



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners Zoning Board**

Board of County Commissioners
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street
Miami, Florida 33128

May 24, 2007
As Advertised

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**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ZONING HEARING
MAY 24, 2007**

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the County Commission Chambers on the Second Floor of the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW First Street, Miami, Florida at 8:00 a.m., May 24, 2007, there being present upon roll call, Chairman Bruno Barreiro, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Jordan, Commissioners Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Audrey Edmonson, Carlos Gimenez, Sally Heyman, Dennis Moss, Dorrin Rolle, Katy Sorenson, Rebeca Sosa, Natacha Seijas, and Javier Souto; (Commissioner Joe Martinez was absent); Assistant County Attorney Craig Collier; Mr. Albert Torres, Assistant Director, Department of Planning and Zoning; Ms. Jennifer Glazer-Moon and Deputy Clerks Diane Collins and Karen Leonard.

Chairman Barreiro opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL WITNESSES AND THE OFFICIAL INTERPRETER WERE SWORN IN BY THE CLERK PRIOR TO MAKING THEIR PRESENTATIONS BEFORE THE BOARD.

Commissioner Sosa announced that a copy of the 2007 State of Florida adopted Budget and Gubernatorial veto list would be delivered from the Office of the Governor to the Commissioners and there were more vetoes listed than in the past.

Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) Director Alberto Torres announced, in accordance with the Code of Miami-Dade County, all items on today's zoning agenda had been legally advertised, notices mailed and the properties posted. He stated that additional copies of the agenda were available in the Chambers and presented the procedures to be followed during today's proceedings.

1. HOMESTEAD AUTO CENTER (07-5-CC-1/06-306)

Commissioner Sorenson asked were any opponents present for the foregoing application.

Responding to Commissioner Sorenson's question regarding an agreement that prohibited the business from facing the bus way because it was located in a protective zone, Mr. Torres agreed and noted that additional conditions were recommended to include prohibition of a point of sale sign as well. He also stated a billboard did not exist on the premises.

Commissioner Sorenson noted that the foregoing item would be located in two different committee council areas and she anticipated more items would have a similar issue. She noted that she and Assistant County Attorney Craig Collier discussed the feasibility of resolving the item by considering the location of the community district area that majority of the parcel fell, and whether an ordinance change was required.

Commissioner Sorenson asked the County Attorney to draft an ordinance under her sponsorship, providing that priority consideration be given to the Community Council area where majority of the property was located when considering future applications involving boundaries.

Concerning Commissioner Sorenson's inquiry whether a revision of the Community Council boundaries map required an amended ordinance, Assistant County Attorney Collier noted that it could be accomplished with a resolution of the County Commission; however, he needed to confirm whether it was feasible to do so. He also noted the possibility that it would be easier to amend the ordinance based on where the majority portion of the parcel was located, because modifying the boundaries in the community council district would possibly affect current Community Council representatives. Assistant County Attorney Collier said he needed to investigate the measure of the impact and would follow-up and provide the information.

Commissioner Sorenson noted that her first request to prepare an amended ordinance appeared to be the best decision.

Mr. Carlos Huembes, 7344 S.W. 48th Street Suite 201, attorney representing the applicant, appeared before the Board to support the foregoing appeal and application. He presented an aerial display of the proposed property and noted that buildings "A and B" were under permit and construction, and building "C" required a variance to be set back on the rear.

Commissioner Moss noted that moving property lines would not resolve any issues since the applications of properties probably would be partially located in two adjacent community council districts. He stated that examining the majority of the parcel's location would be a better option, and any compositions on that level be forwarded to Community Council representatives to provide input/feedback.

It was moved by Commissioner Sorenson that the application of Homestead Auto Center be approved in accordance with DPZ's conditions. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Heyman. and upon being put to a vote, passed with a vote of 11-0 (Commissioners Martinez and Seijas were absent).

Upon conclusion of the foregoing, the Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session at 10:25 a.m. to consider items carried over from its meeting of May 22, 2007, the minutes of which are on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.

All deferral dates on applications considered during the day's meeting were publicly announced.

