



THE CHAMBERGAZETTE



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOME ISSUE



LIBERTY CITY'S REVIVAL BEGINS

The Liberty City neighborhood is getting a multimillion dollar facelift that is transforming the face of public housing in Miami-Dade and across the country.

The Liberty City Rising project involves the demolition of the 709 original public housing

units at Liberty Square and replacing them in phases with a mix of more than twice as many public housing, affordable housing and market-rate units without displacing any residents.

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HIGHLIGHTS

CONFUSED ABOUT "AFFORDABLE" VS. "WORKFORCE" HOUSING?

You are not alone. Many residents and even developers and industry insiders still are as well.

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INFILL HOUSING: FILLING IN THE GAPS IN AFFORDABILITY

Miami-Dade County's Infill Housing Program is a linchpin in the County's efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing.

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FOR THE LOVE OF PETS

For many Miami-Dade residents, no home can be complete without a pet.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As Chairwoman of the Miami-Dade County Commission, it is my pleasure to bring you this edition of the Chamber Gazette – the first in over 10 years. Much like its earlier incarnation – which many of our residents remember fondly – this quarterly publication is designed to bring residents the latest news from the County Commission.

The new Chamber Gazette has a streamlined look for easy reading and is full of useful information about County initiatives that are improving our community, and programs residents can take advantage of. This current edition focuses on affordable housing, one of my top goals as Chairwoman. In these pages you will learn about the many facets of the housing crisis and what your elected Commissioners are doing to address the issue.

I'm thrilled that the Chamber Gazette is back for the benefit and enjoyment of our residents, and I hope you will find this and future editions both informative and useful.

Warm regards,

Audrey M. Edmonson

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman



THE DEEP HISTORICAL ROOTS OF MIAMI-DADE'S HOUSING CRISIS

In many ways, Miami-Dade County is the best place in the world to live. It offers miles of beautiful beaches, a distinctly international flair, a vibrant nightlife, world-class dining and endless attractions and entertainment options, along with great year-round weather.

But Miami-Dade also is one of the most expensive places in the world to live. According to the Economic Policy Institute, in 2017 more than 60 percent of renting households were considered "cost burdened," which means they spend more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing. In fact, the average Miami-Dade renter spends 38 percent of their household income on rent – more than renters in Los Angeles, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Chicago.

How did this happen?

While the housing crash and the Great Recession contributed to the increasing unaffordability of housing in the greater Miami metropolitan area, both these trends affected the entire country, so

they can't account for Miami's special distinction as the least affordable place in the country to live. To explain it, we must look deeper into the unique circumstances surrounding Miami's history, as well as its location as a hub of international immigration and investment.

Once Upon a Time: The Segregation Era

Miami was officially incorporated as a city in 1896. Coming of age in the Jim Crow era of segregation, Miami soon developed lasting fault lines around race that persist to this day. By 1930, most of Miami's 29,000 black residents were restricted to a small area outside of downtown Miami known as "Colored Town," now Overtown.

As Overtown became overcrowded, many blacks moved to the newly created Liberty City public housing development. This movement of black residents accelerated in the 1950s as I-95 was constructed through the middle of Overtown, forcing many more to relocate to Liberty City. Today, both these historically black neighborhoods remain home to many low-income households, while Miami as a whole remains characterized by high rates of geographic segregation along racial and ethnic lines.

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HISTORIC DAY: Chairwoman Edmonson with HUD Secretary Ben Carson at the Liberty Square Rising grand opening.

LIBERTY CITY'S REVIVAL BEGINS

Cont. from page 1»

First announced in February 2015, the project seeks to address the issues of crime and poverty in the area by raising the standard of living for residents and creating opportunities to earn a decent living. The mixed-income development is being built on two existing public housing sites: Liberty Square and Lincoln Gardens.

“Considering Liberty City’s history, some see this transformation as nothing short of a miracle,” said Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson, who represents the area and has championed the project from the beginning.

The History

Built in 1937 during the New Deal, Liberty Square is the oldest public housing project in the southeastern United States and was the first segregated public housing in the country. Liberty City and adjacent Brownsville initially thrived, but over time, middle- and higher-income African American residents were replaced by growing numbers of lower-income black seniors and welfare-dependent families from Overtown after the construction of I-95 forced them to move. Crime became rampant and simmering racial tensions in the larger community twice erupted in major race riots – in 1968 and 1980. These violent conflagrations caused widespread destruction that further depressed the neighborhood as businesses fled in droves.

The Revival

The historic grand opening of Phase One of the Liberty City Rising redevelopment project took place on July 1 as Chairwoman Edmonson celebrated with U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez, and a host of local, state and federal officials and residents.

“A lot of people said it couldn’t be done; but guess what, we did!” said a jubilant Chairwoman Edmonson, who reminded the audience that she grew up in Liberty City.

“CONSIDERING LIBERTY CITY’S HISTORY, SOME SEE THIS TRANSFORMATION AS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE.”

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman
Audrey M. Edmonson

The \$46 million Phase One’s six new buildings at 6512 NW 14th Ave. are made up of 73 public housing units and 131 non-public housing units. By 2023, all of Liberty Square’s original 709 public housing units will be replaced with a mix of 1,455 public housing, affordable housing and market-rate units, along with shops, parks and community facilities. The four-phase, \$300 million project was designed with the input of Liberty Square residents and is being funded through a combination of private, county, city, state and federal dollars.



MEETING OF MINDS: Officials sit down with residents.

“The inspiring redevelopment at Liberty Square is the result of wise leveraging of public funding to attract private investment,” said Mayor Gimenez. “I want to thank all our elected officials and our partners at Related

Urban Development Group who worked so diligently to make our vision for the revitalization of this neighborhood a reality.”

Vernice McKinney, 35, a Liberty Square resident for the last eight years, was thrilled with the transformation and excited about moving into her new unit with her three children.



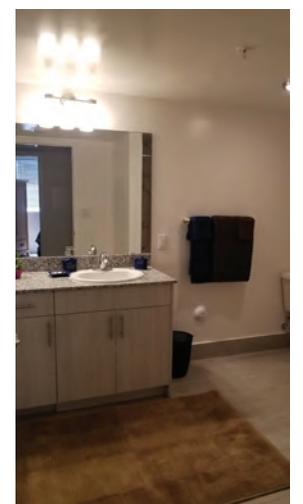
ALL SMILES: Resident Vernice McKinney with her children.

“Now I don’t have to worry about rats, roaches and mildew,” she said. “Everything’s better!”

The project’s mixed-income and comprehensive nature, along with the fact that no residents are being displaced during its construction, is a unique approach that seeks to solve the housing affordability crisis while addressing the issues of crime and poverty in the area by raising the standard of living for residents and creating opportunities to earn a decent living.

Liberty City Rising will serve as a prime catalyst in revitalizing Liberty City’s economy and reducing area unemployment by generating additional economic activity and creating an estimated 2,300 jobs, including construction jobs for local low-income residents who were trained and placed through the assistance of the County’s Employ Miami-Dade program.

HUD Secretary Carson said the project could become a model for housing developments around the nation, calling it an example of “lifting people out of poverty and on a path to the American Dream.”



NEW DIGS: Resident checks out her new unit.



AT THE DAIS: Commissioners at a meeting.

COMMISSION ENCOURAGES DEVELOPERS TO BUILD FOR THE WORKFORCE

Construction cranes are about as familiar a sight to the average Miami-Dade County resident as palm trees and guayaberas. New residential projects keep sprouting up at breakneck speed, transforming and reshaping the skyline again and again as the county's population grows ever larger.

All too often, however, those gleaming new condo towers are out of reach for the average worker most in need of an affordable place to live. In fact, despite expanding the overall supply of housing, some new projects actually exacerbate the shortage of affordable housing by driving up rental prices in once-affordable neighborhoods, thereby forcing low- and middle-income renters to look elsewhere for increasingly scarce reasonably-priced units.

But the Miami-Dade County Commission is making strides in addressing this shortage by working with developers to include affordable housing in what they build.

In 2007, the Commission adopted an ordinance creating a voluntary Workforce Housing Development Program. The program allows real estate developers to obtain density and intensity development bonuses by providing either workforce housing units or a monetary contribution to the Miami-Dade County Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which assists the County in acquiring, constructing, and rehabbing more workforce housing units in Miami-Dade County.

