenues of less than \$400,000 are exempt from the tax.

# Appointment of an Oversight Board

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- The statute called for each county to appoint an oversight board including, but not limited to, service providers, domestic violence victim advocates, members of the judiciary, concerned citizens, a victim of domestic violence, and impacted jurisdictions to prepare and submit to the governing board of the county for its approval a plan for disbursing the funds made available for the construction and operation of domestic violence centers.



# Appointment of an Oversight Board (continued)

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- Each member of the BCC appoints a member, and the county manager appoints two members, to the oversight board.



# Enabling Ordinance (94-156)

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- In 1994 with County Ordinance 94-156, Miami-Dade County established the only Domestic Violence Oversight Board in the State of Florida under Florida Statute §212.0306 to oversee 15% of the Local Option Food and Beverage Tax to construct and operate domestic violence centers. The remaining 85% of the tax is allocated to the Homeless Trust to assist persons who have become, or are about to become homeless.



# “The Plan”

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- In April 1996 the Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board presented *The Plan for Construction and Operation of Domestic Violence Centers per Ordinance No. 94-156* to the Board of County Commissioners. Pursuant to the Ordinance, the Plan contained seven recommendations on how the portion of the Local Option Food and Beverage Tax dedicated to construction and operation of domestic violence centers would be utilized. The Plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners as submitted.





# The Plan's 7 Recommendations

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- 1. That the proceeds of the dedicated food and beverage tax be used to fund the construction and operation of one (1) emergency domestic violence center (shelter), with a forty bed capacity, to be operational as soon as possible.



# The Plan's 7 Recommendations

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- 2. That the construction costs be funded by the food and beverage tax only, without the need for borrowing. That the operational costs be funded annually by the food and beverage tax.



# The Plan's 7 Recommendations

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- 3. That the Board of County Commissioners approve the site selected by the Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board, which will primarily service the Northside/Hialeah vicinity. The purchase and renovation of this property will meet the needs of the victims of domestic violence in this critical corridor of high incidence of domestic violence.



# The Plan's 7 Recommendations

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- 4. That a Request for Proposal (RFP) be developed to provide an opportunity to examine the cost/benefit of public vs. private operation of the proposed domestic violence center and that the Metro-Dade Department of Human Services be invited to respond to the RFP in addition to interested private providers. Price should only be one component for consideration, as well as history, experience, etc.



# The Plan's 7 Recommendations

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- 5. That the Board of County Commissioners authorize the prioritization of domestic violence by the Dade County Department of Housing and Urban Development, by establishing a set aside of 35 -50 units per year of public housing to meet the needs of domestic violence victims for transitional housing.



# The Plan's 7 Recommendations

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- 6. That the Board of County Commissioners and the Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board stimulate a grass-roots effort to develop a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Agency to assist in fund raising and other related efforts.



# The Plan's 7 Recommendations

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- 7. That the Board of County Commissioners utilize every possible means to expedite the RFP process and expedite all approval processes necessary for construction of the domestic violence center.



# Construction of the NW Center

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- Construction of the northwest domestic violence center was funded solely with proceeds from the food and beverage tax. Pre-construction and project coordination costs included architectural and engineering services (\$280,000), purchase of the property (\$700,000), and GSA project management (\$200,893). Actual costs also included the approved construction cost (\$2,936,011) and the Art Allowance mandated by Art in Public Places (\$42,315). Total cost of the project was \$4,159,219.





# Opening of the NW Center

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- Construction was completed and the center became operational in March 2004.

# THE RIBBON CUTTING