All exhibits submitted for the record at the day's meeting were transferred to the care, custody and control of the Department of Planning and Zoning.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the zoning meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Responding to Chairman Barreiro's recommendation to hold tax reform discussion at the Property Tax Reform Workshop scheduled at 4:00 p.m. today (5/24), Commissioner Moss noted the importance of discussing the tax reform issue at today's (5/24) meeting to put the Board's position on the record. He stated that despite personal opinions of each Commissioner, they needed to make a collective decision on their position towards the alternative Property Tax

Reform proposed by the County Manager, and address the municipalities in the following meeting.

Before the discussion, Commissioner Barreiro read a memorandum submitted by Commissioner Joe Martinez regarding a request to reschedule the public hearing that was set for July 17, 2007 to June 12, 2007 at the Budget and Finance Committee. In doing so, the public hearing would be presented at the same time with pending related items. Request of this change should be recorded by the Board of County Commissioners and public notices be sent out accordingly. Commissioner Barreiro explained that the public hearing was related to the ordinance sponsored by Commissioner Martinez concerning local gas taxes.

Hearing no further comments or question, it was moved by Vice Chairwoman Jordan to approve the memorandum rescheduling the public hearing from July 17, 2007 to June 12, 2007. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Gimenez, and upon being put to vote, passed with a vote of 12-0.(Commissioner Martinez was absent).

16B. POLICY MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD (Tax Reform Issue)

Following Commissioner Heyman's comments regarding communication and public access problems with the venue for today's next meeting at the Miami-Dade County Library, Chairman Barreiro noted that the venue provided good administration, public access and created for good dialogue amongst all parties involved.

Commissioner Sorenson acknowledged Commissioner Sosa's concerns and read from the third critical priority legislative item entitled "Property Tax Relief" as well as the item concerning the revenue of expenditure caps from the legislative package. She assured Commissioner Sosa and other colleagues that these were the guidelines she presented to State legislature in Tallahassee on Monday (5/21).

Commissioner Sosa noted that her memorandum clarified that the plan approved by the County Manager was not presented before the Board. She noted her record of the previous votes from the Board regarding the implementation of the plan. Commissioner Sosa noted the importance of ensuring the responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners during a difference of opinions in terms of cutting property taxes. She expressed concern regarding the need for a real plan of the County's tax assessment, and that the Government should not completely depend on taxes as a resource. The County faced an economical crisis, and that it was urgent to provide tax relief to the public specifically the middle class population before residents decided to relocate, Commissioner Sosa noted.

Commissioner Sosa noted that representatives of municipalities contacted her and was advised that approximately 40% of property taxes were School Board Taxes. She noted that the representatives wanted to revert to the idea of implementing the one cents tax for the School Board in an effort to create its own resource, and also discuss with the State Delegations regarding a 10% cut in local government in order to survive with the reduction. Commissioner Sosa noted comments might be raised in the next meeting regarding her conversation with three

managers and the House Speaker who indicated that the majority of taxes were generated by the School Board System in which she would not give her opinion. She stated that the alternative plan proposed by the County Manager would be presented to local governments and with the numbers calculated there would be a possibility to improve schools. Commissioner Sosa noted the different opinions, and proposals, including her memo that was generated from the County Manager's proposal that was never voted on by the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Heyman mentioned her trip to Tallahassee, and the joint meeting and discussion based on information from proposals of different Cities/Counties requesting services. She stated that consensus for the roll back had remained the same since Friday (5/18), and the major message was to determine the consequences to local services. She stated that the cost of providing tax relief and its cost to local services, and whether the relief was under the form of one Bill that the insurance tied to the mortgage would be incumbent to the property tax were issues that needed to be considered.

Commissioner Heyman noted the Florida Association of Counties Board had a meeting and raised the issue of identifying for all counties/cities the billion dollars plus State burden regarding five major areas to local government and prohibited unfunded mandates that were absorbed by all counties/cities.