The program aims to increase the supply of housing affordable to families with incomes ranging from 60 percent to 140 percent of the area median income by facilitating development of affordable housing through a variety of zoning incentives, including the relaxation of intensity standards, flexible design criteria, nonconforming residential lot provisions, and participation in the administrative site plan review process and administrative adjustment process.

The ordinance was amended in late 2016 via an ordinance sponsored by Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan to enhance the bonuses and incentives available under the program. Developers can build more units than current zoning allows if they agree either to set aside 5 to 10 percent of their units for families making up to 140 percent of the median income, or to contribute to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Pasadena at the California Club, LLC, became the first developer to take advantage of the newly updated program. In December 2016, the company presented the County with a \$2.1 million check in exchange for a substantial density bonus for their north Miami-Dade project.

"The Workforce Housing Development Program is a great mechanism for providing Miami-Dade County with additional resources needed to construct more workforce and affordable housing," Commissioner Jordan said. "As more members of our local development community become familiar with the incentives of the revised program, they'll opt in and provide the much needed units and/or make additional deposits to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund."

CONFUSED ABOUT "AFFORDABLE" VS. "WORKFORCE" HOUSING?

Confused about what constitutes affordable housing in Miami-Dade County? You are not alone. Many residents and even developers and industry insiders still are as well. The terms "affordable housing" and "workforce housing" are often used interchangeably, but they mean different things, and those definitions have evolved over the years.

What does Affordable Housing means?

According to Miami-Dade Housing Director Michael Liu, "affordable" is defined as not requiring you to spend more than 30 percent of your income on your rent or mortgage. If you're paying more than that, especially if you're a low-income resident, then you're considered "cost burdened."

However, the term "affordable housing" refers specifically to what a person making 60 percent or less of an area's median income can afford.

Given Miami-Dade's median income of \$54,900 (according to the U.S. Department of Housing



and Urban Development), that works out to \$800 or less a month in rent based on an annual salary of \$33,000.

What is Workforce Housing?

Workforce housing is housing for the occupations needed in every community, including teachers, nurses, police officers, firefighters, restaurant employees and many other critical workers.

"For many, the term 'workforce housing' is also an issue of equity because people who provide the majority of essential services in their communities often cannot afford to live in the communities they serve," said Miami-Dade County Commission Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa.

Florida law defines workforce housing as housing that's affordable to people making 140 per-

cent or less of an area's median income, which means anything under \$1,920 a month for rent or mortgage.

The term "workforce housing" dates back to a concept of providing housing in resort communities and ski towns, specifically in the ski towns of Telluride and Aspen, Colorado, where in 1974 the disparity in wages and the cost of purchasing or renting a home prevented the workforce from being able to live in town, and a plan was developed to create a "local worker" housing market which was based on local wages and affordability.

"FOR MANY, THE TERM 'WORKFORCE HOUSING' IS ALSO AN ISSUE OF EQUITY BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE THE MAJORITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES OFTEN CANNOT AFFORD TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE."

Miami-Dade County Commission Vice Chairwoman
Rebeca Sosa

HOUSING SUMMIT GOAL: 10,000 NEW HOMES

With Miami-Dade's population continuing to outpace the existing housing supply, it's clear that building more housing must be part of the solution to the shortage of affordable housing.

The Miami-Dade County Commission knows this. That's why Commissioners are planning to hold an Affordable Housing Summit this fall to bring together experts and developers to brainstorm ideas for supplying the critical demand for affordable housing in the near future. And they have a specific goal in mind: 10,000 homes.

"The demand for affordable housing currently far exceeds the supply, and the only way to address that is to increase the supply. We came up with the goal of 10,000 new affordable housing units because it's ambitious but also feasible," said County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, who will be hosting the summit, scheduled to take place on Oct. 7 at Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus' Chapman Center in downtown Miami.



SUMMIT: Commissioner Moss discusses Housing Summit.

The summit will involve the participation of developers, nonprofit groups and key decision-makers, including the federal Housing and Urban Development department and other municipalities including the City of Miami.

Commissioner Moss, who chairs the Housing, Social Services and Economic Development Committee, said he draws inspiration from South Dade's recovery from Hurricane Andrew as he considers Miami-Dade's current challenge with affordable housing.

"I started representing South Dade in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane as it began building itself back up from that disaster, and its comeback was described as miraculous, so I know that whenever this community and this County put our minds and collective wills to something, we can do it, no matter how challenging or ambitious," Commissioner Moss said.

Commissioner Xavier Suarez said the long-term solution to the housing crisis lies in an expanded financial commitment from the County.



SUAREZ

"We should be using \$50 million a year of general revenues for affordable housing: 1 percent of total operating revenues," he said.

INFILL HOUSING: FILLING IN THE GAPS IN AFFORDABILITY

Miami-Dade County's Infill Housing Program is a linchpin in the County's efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing. "Infill housing" refers to new homes constructed on vacant, underused lots interspersed among older, existing properties in established urban neighborhoods.

The purpose of the Miami-Dade County Infill Housing Program is to increase the availability of affordable homes for households with incomes up to 140 percent of the median area income through the redevelopment of dilapidated or abandoned property located in Infill Target Areas.

The Commission recently amended the County's Infill Housing Ordinance to facilitate the development of affordable housing by incorporating language from its Workforce Housing Ordinance, which provides greater flexibility in terms of design criteria and a streamlined site plan review for the construction of affordable housing.

"As we seek to increase the supply of affordable housing in Miami-Dade County, it made sense to apply some of the incentives already available in the workforce housing program to infill housing," said Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson, who championed the move.

The County Commission has approved many County-owned properties to be used for affordable housing as part of the Infill Housing program, including properties that were conveyed to the County for non-payment of real-estate taxes. "Let's use all vacant land for affordable housing," said Commissioner Xavier Suarez.



"AS WE SEEK TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, IT MADE SENSE TO APPLY SOME OF THE INCENTIVES ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE WORKFORCE HOUSING PROGRAM TO INFILL HOUSING."

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman
Audrey M. Edmonson

THE DEEP HISTORICAL ROOTS OF MIAMI-DADE'S HOUSING CRISIS

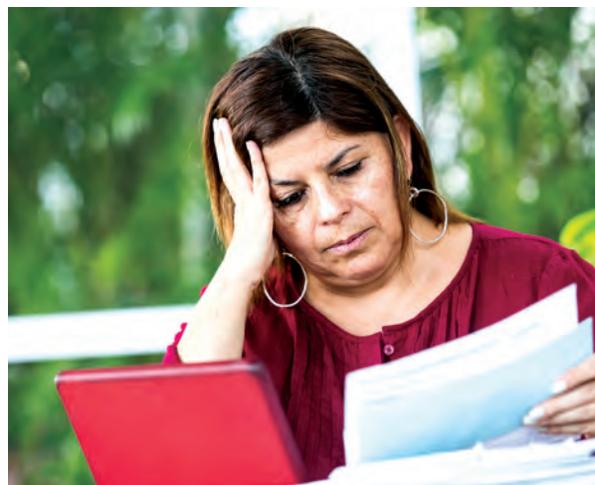
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Residential Patterns

Miami's history as a destination for immigrants is also important for understanding residential patterns. Between 1959 and 1980, over 800,000 Cubans came to the U.S., with a vast majority settling in Little Havana and Hialeah. This influx had a profound impact on Miami's residential patterns as many Cubans began clustering in those neighborhoods, establishing a thriving enclave economy and converting older, single-family homes into multiple-unit dwellings, significantly increasing residential density in the area.



Then, immigrants from Haiti and Central America arrived between the late 70s and early 80s and settled in neighborhoods such as Little Haiti and Allapattah. Roughly 60,000 Haitians fleeing political persecution faced prejudice upon arriving in Miami and began concentrating in an area north of the Julia Tuttle Causeway which became known as Little Haiti, and in North Miami.



The Housing Bubble

Another important factor contributing to Miami's increasing unaffordability was the rampant speculation – much of it driven by foreign investors – in Miami-Dade's real estate market, which led to overbuilding. Between 2000 and 2006, just before the housing crash, investor home purchases constituted 19 percent of sales, which sent home prices soaring and led to gentrification in neighborhoods traditionally affordable for lower-income residents.