Commissioner Gimenez noted that he examined the County's property tax evaluation from 1985 to the present. He stated, for the record, that the property evaluation in 1990 was \$63 billion and increased to \$97 billion by the year 2000. Since the year 2000, the property tax evaluation increased to \$212 billion which was a 100%+ increase within six years, Commissioner Gimenez noted. He stated that property tax became an issue due to the extraordinary growth in property evaluation over the last six years. Commissioner Gimenez suggested that a roll back from 2004 to 2005, at a 40% tax cut, balanced the numbers had there not been an extraordinary growth. He stated that property taxes had an effect on the middle class population, and it was important to provide tax relief. Commissioner Gimenez noted that legislature did not exhaust all efforts to address property insurance. He stated that the Board needed to exercise better management with the budget and address the legislature regarding unaffordable property insurance.

Concerning Commissioner Gimenez's question regarding whether the roll back proposals were based on revenue from the taxes and/or the existing millage rate for a certain year, Office of Strategic Business Management Director Jennifer Glazer-Moon advised these proposals did not have roll back targets from previous years. Commissioner Gimenez noted that bigger tax exemptions were a constitutional component of property tax reform, and that issue would be brought before Florida residents to take a vote.

County Manager Burgess noted that at the May 21, 2007 Property Tax Reform Workshop, it appeared to be an interest of legislators to examine the notion of a super exemption, and the idea of measuring the super exemptions by the average median values to allow a degree of equities between counties. He noted the issue was constitutional because it affected how property was valued for tax purposes. County Manager Burgess noted that it may not be effective until Fiscal Year 2008-09, which creates an issue to determine the budget for the bridge year. He stated that by observation it was difficult to do both super exemptions and roll backs simultaneously. He

stated that there was a possibility of implementing a revenue freeze in an effort to bridge this year to the year in which the constitutional component became effective. County Manager Burgess noted that there would be an enormous compounding effect if the roll back occurred with the super exemptions. He stated that he felt the idea of discussing the super exemption was a better approach because it presented a better way to address the various types of impacts and tax relief issues.

Concerning Commissioner Gimenez's question whether there would be a constitutional question on the ballot without a statutory roll back year, Tallahassee lobbyist Ron Book agreed and noted that a special election could take place from September 18, 2007 through September 25, 2007.

Responding to Commissioner Gimenez's question regarding the savings for the average property owner, County Manager Burgess noted that it depended on the size of the tier, and the percentage applied to tiers. County Manager Burgess noted that last week alternative strategies and refinements were presented to supplement the proposals regarding super exemptions. He spoke of the similar and other ranges of savings amongst tax cut proposals that were presented, and stated that his discussion with the speaker did not have a record of percentages and was solely presenting an approach. County Manager Burgess said his office had collaborated with the City of Miami to develop a noticeable tax relief to the public for different types of homeowners and preserve services. He noted that more details of several combined plans would be presented during today's (5/24) workshop this afternoon.

In response to Commissioner Gimenez's inquiry regarding whether the savings calculated in the tax cut proposal would supersede the "Save Our Homes" project, County Manager Burgess noted that it depended on the decision from the special session. He stated that he was under the assumption that homestead property owners would be allowed to preserve their "Save Our Homes" benefits if they were better than those provided by the super exemption program. County Manager Burgess noted that individuals with Save Our Homes benefits decided to move were entitled to use the super exemption benefits to purchase a new home. He noted that the super exemption did not have a down side, if it was done correctly.

Commissioner Sorenson pointed out that the problem with the roll back plan was that it did not address the disparities amongst renters and recent homebuyers.

Commissioner Sorenson asked the County Manager to determine whether the Miami-Dade Police Department's Economic Crimes Bureau investigated mortgage fraud, and to ensure that an appropriate enforcement mechanism was in place to prevent future crimes of that nature.

Discussion ensued amongst Chairman Barreiro, Commissioners Diaz and Sorenson regarding mortgage fraud operations.

Commissioner Seijas asked the County Manager to initiate efforts to resume the Predatory Lending Task Force, created by the County Commission (under the sponsorship of former County Commission Chair, Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler) to address mortgage fraud and related issues.

Commissioner Jordan agreed with Commissioner Seijas and noted that the item was housed by the State Attorney's office in a unit that at the Caleb Center under Commissioner Edmonson's district that was a follow-up of Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler Predatory Lending Task Force and it needed to be reactivated.

Commissioner Jordan reiterated Commissioner Moss' point on the foregoing discussion item concerning the position of the Board of County Commissioners pertaining to the tax reform. She stated that she received calls from the municipalities in her district expressing concern of the whole issue being seen as a bait and switch, where the main topic has switched from insurance to discuss taxes so insurance would not be dealt with. Commissioner Jordan noted her district requested that the legislature deal with the real problem and discuss the insurance issue. She questioned the representatives who visited Tallahassee on their position in this matter and noted that the visit was based on the discussion with the municipalities that supported a strong vote for the promotion of the alternate plan presented by the County Manager at a previous meeting.

Commissioner Jordan stated that clarification of the Board's position on the plan needed to be clearly stated before the upcoming meeting this afternoon. She stated that a second presentation should be provided by the County Manager's office for those individuals who were absent from the previous workshop. Commissioner Jordan commended Chairman Barreiro for having the workshop conducted in a free exchange manner.

Chairman Barreiro noted that the plan had been formed and was in process. He stated that the Board of County Commissioners supported restructuring the property tax methodology, and some form of this plan that provided tax relief while maintaining a level of service that this community needed. Chairman Barreiro commended the County Manager's Office and the Budget Department for the presentation, and noted that he was open for suggestions.

Commissioner Sosa noted that the County Manager had a duty to instruct elected officials of needed funds, and the Board of County Commissioners was elected to defend them. She stated that the County Manager had a good administrative plan, but felt that it lacked the needs of the community and did not meet the request for a real tax reform and relief. Commissioner Sosa noted that the plan should provide relief to the middle class so they can continue to reside in the County, and prevent them from losing their homes. She stated that wages earned by these homeowners versus the high mortgage rates leads to the process that result in foreclosure of homes.

Commissioner Sosa noted that the State had not discussed a method of using a roll back, but presented a tier plan. She stated that she would not support the County Manager's plan because it would not provide enough support for the people and more alternatives were needed. Commissioner Sosa noted that the Board of County Commissioners decision to support the County Manager's plan would not be considered, and the plans that were on the table should be discussed to provide input, and then the Board of County Commissioner could decide their position.

Commissioner Sosa expressed the concerns of elected officials and municipalities within her district as well as people in the community who were retired or working and could not afford the

cost of living in the County. She stated that developers were moving to other southern States and noted that residents would begin to relocate and a plan that addressed these concerns needed to be presented.

Commissioner Seijas agreed with Commissioner Sosa's comments regarding overlooked options, but the Board of County Commissioners needed to collaborate and present a message pertaining to the plan presented by the County Manager and Ms. Glazer-Moon.

Commissioner Seijas noted that the Government was also part of the School Board System, which represented 40% of existing taxes and would continue to do so because of a passed resolution. She spoke in opposition of the language used in the resolution which restricted changes on the school taxes. Commissioner Seijas referred to Government entities that were exempt, and noted that there should be a balance across the board to reduce the taxpayer's burden.

Commissioner Seijas urged the Board to analyze and discuss the proposal and provide input of the potential impacts. She suggested that they encourage and support municipality representatives to visit Tallahassee and present the concerns of the people. Commissioner Seijas agreed with Commissioner Sosa's comments on reducing the burden on taxpayers, decreasing the amount of homes under foreclosure, and including the School Board in the tax reduction process.

Concerning Commissioner Moss' question regarding the direction that the Board should take given the fact that various proposals were presented, County Manager Burgess noted that the discussion had not changed, and people were working to find common ground amongst the different points of views with apparent common elements. He stated that there appeared to be an agreement towards taking action on the super exemption approach and using the median value to accomplish that; which has created interest among Speaker Rubio and House Democrats

County Manager Burgess noted the alternative plan versus existing proposals were not radically different cost-wise, based on discussions in Miami and iterations from the Senate, and concept-wise from iterations of the House. He suggested that the Board take a vote stating that the State needed to modify the property tax assessment approach. County Manager Burgess noted that at the meeting this afternoon, he hoped that a super exemption oriented and median value focused proposal would be created to help homeowners in various situations. He stated that collaborating with government entities should provide a balance in savings to taxpayers and Government impact. County Manger Burgess suggested that the Board encourage the State to continue on the track of modifying how they value property for tax purposes.