MARTINEZ

“At the time, many people welcomed all the foreign investment in Miami real estate, but it came at a high cost, because when the market collapsed it left many high-priced units in foreclosure, vacant and out of reach for the average home seeker,” said Miami-Dade County Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, a member of the Housing, Social Services and Economic Development Committee.

Indeed, while the construction boom increased the overall supply of housing, it failed to alleviate the needs of lower- and middle-income residents, since the new units were primarily intended for the wealthy. The weakening economy, which hit Miami particularly hard, also caused middle-income residents to price down

“AT THE TIME, MANY PEOPLE WELCOMED ALL THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MIAMI REAL ESTATE, BUT IT CAME AT A HIGH COST, BECAUSE WHEN THE MARKET COLLAPSED IT LEFT MANY HIGH-PRICED UNITS IN FORECLOSURE, VACANT AND OUT OF REACH FOR THE AVERAGE HOME SEEKER.”

Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Joe A. Martinez



LEVINE CAVA

to low-cost rentals, which further reduced low-income residents' access to affordable housing.

“During those real estate boom years, it seemed like prices could only go in one direction – higher. So when the bottom suddenly fell out of the market, it hit a lot of people very hard, especially those at the lower end of the economic spectrum who could no longer afford their mortgages and lost their homes to the bank,” said Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

As Miami-Dade County works on ways to address housing affordability, an understanding of the unique history that led to where things stand today will not only inform more effective solutions but also help prevent a repeat of the same circumstances that produced the crisis in the first place.

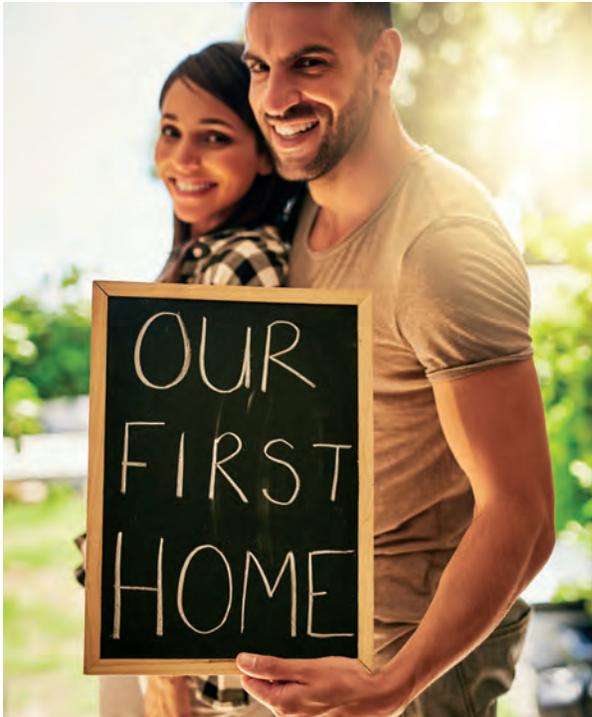
“Greater Miami has different challenges resulting from the housing crisis than the



MOSS

average American City because of our unique place in the world, which is why our solutions to the problem also need to be different and maybe even cutting-edge,” said County Commissioner Dennis C.

Moss, Chairman of the Housing, Social Services and Economic Development Committee.



KEY TO BUILDING WEALTH: BUY AT AN EARLY AGE

Homeowners who purchase their homes before the age of 35 are better prepared for retirement at age 60, according to a recent Urban Institute study of adults who turned 60 between 2003 and 2015.

The study outlines the impact of purchasing a home at an early age. Those who purchased their first homes when they were younger than 25 had an average of \$10,000 left on their mortgage at age 60. The 50 percent of buyers who purchased in their mid-20s to early-30s had approximately \$50,000 left, but had generally purchased more expensive homes.



MONESTIME

“Another advantage of buying and starting early is that you will not have any major responsibilities, children, education, etc. These start coming later in life,” said Commissioner Jean Monestime. Low- and moderate-income residents in Miami-Dade County can benefit from programs such as the Homeownership Assistance Program, which provides a zero-interest deferred loan to first-time homebuyers toward down payment and closing costs, making it easier to get approved for a mortgage. Best of all, the loan is forgiven if you own and occupy the home for more than 10 years without a cash-out refinance on the loan.



DIAZ

The program, which has helped more than 648 families since 1995, provides up to \$7,250 in financing for households at or below 80 percent of the adjusted gross median income, and up to \$4,750 for households above 80 percent of the adjusted gross median income. “Taking the initiative to seek out the many opportunities available to you can make the difference between imagining your new home and actually owning it,” said Commissioner José ‘Pepe’ Díaz.

The Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development Department also partners with local home mortgage lenders to offer mortgage loan subsidies to first-time homebuyers under the County’s Affordable Homeownership Program. This program provides low-interest

second and/or third mortgages of between 0 and 6 percent to bring a buyer’s out-of-pocket costs to an affordable level. Program participation is limited to one time only per family. A maximum 30-year fixed-interest mortgage is available for persons who qualify. You will also be required to obtain a first mortgage from an approved participating lender.

“Saving for a down payment can be a challenge, but you are most certainly not alone,” said Commissioner Sally A. Heyman. “If you take advantage of these county resources, you’ll be calling the house of your dreams ‘home’ in no time.”



HEYMAN

To qualify for the Affordable Homeownership Program, you must:

- Have a household income between 30 percent and 140 percent of area median income.
- Have been employed in the same line of work for at least 24 months.
- Have a good, established credit history and be approved for credit by a participating lender.
- Be a U.S. citizen or have obtained legal permanent residency immigration status.

Affordable Homeownership Program:

786-469-2192

affordablehomeownership@miamidade.gov

Housing Assistance Program:

305-375-5661

HAPInfo@miamidade.gov



ARE YOU A MILLENNIAL, GETTING MARRIED AND BUYING A HOME? CROWDFUNDING MAY BE AN OPTION!

Crowdfunding has become a popular form of raising money for everything from starting a business to paying medical bills, so it’s not surprising that first-time buyers who are millennials – people born between 1981 and 1994 – are getting creative and asking their wedding guests to contribute to their “Home Down Payment Fund.”

According to the 2015 Newlywed Survey by WeddingWire, the average wedding in the United States has 120 guests who give wedding gifts

valued averaging \$186. That means that a millennial couple could walk away from their nuptials with over \$22,000 towards their down payment!



HIGGINS

“It may sound like a great idea, but my advice for young homebuyers is to only use alternative funding sources to increase their own funds, bridge a gap, improve their loan terms or make a bigger down payment to reduce monthly costs,” said Commissioner Eileen Higgins, a member of the Finance and Transportation Committee. Real Estate industry insiders and researchers such as Property Shark, which surveyed more than 2,100 U.S. renters, owners and young people living with family (including about a third of millennials), say that down payments and student loans are the biggest obstacle to buying a home.

For some millennials, crowdfunding may be an option, but for county commissioners the root of the problem is the lack of affordable housing in Miami-Dade.



JORDAN

“It’s getting harder and harder for young people in their 20s and 30s to own a home,” said Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. “As elected officials we have a responsibility to come up with solutions and strategies to alleviate the housing burden.”



SERVING SENIORS: Vice Chairwoman Sosa has secured funding for innovative senior housing.

LUDLAM TRAIL TOWERS - COMBINING AFFORDABLE SENIOR LIVING WITH NATURE

Local seniors can look forward to a unique new affordable housing development in the heart of Miami-Dade's planned Ludlam Trail.

Miami-Dade County Commission Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa recently secured \$6.5 million in funding from the County's voter-approved Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program for construction of the Ludlam Trail Towers, a two-building, 64-unit residential project that will include a 2,848-square-foot multi-purpose facility at the intersection of Coral Way and Southwest 69th Avenue.

The project will be built within the Ludlam Trail, a five-mile County linear park being built on the site of a former railway. Plans call for elevating the trail one story into the project's multipurpose facility, allowing pedestrians to cross Coral Way without encountering traffic. The multipurpose room would offer activities such as boot camps, health seminars, run clubs and other physical activities, giving trail users and senior residents the opportunity to interact and exercise with each other.