Concerning Commissioner Moss' inquiry regarding a plan from the State of Nevada, , County Attorney's Office Jess McCarty advised that legislature considered it but, for reasons unknown, never gravitated towards it.. He stated that the plan was similar regarding the direction that legislature was taking, but was different structure-wise.

Commissioner Moss noted that the Board needed to determine a position for the meeting this afternoon since municipality representatives could not be asked to support a plan without a consensus of direction.

County Manager Burgess noted that the intention of the following meeting was to present refinements to the alternative proposal that was presented on Friday (5/18) that included ideas from Congress and other governmental entities. He stated that the presentation would reflect different potential tax savings to various types of homeowners. County Manager Burgess noted that he hoped it would solidify support behind a concept.

Commissioner Diaz expressed concern regarding the budget cuts on the veto list from the Governor.

Responding to Commissioner Diaz's question regarding the status of the report outlining different scales of impacts as a result cut backs, County Manager Burgess noted that the report was included in the presentation on Friday with a series of attachments that laid out possible budget cuts that totaled approximately \$700 million, and he would meet with him to discuss the report.

Concerning Commissioner Diaz's question regarding whether the State would provide revenue towards taxation, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Executive Director Jose Rasco advised that the budget cuts that were considered based on the session was that the State had \$1 billion dollars less to work with out of a \$71 billion budget. He stated that no budget cuts at the State level were implemented this year.

Commissioner Diaz expressed concern regarding the possibility that three small Cities could be wiped out as a result of budget cuts.

In response to Commissioner Diaz's question regarding the copy of the plan from the County Manager's office that would be presented on June 12, 2007, County Manager Burgess noted that efforts needed to be made to reach a conclusion before the meeting on June 12, 2007, and the Board needed to be prepared to participate and provide solutions prior to that date. He stated that his office met with key individuals from both sides of the issue in the House and Senate, municipalities, and County/City associations. County Manager Burgess noted the idea was to take the super exemption concept without deviating in principle from discussions to reach a common ground. He was optimistic by noting that an opportunity was available to achieve savings that people needed and a continuation of services would be provided despite budget cuts.

County Manager Burgess noted that the trip to Tallahassee on Monday (5/21) allowed for individual contacts, but, the discussions were not public hearings. He stated that the meeting on June 4, 2007 would be structured to embrace a plan that both houses could agree on, and the length of the session could not be determined therefore solutions needed to be in place before June 12, 2007.

Responding to Commissioner Diaz' question pertaining to the status of a plan being in place to properly prepare the Board, County Manager Burgess noted that his office was currently working to prepare it. He also noted that representatives from his office met with legislators and presented an approach that appeared to be on common ground with different plans presented on Friday (5/18), and would present that at the meeting this afternoon. County Manager Burgess noted that it was important for the Board to agree that modification of how the State through a

constitutional amendment values property for tax purposes (the super exemption approach) was needed.

Commissioner Diaz noted that he would meet with County Manager Burgess following today's (5/24) meeting.

Commissioner Sorenson noted that homestead homeowners were not necessarily losing their homes due to high taxes. She stated that the lost of homes possibly occurred as a result of no-interest balloon payment mortgages, an escalating market rate, and a blankness towards tax bills. Commissioner Sorenson noted that people needed education on the subject of their tax bills.

Commissioner Sorenson explained that Florida was the 39th lowest tax State in the nation in combined taxes as a percentage of income. She stated that property taxes for the year 2007 were the thirty-first lowest in the nation. Commissioner Sorenson noted that the problem was the disparities and she agreed with County Manager Burgess' comments stating that the Board and Legislature needed to focus on efforts regarding assessment of property taxes.

Commissioner Sorenson noted that County Manager Burgess should be allowed to negotiate, in a manner similar to the Board's negotiations with the Housing Urban Department (HUD), consistent with principles included in the legislative package. She stated that the tiered formula based on median values was a better option of the various property tax proposal presented because it addressed tax relief for the middle class population and individuals below that status.

Commissioner Sorenson noted that she observed very few individuals actively engaging in the discussion during the meeting held on Monday (5/24), despite the number of legislative representatives present. She stated the possibility that some legislators did not understand that the people wanted services without paying high taxes rates, and a suitable formula was required to make the compromise.