Residents must be seniors earning no more than 80 percent of area median income.

"Our seniors deserve the very best, and it is up to us to help them live their golden years with dignity," Vice Chairwoman Sosa said. "It brings me great joy to see this effort move forward, and I pledge to continue working on initiatives that better our community. This new facility will be a shining example of Miami-Dade County's commitment to improving the lives of the elderly."

MULTIGENERATIONAL HOMES ARE ON THE RISE

As loved ones get older, we start to wonder: How long will they be able to live alone? Will they need someone there to help them with daily life? There's a reason to ask those questions now more than ever, as the average life expectancy in the U.S. is 78 years. As a result, 41 percent of Americans in the market are searching for a home that can accommodate a multigenerational family.

Multigenerational family living is growing among nearly all U.S. racial groups, most age groups and both men and women and includes parents, children, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. Those living in this type of household are defined as including two or more adult generations.



SOUTO

"By bringing family members and resources together under one roof, families can collectively address their expenses and allocate finances accordingly," said Commissioner Javier Souto.

An increasing number of studies affirm the benefits of being part of a multigenerational household. These benefits aren't just for the grandchildren, but for the grandparents as well.



While the young benefit from the wisdom of their elders and the special affection that dotting grandparents provide, seniors avoid isolation and stay healthy longer because of the joy that only children can bring.

According to a Pew Research analysis, ethnic diversity in the U.S. population helps explain some of the rise in multigenerational living. The Hispanic population overall is growing more rapidly than the non-Hispanic white population and is more likely to live in multigenerational family households. Another growth factor is that foreign-born Americans are more likely

than those born in the U.S. to live with multiple generations of family.

Here in Miami-Dade there is another concept called "granny flat" or "casita" (small house) and for many resident that is a better alternative than trying to fit everyone into one household. A "casita" is a smaller living unit or cottage on the same property next to the main home and is designed to provide independence but also access to the rest of the family household.

SENATOR VILLAS PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO SENIORS IN WESTCHESTER

It's been over 20 years in the making, but thanks to the perseverance of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto, a new affordable senior housing development in Westchester is now a reality.

The newly opened Senator Villas features 23 rental units on County-owned land at 8915 SW 40th St. Each unit is equipped with LED lights, porcelain tile, patio/balcony and washer/dryer.

The \$5 million project, which was financed with a combination of County General Obligation Bond and federal funds, is served by a bus stop to provide residents with easy access to public transportation.

"This beautiful project will provide much-needed affordable housing for elderly residents in my community while allowing them to remain independent," said Commissioner Souto, whose efforts led the County to acquire the land for the project in the 1990s.



NEW HOUSING: Commissioner Souto tours the newly opened Senator Villas.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRITICAL IN ENDING STREET HOMELESSNESS

According to a recent survey by the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, people experiencing homelessness will move off the street if given access to affordable housing.

Street homelessness in Miami-Dade County declined 2 percent from 2018 to 2019, while the population of sheltered homeless in the County rose 5 percent, according to data collected in the survey, part of the annual "Point-in-Time" count mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and conducted every January by Continuum of Care programs all across the United States.

The Homeless Trust credits an aggressive push to create more affordable and supportive housing using its "Housing First" approach for moving more people off the streets and into crisis housing while quickly connecting them with permanent housing through the Continuum of Care program.

Housing First, which is targeted at chronically homeless individuals and families, is a model of permanent supportive housing assistance that is offered without preconditions such as sobriety, mental health stability, non-violent criminal history or a minimum income threshold. Its primary goals are rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing.



"Homelessness is a big challenge in Miami-Dade County due to a number of factors including the shortage of affordable housing and a poverty rate that is higher than the national average, so we need to continue working with all our partners at the federal, state and local levels to ensure that no resident has to live on the street," said Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo Jr.

Current figures indicate 3,628 people are experiencing homelessness in Miami-Dade County (1,008 unsheltered; 2,620 sheltered). Notable decreases in street homelessness were realized in two areas of the County: unincorporated Miami-Dade County north of Kendall Drive, where the homeless population fell by 15 percent, and in the City of Miami, where the homeless population decreased by 4 percent.

If you are homeless or have been evicted, you can receive help with your first month's rent payment, security deposit, mortgage, utility bills, emergency shelter or food. The maximum amount you can receive is \$800 for rent or \$1,200 in mortgage assistance. You can receive one type of assistance per year.

To apply: Call 311 and ask for the nearest Community Resource Center in your area.

"HOMELESSNESS IS A BIG CHALLENGE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING THE SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING..."

Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Esteban L. Bovo Jr.



THINKING SMART: Commissioner Bovo at a meeting to discuss the SMART Plan.

HIGHER DENSITIES AROUND TRANSIT HUBS

One of the biggest challenges for workers in Miami-Dade County is finding affordable housing with easy access to their jobs. Because of the high cost of residential units near Miami's major employment centers, living close to work is often cost-prohibitive. For most South Floridians, that means having to own a car, along with the associated costs of parking, gas and maintenance – not to mention car loan payments.



SUAREZ

“Because of our inordinately high housing costs and ineffective mass transportation system, low-wage workers are living paycheck to paycheck,” said Commissioner Xavier Suarez.

Today, hundreds of thousands of people commute from one end of the County to the other. Despite improvements to our roads and highways, commutes are only growing longer for wage earners: 29 percent of all commuters spend 90 minutes or more getting to work in Miami-Dade County.

Much of what people save in housing by living far from work ends up getting gobbled up in transportation-related costs, while the stress that goes along with having to drive long distances in rush hour traffic further diminishes their quality of life. But what if rapid transit were an option?



GETTING YOU THERE: Metrorail and Metrobus.

The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners is working to make transit a viable alternative for many residents by encouraging residential and mixed-use developers to build along rapid transit corridors, thus alleviating some of the budget and transportation pressures on commuters.

As part of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan, the County Commission last year unanimously approved an ordinance sponsored by Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo Jr. to encourage the private sector to construct more transit-oriented developments near major public transportation hubs by permitting higher densities along the six planned SMART Plan rapid transit corridors – designated as the East-West, North,

Northeast, Beach and Kendall corridors and the South Dade Transitway.

“I believe that with increased densities along the various corridors, we will incentivize the needed development and ridership for our transit system, thus cutting down on traffic impacts that plague our residents,” Commissioner Bovo said.

Introducing mixed-use development along the County's major transit corridors will provide Miami-Dade residents with the critical access to the affordable housing and jobs they need. The increased densities also will generate additional revenue to support future transit infrastructure improvements. That's because the SMART Plan, which was adopted in 2016, established “tax increment financing districts” to capture revenue from any properties located alongside the rapid-transit corridors.



MONESTIME

Commissioners recently approved an ordinance sponsored by Commissioner Jean Monestime that advances the SMART Plan's goal by encouraging more residential development in the North Central Urban Area District, where the Northside Metrorail Station and Northwest 7th Avenue urban corridor are located.

“Increasing density is the answer to the County's affordable housing crisis, and housing is directly linked to jobs,” Commissioner Monestime said.

Commissioner Eileen Higgins, who lives in downtown Miami, agrees. She recently sponsored a resolution to create the right mix of development in the area around the Stephen P. Clark Center, which is home to County Hall and the Government Center Metrorail and Metromover Stations.



HIGGINS

“It just makes sense to encourage higher residential densities around major transit hubs, particularly in the downtown area,” Commissioner Higgins said. “If people can forego a vehicle by living closer to where they work, that not only relieves a tremendous financial strain on our working population, but it also helps foster a more vibrant, pedestrian-friendly urban center.”

“I BELIEVE THAT WITH INCREASED DENSITIES ALONG THE VARIOUS CORRIDORS, WE WILL INCENTIVIZE THE NEEDED DEVELOPMENT AND RIDERSHIP FOR OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM, THUS CUTTING DOWN ON TRAFFIC IMPACTS THAT PLAGUE OUR RESIDENTS.”

Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

TODs JUST MAKE SENSE!

Have you noticed how much residential and retail development is concentrated around major transit hubs in Miami-Dade County? Motion at Dadeland, Grove Central and Link at Douglas are just a few examples of projects with a housing component that have sprung up next to Metrorail stations.

These Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) are no accident. They are the result of public-private partnerships between Miami-Dade County and developers to enhance connectivity for area residents and businesses and encourage greater use of public transportation.

By increasing residential densities and office and retail uses and amenities around major transit hubs, and integrating them into a walkable neighborhood, TODs provide easy access to jobs for people of all ages and incomes, including residents who don't own a vehicle.

TODs aim to achieve the following:

- Reduce the number of household drivers
- Lower congestion, air pollution and greenhouse emissions
- Create walkable communities that accommodate more healthy lifestyles
- Increase transit ridership and fare revenue
- Expand mobility choices that reduce dependence on the automobile
- Reduce transportation costs



TRANSIT FRIENDLY: Motion at Dadeland project.



CALLING 311: Commissioner Higgins reports illegal dumping.

TAKE ACTION ON NEIGHBORHOOD FIXES WITH 311 SERVICES

If you were to find a mess in your neighborhood, what's the first thing you would do? Venting to a neighbor might make you feel better in the moment, but it may not get you any closer to a solution. You could try searching the internet, but good luck sifting through all those results.

What about taking care of everyday neighborhood things like reporting a mosquito nuisance, a broken sidewalk or an overgrown lot? What would you do? Do what Commissioner Eileen Higgins does. Call 311 or use the 311Direct app!

You have the power to report neighborhood problems and code violations to the 311 Contact Center by calling 311 or using the 311Direct web application. You can conveniently attach a photo of the problem you've spotted, submit relevant details and choose to either remain anonymous or provide your contact information for follow-up.

Here are a few easy ways you can help to identify and correct a problem in your community.

Home upgrades are great, but what do you do with the old stuff?

If you need to remove furniture, carpet or tree cuttings, schedule a bulky waste pickup online or on your phone, enter your property's address, then answer a few questions about the size of your trash pile and its location on your property.

Who left that messy pile?

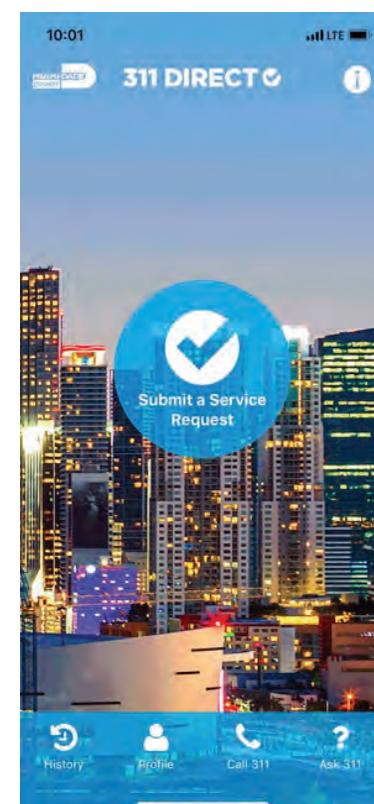
Unfortunately, illegal dumping happens, and it blemishes our beautiful communities. If you spot items that have been abandoned on a right-of-way or swale, you can report it with 311Direct. A code enforcement officer will perform an inspection and follow up with appropriate action.

The garbage wasn't picked up on your scheduled pickup date. Now what?

Was your garbage missed? No worries. You can report a missed garbage (or recycling) pickup with 311Direct. Once reported, go ahead and leave your Miami-Dade County cart at the curb. To ensure trucks can pick up your cart, make sure it's not obstructed by cars or other objects within five feet of it, that it's curbside by 7 a.m., and that it's not overloaded or has items sitting on top of it.

And there's much more

From spotting stray dogs to reporting potholes and overgrowth in need of some attention, use 311Direct to tackle the problem. Download 311Direct for free to your mobile device at the Apple/iTunes App store and Google Play store, or visit the 311Direct website.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING

Miami-Dade County has had a major role in the development of affordable housing throughout the County, which includes all County commission districts.

The following is a list of affordable housing projects, future projects and planned initiatives.

Within the last four years the following public housing and affordable housing projects have been completed:

Public Housing:

- Dante Fascell (151 public housing units)
- Stirrup Plaza Phase 1 (100 public housing units)
- South Miami Plaza (97 public housing units)
- Joe Moretti Phase 1 (116 public housing units)
- Green Turnkey (22 public housing units)
- Jack Orr Plaza (200 public housing units)
- Collins Park (124 public housing units)
- Stirrup Plaza Phase 2 (7 public housing units and 61 affordable units)
- Smathers Plaza (82 public housing units and 51 affordable units)
- Joe Moretti Phase 2 (96 public housing units)
- Martin Fine Villas (50 public housing units and 54 affordable units)



Modello Apartments

- Modello Apartments (20 public housing units and 80 affordable units)
- Three Round Towers: Tower A (128 public housing units)
- Marcia Gardens (134 affordable senior units)
- Gran Via (104 affordable senior units)
- Liberty Square Phase 1 (73 public housing units and 131 affordable units)
- Smathers Plaza Phase 1 (100 public housing units and 82 affordable units)
- Senator Villas (23 affordable units)

Affordable Housing

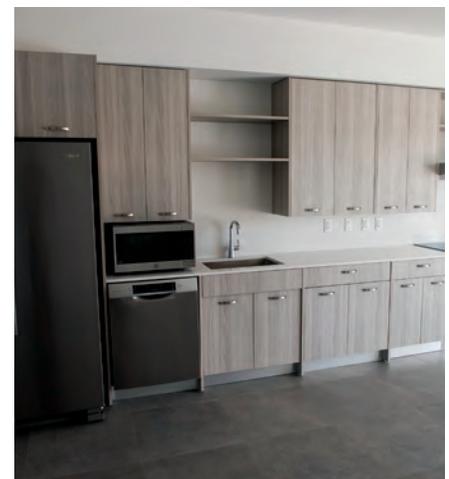
- Brickell View Terrace (125 rental new construction units)



Senator Villas



Three Round Towers



Senator Villas

- Coquina Place (96 rental new construction units)
- La Joya Apartments (150 rental new construction)
- Wagner Creek Apartment (73 rental new construction units)
- Caribbean Village Apartments (123 rental new construction units)
- Centerra Apartments (104 rental new construction units)
- Coral Bay Cove Apartments (224 rental new construction units)
- Garden Walk Apartments (228 rental rehab)
- Harding Village (92 rental homeless rehab units)
- La Joya Estates (106 rental new construction)
- Little Haiti Small Developments (23 rental rehab units)
- Orchid Estates (74 rental new construction units)
- Plat Form 3750 (189 rental new construction)
- Samari Lakes East Condominium (16 homeownership rehab units)
- Sunset Pointe Apartments (136 rental new construction units)
- The Jasmine (96 rental new construction units)



Three Round Towers Public Housing

- Tuscany Cove I (160 rental new units)
- Block 45 (600 units)
- Okeechobee (286 units)
- Frankie Shannon Rolle (189 units)
- Quail Roost (500 units)
- Coalition Life (34 rental rehab units)

Community Development projects currently under construction include:

- Regatta Place (108 rental new construction units)
- Superior Manor Apartments (139 rental new construction units)
- WOPR #4 Infill Houses Countywide (16 homeownership new construction units)
- WOPR #4 Infill Houses Liberty City (6 homeownership new construction units)
- WOPR #4 Infill Houses West Little River (5 homeownership new construction units)

Pre-construction projects: Affordable Housing on Public Housing Sites

- Lincoln Gardens, with 216 total units (82 public housing and 134 affordable housing units)
- Liberty Square Phase 2, with 204 total units (73 public housing units and 131 affordable housing units)
- Medvin Apartments (10 affordable housing units)

Projects currently in pre-construction phase: Affordable Housing

- Barcelona Condominium (18 homeownership rehab)
- Brisas del Rio Apartments (167 rental new construction units)
- Lake Point Plaza Apartments (76 rental rehab units)
- Le Jeune Gardens (18 rental new construction)
- Metro Grande Apartments (286 rental new construction units)
- Northside Transit Village II (180 rental new construction units)
- Quail Roost (500 plus rental new construction units)
- Senator Villas Park/Bird Road Park & Ride Elderly Housing Development (23 public housing new construction units)
- Silver Creek (90 rental new construction units)
- The Gallery at River Parc (132 rental new construction units)
- The Gallery at Smathers Plaza (126 rental new construction units)
- The Gallery on the River (112 rental new construction units)
- Verbena (110 rental new construction units)
- Water's Edge (128 rental new construction units)



Martin Fine Villas



MORE HOUSING: Elected officials welcome a number of new housing projects.

- Woodland Grove (190 rental new construction units)
- Link at Douglas Station Redevelopment (12.5 percent of its 970 residential units for workforce housing, and improvements to the Metrorail station)

Liberty City

- Northside Transit Village IV (120 rental new construction units)
- Palm Villas Apartments (91 rental rehab units)
- Paradise Lakes Apartments (76 rental new construction units)
- Redland Crossing (134 rental new construction units)
- Residences at Dr. King Boulevard (120 rental new construction)
- Culmer Place and Culmer Gardens and the redevelopment of Rainbow Village
- Gwen Cherry 23C. (to include public housing, affordable & workforce housing and homeownership units)



EYESORE: Illegal dumping on an empty lot in Miami-Dade.

DIRTY CRIMES CARRY FINES!

Illegal dumping is a serious crime that can harm the environment and negatively impact neighborhood aesthetics. Dumping things like tires, debris, old furniture and hazardous materials not only harms the environment and lowers property values, but results in millions of dollars spent on enforcement and cleanup costs. In Miami-Dade County, it's also against the law to illegally dump trash and waste on the right-of-way or on another person's property, or to dump trash alongside bulky waste for curbside pick-up. Offenders are subject to fines of up to \$1,000, vehicle seizure and arrest. Those found guilty also may be sentenced to perform up to 300 hours of community service cleaning up illegal dumping sites.



DIAZ

Miami-Dade County is boosting enforcement to ensure those consequences are felt. The County Commission in July approved a resolution sponsored by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz to dedicate more police resources to the problem and to create a specialized unit for illegal dumping and environmental crimes. The resolution also calls for utilizing surveillance cameras and other existing tools to more quickly address illegal dumping and apprehend offenders, and implementing a training program for police officers regarding illegal dumping laws.

"Illegal dumping is a serious threat to public health, the environment and neighborhood property values," said Commissioner Diaz, who in 2017 sponsored legislation creating the Illegal Dumping Task Force.

THE MIAMI-DADE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS:

- Never confront someone who is dumping. Instead, try to get the vehicle license number or at least a description of the vehicle used to commit the crime.
- If you witness an illegal dumping incident in progress, call 911.
- If an instance of illegal dumping has already happened, call 311.
- If you have questions about your warning or citation, call the Enforcement Division at 305-514-6700.

Illegal dumping can also be reported using the Miami-Dade Solid Waste mobile application for Apple users. It's available for download free of charge in the iTunes store.



CLEANUP: Commissioners help out at various cleanup sites.



TALKING SAFETY: Chairwoman Edmonson speaks at the press conference to launch the Group Violence Intervention Initiative.

“BOOTS ON THE GROUND” FOR SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

Since becoming Chairwoman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commission this January, one of Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson’s top priorities has been the issue of gun violence in our community.

This spring, she was joined by Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, her colleague Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and community partners at a press conference to formally launch the Group Violence Intervention initiative to clamp down on senseless gun violence.

The \$2 million initiative, which resulted from legislation sponsored by Chairwoman Edmonson, calls for the participation of a number of community organizations including the Circle of Brotherhood, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Community Youth Against Violence and the Urban Partnership.

The program involves a “boots on the ground” approach that targets high-crime areas with positive male role models and peacemakers, peace hubs, and warnings about the consequences of further violence, as well as a genuine offer of help and employment assistance for those who want it.

One aspect of the program – enforcing an existing teen curfew – has already begun, with billboards announcing the curfew having gone up in several high-crime areas in Miami-Dade County. The curfew will apply to any unsupervised youth under 18 who is out on the street after 11 p.m. weeknights or after midnight on weekends.

Chairwoman Edmonson said the program came about as a result of lengthy discussions with community groups and others to develop a comprehensive approach to seriously address the problem of gun violence in Miami-Dade County.

“We realized that there was an immediate need for a different way to address this issue, and we did just that,” Chairwoman Edmonson said. “But this fight will take more than a renewed legislative focus and new policies and programs. It will take the unflinching commitment of each and every one of us, especially those living on the front lines in the neighborhoods most affected, to do what it takes to change the culture so that we can finally end this plague of violence, because the loss of one life to senseless gun violence is one life too many.”

“IT WILL TAKE THE UNFLINCHING COMMITMENT OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US, ESPECIALLY THOSE LIVING ON THE FRONT LINES IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS MOST AFFECTED, TO DO WHAT IT TAKES TO CHANGE THE CULTURE SO THAT WE CAN FINALLY END THIS PLAGUE OF VIOLENCE, BECAUSE THE LOSS OF ONE LIFE TO SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE IS ONE LIFE TOO MANY.”

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman
Audrey M. Edmonson

MD Juvenile Services offer resources to any child 17 and under who may be at risk.

Do you know a child experiencing behavior or family difficulties?

Having substance abuse or mental health issues that are not being addressed?

The Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services is there to help. They provide comprehensive services to at-risk juveniles, and their families designed to address the root causes of juvenile crime and prevent further delinquent behavior.

Information: 305-755-6200



COMMISSIONER-SPONSORED LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS-2019



BARBARA J. JORDAN, DISTRICT 1

- Ordinance permitting mobile banking operations
- Resolution to develop a program for conducting voter registration drives for felons re-enfranchised under Amendment 4
- Resolution to determine the feasibility of implementing cameras and other technology to enhance the effectiveness of the Shot Spotter system
- Resolution directing the County mayor to study and take all necessary steps to implement an urban lighting program to allow buildings to be illuminated with interactive digital art displays
- Resolution establishing County policy related to the use of herbicides, prohibiting the use of products containing glyphosate by the County or County contractors

District Office: 305-474-3011



JEAN MONESTIME, DISTRICT 2

- Ordinance revising the density and height standards for the North Central Urban Area Zoning District, promoting affordability in the vicinity of the Northside Metrorail Station and NW 7th Avenue urban corridor.
- Ordinance revising architectural style and color regulations, deleting requirement that architectural style and color questions be referred to zoning boards for recommendation, creating standards for exterior paint colors for self-service mini-warehouse storage facilities, and providing certain period of time for facilities not in conformance to be brought into compliance.
- Ordinance requiring minimum spacing between self-service mini-warehouse storage facilities along commercial corridors in order to reduce the proliferation of passive mini-warehouse facilities that crowd out more active commercial and retail uses.
- Resolution authorizing the Public Health Trust to seek approval for a re-plat of several parcels of land on the north side of Jackson North Medical Center Campus in order to increase its footprint and create a parking lot.
- Resolution approving the purchase of 3,500 square feet of vacant commercial land at the southeast corner of Northwest 83rd Street and 30th Avenue for construction of a pump station to expand sanitary sewer infrastructure within the Green Technology Corridor, which is anticipated to facilitate redevelopment and economic growth.

District Office: 305-694-2779



AUDREY M. EDMONSON, DISTRICT 3

- Ordinance streamlining criteria pertaining to subdivision of lots, allowing legally nonconforming lots to be combined to streamline regulatory processes to facilitate economic development.
- Ordinance applying the workforce housing nonconforming residential lot provisions, administrative site plan review process, intensity standards, administrative adjustment process, and design criteria and development parameters to the infill housing initiative program and other County housing programs.
- Resolution opposing legislation that would restrict the use of charter county transportation system surtax proceeds, modify the membership of the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization and abolish the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority.
- Resolution urging Congress to enact the proposed "Equality Act" to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- Resolution in support of the Museum of Science's restoration of the Raptor Rehabilitation Center at Greynolds Park.

District Office: 305-636-2331



SALLY A. HEYMAN, DISTRICT 4

- Resolution benefitting the Film, TV & Entertainment industry by modifying minimum application requirements and procedures to enable small film productions to qualify for incentives under the Miami-Dade County Television, Film and Entertainment Production Incentive Program
- Resolution to begin the process of establishing a "Quiet Zone" along the Florida East Coast Railway between NE 79th and 215th Streets, where Brightline trains would refrain from blowing their horns
- Ordinance requiring municipalities to adopt ordinances to protect municipal employees who act as Whistleblowers
- Resolution urging the Florida legislature to appropriate \$300,000 to the County to assist in funding a year-long HIV/AIDS awareness campaign

District Office: 305-787-5999



EILEEN HIGGINS, DISTRICT 5

- Resolution to make renewing and replacing a lost or damaged Golden Passport and Patriot Passport easier. The County will be reducing replacement costs. The County is updating its website so patrons will be able to replace their cards online without having to be inconvenienced by a trip to Government Center.
- Ordinance creating a Miami-Dade County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Advisory Board to represent the concerns of this important community.
- Resolution to conduct a visioning study to determine the optimum mix of development within the Downtown Government Center Subzone to create a modern urban center that encourages transit usage and is green, walkable, and resilient.
- Resolution asking FDOT to address and immediately rectify any hazardous conditions existing during the delayed construction work along Flagler Street in Little Havana and expedite and finalize construction on Flagler Street.
- Resolution that used an underutilized site in Brickell to solve two community needs: lack of schools in the growing area of Brickell and Downtown and a shortage of affordable housing. A new school and several affordable housing units will be built together on a site conveniently situated near the Brickell Metrorail station.

District Office: 305-375-5924



REBECA SOSA, DISTRICT 6

- Resolution urging Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to reform the current student loan system to help alleviate the outstanding student loan debt crisis, better educate and inform students and families on the ramifications of borrowing for college, and preserve the affordability of higher education for all Americans
- Resolution approving nonexclusive license agreement with FPL for the installation, operation, and maintenance of solar electrical power equipment on Glide Angle Lake at Miami International Airport
- Resolution supporting legislation requiring a Sea Level Impact Projection Study before state-financed constructors may build certain structures in coastal areas
- Resolution supporting Executive Order 19-12 issued by Gov. Ron Desantis entitled "Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment"
- Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to provide a pay supplement for employees of the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida to help offset the higher cost of living in Miami-Dade County

District Office: 305-267-6377



XAVIER L. SUAREZ, DISTRICT 7

- Resolution approving allocations from the FY 2018-19 District 7 CBO discretionary reserve and the FY 2018-19 District 7 office budget, for a total of \$125,000, for the Historic Train Replacement, Repair, & Restoration Project at Virginia Key Beach Park
- Resolution to submit an application to U.S. Housing and Urban Development to permit construction of a third phase of the Smathers Plaza Redevelopment Project to be known as the Gallery at Smathers
- Resolution ratifying execution and approving terms of an interlocal agreement with the city of Coral Gables for a consolidated and unified permitting process for improvements of the county's Underline project to be constructed in conjunction with the Gables Station Development
- Ordinance revising definitions and standards related to single family, duplex, and multiple family dwellings, hotels, motels, and rooming houses.

District Office: 305-694-3550



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA, DISTRICT 8

- Resolution to assess the feasibility of developing floating solar power plants on water bodies in Miami-Dade County.
- Resolution supporting the start of hemp production in Miami-Dade, and directing the Mayor to host informational sessions on the process for growers to begin hemp cultivation. Hemp has many industrial applications including use in food, clothing, and cosmetics.
- Ordinance prohibiting the predatory practice of pet leasing in Miami-Dade County. Pet leasing is the deceptive practice of leasing a pet on a contract basis, which often results in the pet being repossessed.
- Ordinance streamlining the permitting process for the installation of solar panels for residences and businesses, positioning Miami-Dade as a solar leader in the Sunshine State.
- Ordinance paving the way for more electric vehicle charging stations, as an integral part of a strategy to reduce pollution and protect our environment. The legislation requires future commercial developments, apartment building and condos to have to infrastructure in place to allow for the easy installation of electric vehicle chargers.

District Office: 305-378-6677



DENNIS C. MOSS, DISTRICT 9

- Resolution to hold a Housing Summit on Oct. 7, 2019 to develop an action plan for a minimum of 10,000 affordable and workforce housing units
- Resolution directing the Mayor's administration to include information regarding any possible social and economic impacts from proposed bus route changes
- Resolution urging Congress to reconvene the Job Corps program in Homestead and reopen the Homestead Job Corps Center after the current use of the property ceases
- Resolution to examine and identify potential solutions to repeat gun violence in Miami-Dade County and to provide a report with recommendations as to any proposed changes to state or local laws, policies, procedures, or practices that may help address the issue
- Resolution urging the Florida Legislature and U.S. Congress to provide funding for the Miami Military Museum Education Center

District Office: 305-245-4420



SEN. JAVIER D. SOUTO, DISTRICT 10

- Resolution directing the mayor's administration to recommend policies to control the use of aggressive campaign tactics at early voting locations
- Ordinance requiring a certificate of use and establishing zoning regulations for long term residential rentals in the unincorporated area
- Resolution approving a new Miami-Dade transit bus route, the Westchester circulator "El Rapido" route 82
- Resolution directing the county mayor or designee to purchase and install video surveillance cameras for district 10 county parks up \$200,000.00 and to allocate funding for the ongoing maintenance in the FY 2019-2020 budget

District Office: 305-222-2116



JOE A. MARTINEZ, DISTRICT 11

- Resolution directing the County Mayor to work with the United States Department of Homeland Security and Border Protection to put into effect a one year pilot program of enhanced customs and immigration services at Miami Executive Airport. Those services are most beneficial to the small businesses who operate at Miami Executive Airport who will be able to take advantage of the extended hours and offer their services to the traveling public. This pilot program began on June 6, 2019.

- Resolution to study the feasibility of constructing a new air traffic control tower at Miami Executive Airport.
- Resolution to assess the condition of county-owned property which is vacant or not in use, perform any necessary maintenance on properties in disrepair due to delayed maintenance, and submit a report to the Board of County Commissioners setting a proposed future course of action
- Resolution changing the deadline to seek approval for award of successor contracts or extensions of existing contract from 30 days to 60 days.
- Resolution for the publication of a solicitation for a multi-sports complex at West Kendall District Park. This will be a one of kind sports complex that will include football and soccer fields, a training facility, playgrounds, lake for canoes/kayaks, trails, pavilions and shelters, etc.

District Office: 305-552-1155



JOSÉ "PEPE" DÍAZ, DISTRICT 12

- Ordinance authorizing restaurant and bartender workers at Miami International Airport to solicit tips of up to 18 percent
- Resolution urging Congress to enact legislation that would provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis
- Resolution urging Congress and the Florida Legislature to support President Trump's executive order to create a National Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End Suicide
- Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to provide funding for the Miami-Dade Veterans Treatment Court
- Resolution supporting the efforts of U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio in urging U.S. Attorney General William Barr to create a special task force to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by Venezuela's Maduro regime

District Office: 305-599-1200



ESTEBAN L. BOVO, JR., DISTRICT 13

- Resolution urging Congress to enact legislation that would authorize the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through the year 2090
- Resolution urging the Florida Public Service Commission to approve FPL's "Solartgether" proposal that would allow customers to directly support the expansion of solar energy and receive credit on future bills for the savings generated
- Resolution urging Congress to enact legislation that would extend temporary protected status for Nicaraguan nationals
- Resolution supporting the bus system redesign project between Miami-Dade County and Transit Alliance Miami, requesting Transit Alliance to analyze bus routes and services in unincorporated Miami-Dade and service coordination within municipalities and assess transit service collaboration with ride hailing and on-demand transportation services
- Resolution creating the Miami-Dade County 2020 Census Task Force

District Office: 305-820-8424



GOING GREEN: Staff plants a tree.

GIVE YOUR HOME THE GIFT OF A FREE SHADE TREE!

So you just moved in to your first single-family home. It's got three bedrooms, a garage, and a beautiful back yard. But this is South Florida, and keeping it cool in the summer and throughout the year is an expensive proposition, even with the most efficient air conditioner system. What to do?



Commissioner Heyman at Adopt-a-Tree event.

Plant some trees, courtesy of Miami-Dade County!

Beautiful shade trees, which can be obtained from Miami-Dade County's Adopt-a-Tree program, not only provide shade and keep temperatures down in the summer, but they also help beautify your home and neighborhood, raise property values, help reduce global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide, and provide habitat for wildlife like birds and squirrels, in addition to reducing storm water runoff, filtering groundwater and protecting against land erosion.

"Trees planted in combination with appropriate shrubs and groundcover create a sustainable ecosystem for native species to thrive," said Miami-Dade County Commission Vice Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa, a champion of sustainability and combating climate change and sea level rise.

"TREES PLANTED IN COMBINATION WITH APPROPRIATE SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVER CREATE A SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM FOR NATIVE SPECIES TO THRIVE."

Miami-Dade County Commission Vice Chairwoman
Rebeca Sosa



Commissioner Sosa with residents.

According to the American Forestry Association, a single tree provides \$73 worth of air conditioning savings, \$75 worth of erosion control, \$75 worth of wildlife shelter and \$50 worth of air pollution reduction each year. With atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) a leading cause of global warming, a typical healthy tree can remove up to 48 pounds of CO₂ from the air every year. Trees planted in groups also provide more atmospheric cooling and protection against hurricane winds than the same number of evenly spaced, isolated trees.

When picking a tree, make sure it's the right kind. Avoid invasive species and go with a native tree, which is crucial to maintaining a healthy tree canopy in South Florida.

The County's Adopt-a-Tree program provides Miami-Dade single-family and duplex homeowners with two free trees every year. More than 200,000 trees have been adopted since the program's inception in 2001.

"I invite the community to come out and take advantage of this great program. The trees help our environment and reduce energy bills by shading your home, patio and driveways, as well as improve a home's appearance," said Commissioner Joe A. Martinez.

If you are a Miami-Dade County resident, call 311 for an Adopt-a-Tree event near you.

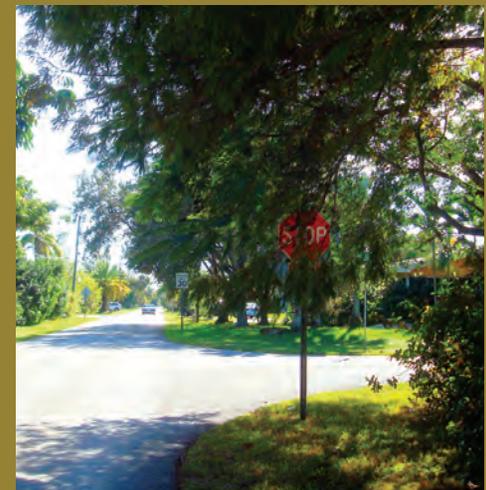


Commissioner Monestime planting a palm.

REQUESTING TREE TRIMMING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Trees are a tremendous asset to your home and neighborhood, but they must be maintained properly and trimmed regularly to prevent a hazard, especially during hurricane season. The County is here to help.

Broken or hanging tree branches in public areas, as well as trees blocking the illumination of a street light, a traffic sign, road or sidewalk can be reported to Miami-Dade County at 311. Once informed, staff will conduct an initial inspection within seven days or sooner if it is an emergency. Non-emergency reports may take up to 30 business days to complete.



What you need to know:

- If your neighbor's tree is in your property, you are able to legally trim the tree parts that are entering your property.
- A property owner may elect to trim a tree located on public property if it's not a hazard.
- If a tree is touching electrical and utility wires, call Florida Power & Light at 800-342-5375 to have them safely cut the branches.
- Neighbors or landscape companies cutting trees incorrectly or without a permit, or leaving behind tree debris, can also be reported.
- Property owners are responsible for the trees planted in the right-of-way or swale areas by your property. If you have a homeowners association, it is their responsibility.

Residents can also report illegal tree removal or destruction 305-372-6955



FOR THE LOVE OF PETS

For many Miami-Dade residents, no home can be complete without a pet. Whether single or married with children, anyone who has ever owned a pet knows they have the capacity for the kind of unconditional round-the-clock love that is rarely encountered among human beings, even among immediate family members.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, owning a pet or simply petting a dog, cat, rabbit or even horse can lower blood pressure, decrease feelings of loneliness, increase opportunities for socialization and lower combat stress in veterans suffering from PTSD.

But for all the benefits they bring to humans, animals unfortunately don't always get the love and appreciation they deserve.

Here in Miami-Dade County, pet surrender is a real problem. The County's Pet Adoption and Protection Center recently reported that it took in more than 3,000 pets last year specifically due to owners "surrendering" them to the shelter.

"It's heartbreaking how many pets are surrendered or abandoned every year," Commissioner Sally A. Heyman said. "It comes down to responsibility. Before buying or adopting a pet, people need to ask themselves if they are really prepared to keep a pet for life, because pet ownership should be a lifelong commitment."



PUPPY LOVE: County Commissioners with furry friends.



The County Commission recently affirmed that principle by approving a resolution banning pet leasing, the practice of leasing pets, usually dogs, to a customer on a contract basis. Victims may believe they are taking out loans to buy a pet, but they are only leasing it. This can lead to a customer paying much more than originally expected or losing the pet to repossession by the lender if payments are missed.

"Pet leasing is a heartbreaking scam that takes advantage of our emotional attachment to our pets. The victims of pet leases actually have no idea they've signed a lease instead of a loan," said the measure's sponsor, Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, who earlier this year sponsored another pet-friendly resolution making it a federal felony to engage in the torture of animals, known as "animal crushing."

The Commission's love affair with animals goes back a long way. In 2012, the Commission adopted the goal of making the County's shelter a "no kill" shelter and ensure that every animal is matched with a loving owner. That goal was established by a resolution sponsored by Commissioner José "Pepe" Díaz, who recently sponsored another resolution to approve a four-year agreement with the University of Florida to extend the County's existing partnership with UF's College of Veterinary Medicine for clinical and supervisory veterinary services at the County's Pet Adoption and Protection Center in Doral.

"This agreement is helping save animals while providing valuable hands-on training for local aspiring veterinarians," Commissioner Diaz said.

These and other actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners support the mission of the Miami-Dade County Animal Services Department to save and protect animals from cruelty, reunite lost pets with their owners and protect people and pets from health-related issues. More importantly, they reflect our community's appreciation for the furry friends who bring us so much joy and love.

For additional information:

Pet Adoption and Protection Center • 3599 NW 79 Avenue, Doral, FL 33122 311 | pets@miamidade.gov



Did You Know:

How many dogs can you own in Miami Dade County?

Four dogs are allowed to live on residential property that is less than one acre; six dogs on 1 to 2 acres; and eight dogs on 2 acres or more. Keeping more than those numbers of dogs on residential property requires a kennel license.

Schedule Spay or Neuter Surgery

Low-cost spay or neuter services are offered to Miami-Dade County residents in our Doral or Homestead locations for cats and dogs.

Spaying or neutering your dog or cat will help reduce the number of homeless and unwanted pets. It will also help reduce the chances of your pet becoming sick later in life.

You can schedule your appointment up to 30 days in advance by calling 311.



HOW TO BE HEARD AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

The involvement of citizens in the political process is an essential part of democracy. Citizen participation gives private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. The idea is that citizens should have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

How to participate and be heard?

Public Hearings

Any citizen is entitled to speak on any matter appearing on the County Commission's official agenda under the "Reasonable Opportunity to Be Heard" section. Register with the Office of Agenda Coordination on the date of the public hearing, at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the discussion of the agenda item.

As part of the registration, you will be asked to complete the speaker's card. When it's your turn to speak, step up to the podium and state your name and address clearly. On meeting days, the Office of Agenda Coordination's staff will be located at a registration table in the lobby of the Commission Chamber located at the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW 1st Street, 2nd Floor.

"Citizen participation in Miami-Dade County involves engaging the public and encouraging everyone to participate in county commission meetings, budget hearings, town hall meetings and charrettes," Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson said.

Citizens' Presentations

A citizen or group may be placed on an official agenda at the request of a County Commissioner. If you or your group wish to bring an issue before the Commission, you may request to be placed on an agenda for a Citizen's Presentation by contacting your County Commissioner. Include the subject of the presentation, the name of the presenter, a return address and a contact telephone number.

"CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INVOLVES ENGAGING THE PUBLIC AND ENCOURAGING EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS, BUDGET HEARINGS, TOWN HALL MEETINGS AND CHARRETES."

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairwoman
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