Commissioner Gimenez noted that when the Board passed the homestead exemption of \$25,000 in the year 1980, the median value of homes was 75%. He stated that the present value of a \$25,000 homestead exemption depreciated due to the cost of living. Commissioner Gimenez agreed with the concept of raising the homestead exemption percentage based on the process taken in 1980. He suggested that legislature bring forth a ballot that required all commercial property to be taxed based on income as a self regulating mechanism.

Commissioner Gimenez asked the Office of Strategic Business Management Director to examine the feasibility of establishing a formula to tax commercial properties based on a percentage of income despite property value.

Commissioner Gimenez noted that an extraordinary growth in tax roll occurred in the past six years, and the Board needed to determine a base amount of money of where the economy would have been at that point in time. He spoke in opposition of endorsing a plan due to the uncertainty of what the impact would be on citizens of the County.

Commissioner Gimenez noted that a basic level of services should be provided in a sufficient manner, and for implementation purposes a certain amount of revenue should be available. He

stated that roll back proposals were feasible and that he supported keeping the millage rate from the year 2000 as a basis of calculation.

It was moved by Commissioner Seijas to change the Second Reading date of Agenda Item 4L from June 26, 2007 to June 5, 2007. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Heyman, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 10-0 (Commissioners Diaz, Martinez, and Rolle were absent).

Commissioner Heyman noted that the property tax issue was a matter of helping constituents, residents, businesses and visitors by reducing the cost to reside in the County for any period of time. She asked that the Board consider, for dialogue purposes, encouraging the legislature to revisit insurance cost during the special session if the issue was preserving the integrity of essential local services or keeping cities afloat. Commissioner Heyman noted that State Legislature were remissive on property insurance which could have made affordability a reality in Florida.

Chairman Barreiro concurred with Commissioner Heyman's comments, but felt that the State could not resolve this issue alone. He stated that a national cap fund was necessary to deal with the insurance issue. Chairman Barreiro noted that the Governor and the State had taken aggressive positions on the matter, and traveled to Washington to push the issue. He stated that County Manager Burgess' proposal was the best option the County had at this point in time, and would accept any motion in favor of it.

Commissioner Seijas noted that the School Board needed to be included in the plan, and the issue needed to be explored with the local representatives at the meeting this afternoon. She stated that they all were elected officials by the same individuals for the same needs which would protect the taxpayers and provide sufficient services based on availability.

Commissioner Souto noted that the property tax issue was complicated and could not be solved quickly. He stated that this issue went through a process including democracy which worked by listening to the people. Commissioner Souto noted that the State was a desirable place for real estate, primarily for retirement and its international popularity had grown rapidly. He noted that he felt the County was not receiving the best advice, and suggested that professors and experts from local Universities examine the situation and create a solution.

Commissioner Moss noted that Commissioner Souto had raised this issue on several occasions regarding the Economic Council/Think Tank. He spoke in favor of getting feedback from this organization and stated that additional information would provide a better position to make an informed decision.

Commissioner Moss noted that concerning School Board property taxes, it was unfair to level the entire burden on local government considering the level of funding was at the bottom of the totem pole as it relates to education in the County. He stated that it was important to support the adequate resource provision to educate and place children in competitive positions on an international level.

Commissioner Moss noted that the State needed to streamline its revenue. He stated that last year's revenue was \$74 million, and was projected at \$71.5 million for the year 2007-08.

Commissioner Moss noted that putting some of the revenue increases towards education rather than mandating the School Board to raise money through property taxes would alleviate some of the burden from taxpayers. He stated that despite the States' hypocrisy of placing the entire burden on local government, School Board taxes should not be cut back due to the need to remain competitive. Commissioner Moss suggested that the Board examine better resources, improve how those funds were allocated, and reduce property taxes from the School Boards' taxing responsibility.

Chairman Barreiro noted that the Board was in agreement to supporting the median tier approach of property tax relief.

Commissioner Gimenez recommended that the Board state their support of reinstating the ratio of the original Homestead Exemption from the year 1980 to reach 75% of the average median home price in the State of Florida.

County Manager Burgess advised that the homestead exemption could exceed previous numbers depending on the percentages.

Commissioner Sorenson suggested that the subject be kept broad because it was a moving target, and the County Manager needed to be in a position to negotiate freely with all parties involved. She stated that she supported reducing the disparities, and the County Manager included concepts consistent with the legislative package.

County Manager Burgess advised that the Board's support meant endorsing to sustain collaboration with all parties involved to provide input on a tiered type of super exemption approach that used average median home value as a basis to measure.

Commissioner Seijas asked that all parties involved consider exploring opinions on cutting the School Board taxes in the following meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Moss to support the median home value tiered approach and super exemption. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and upon being put to vote, passed with a vote of 9-0 (Commissioners Diaz, Martinez, Rolle, and Sosa were absent).

Concerning Commissioner Seijas' comments regarding the inclusion of the School Board taxes in the discussion, Commissioner Moss noted that the matter be discussed from the standpoint that the State provided additional revenue. He stated the importance for individuals to invest in education, but it was in the purview of the constituents of the School Board. Commissioner Moss noted that the process could be a burden to the School Board, and the children would feel the negative effects. He noted that the State should find alternative funding resources because the State ranked in the 40 in the nation for school system funding.

Chairman Barreiro noted that the class size amendment mandate needed to be met, which presented an issue of whether the resources would come through local property taxes or State sales tax.

Commissioner Sorenson noted that the Board supported the School Board system, and opposed reducing education funds. She stated that there were areas in education in need of

improvements, and preferred that the State focused on providing adequate education funds, worked towards a property tax system that eliminated disparities, and provided services to the community.

Commissioner Gimenez noted that the rise in State revenue since the year 2001-02 was calculated at 67%. He stated that he would support a proposal stating property tax relief would be funded through the State. Commissioner Gimenez noted that that the State mandated property tax increase from the local School Board. He stated that he would favor a motion stating that the calculations be reviewed by the State, and that the majority of the education budget would be funded through their revenue increase.

Following Commissioner Seijas' comments that a motion was not on the table concerning the School Board, Commissioner Heyman stated her readiness to make a motion because the State had an obligation to properly fund schools, but the responsibility was passed down to local government. Commissioner Heyman noted that the 67% revenue increase was an addition to the billion dollars of unfunded mandate obligations passed down to the County. She asked that the issue be discussed and tailored with directives ensuring some structure because some of the attendees were from deprived cities facing critical issues that needed to be addressed in a forum setting. Commissioner Heyman noted that the State needed to meet more of their obligations rather than shifting the responsibility to local government.

Chairman Barreiro noted that a discussion concerning the issue would take place at the meeting this afternoon to reach an agreement with the community. He stated that the County Manager and the Office of Strategic Business Management Director were dismissed early from the meeting to prepare the plan for that meeting.

Commissioner Moss noted that there were mandates requiring the school system to raise its share of property taxes, which was the State's responsibility. He stated that the State's revenue benefited from the rise of property value. Commissioner Moss noted that all parties involved should share in providing tax relief to the community.

Chairman Barreiro noted, for the record, that Commissioner submitted a request to rescind an allocated amount of \$1, 000.00 for the City of Hialeah Gardens on May 22, 2007, and that \$20,000.00 would be allocated to the District Discretionary Reserve for the City of Hialeah Gardens. He stated, for the record, that Commissioner Diaz requested that funds be allocated to District 5 Office Funds in the amount of \$2,000 to the Florida Council on Aging and to allocate a total amount of \$10,000 to the Liga Contra Cancer.

Commissioner Souto noted that he had a motion from District 10 to request an allocation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Miami Dade Parks Department to sponsor the "Summer Learn to Swim Classes" which provided free swimming classes for children.

Hearing no comments or questions regarding the foregoing items the Committee proceeded to vote.

It was motioned by Commissioner Seijas to approve the foregoing allocations to the City of Hialeah Gardens, District 5 Office Funds, the Liga Contra Center and District 10, Miami Dade

Parks Department. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Gimenez and upon putting to vote, passed with a vote of 11-0 (Commissioners Diaz and Martinez were absent).

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro