

# JEAN MONESTIME

## DISTRICT NEWS

JUNE 2015

### Message from the Chairman

Greetings! I am honored to serve as your representative. Please know that I am here to work on your behalf and feel free to contact my office with questions or concerns you may have. Together, we can build a better community.

### Mensaje del Presidente de la Junta de Comisionados

Saludos, me siento honrado de servir como su representante. Quiero que sepa que estoy aquí para trabajar en su nombre. Por favor, no dude en llamar a mi oficina si tiene preguntas o inquietudes. Juntos podemos construir una comunidad mejor.

### Mesaj Prezidan Komisyon an

Bonjou! Se yon onè pou'm sèvi kòm reprezantan w. Mwen vle w konnen se pou ou m'ap travay, kidonk pa ezite kontakte biwo mwen pou nenpòt kesyon ouwa sousi ou ta genyen. Ansanm, nou va bati yon pi bon kominote.



#### Downtown Office

Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 220  
Miami, Florida 33128  
T. 305-375-4833 • F. 305-375-4843

#### District Office

900 N.E. 125th Street, Suite 200  
North Miami, Florida 33161  
T. 305-694-2779 • F. 305-694-2781

[district2@miamidade.gov](mailto:district2@miamidade.gov)

[facebook.com/MonestimeD2](https://www.facebook.com/MonestimeD2)

[@JeanMonestime](https://twitter.com/JeanMonestime)

## Lake Carmen residents save their urban oasis

A developer's plan to fill a North Miami lake to make way for a housing complex has been stopped in its tracks thanks to a group of local homeowners who took the initiative to bring the issue to the attention of Chairman Jean Monestime.

In October 2014, RRRZ Developer purchased the lake, located in the Little River neighborhood, and began filling it with the goal of building 45 single-family homes. Little River homeowners, alarmed at the prospect of losing their lakefront views and seeing their property values decline, reached out to Chairman Monestime for help.

Chairman Monestime immediately involved the County's Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) which conducted thorough investigations of the alleged onsite activities. As a result, the property owner was issued various citations and Notices of Violation. Visual inspections along with soil and water assessment conducted by RER indicated that the material used to fill portions of the lake and upland areas of the site had been impacted with solid waste and elevated levels of arsenic and petroleum based compounds. The property owner was ordered to remove all impacted soils from the



filled-in portions of the lake and to address the uplands areas impacted by solid waste or contaminated soil. Water quality analysis of the lake did not indicate any impacts from contaminants. However, a Florida Department of Health representative, during a Homeowners Association meeting on March 31, 2015, recommended a no-fish and no-swim advisory due to the lake's classification as non-recreational.

Site cleanup activities have since been initiated at the property and the County continues to monitor soil and groundwater quality to determine if further cleanup is needed. RER officials have been meeting regularly and will continue to meet with the Little River Homeowners Association to keep residents informed.

## Transit building renamed

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jean Monestime helped rededicate the Miami-Dade Transit building located at 3401 NW 31st Street as the Katrena Williams Materials Management Building on Thursday, March 26.

Sadly, on May 21, 2014, Katrena Williams, 42, and her two children, Makayla Williams, 12, and Vincent Williams Jr., 3, died of smoke inhalation after a fire broke out in their northwest Miami-Dade home while they were sleeping. Williams, a Miami-Dade Transit employee for 17 years who was known for her kind and caring demeanor toward her colleagues, worked as a bus stock clerk at the building that will bear her name. She is survived by her husband Vincent Williams Sr., who works for Miami-Dade Transit as a rail structural repair worker.



"Katrena Williams made an impact on everyone who worked with her. As we mourn her tragic death and that of her two children, we also honor her memory," said Chairman Jean Monestime, who sponsored the resolution to rename the transit facility.

## MPO Governing Board gets new committee structure

The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) plays a crucial role in planning the County's transportation system and ensuring receipt of federal funds for transit and highway improvements. To help increase the MPO's efficiency and facilitate its important mission, Chairman Jean Monestime recently restructured the MPO Governing Board into two committees.

The two committees — the Transit Solutions Committee (TSC) and the Fiscal Priorities Committee (FPC) — will each be comprised of seven MPO Governing Board Members, allowing members to focus their efforts on specific areas in order to expedite solutions.

**The Transit Solutions Committee (TSC)** — made up of Dennis C. Moss as chair, Francis Suarez as vice-chair, Bruno A. Barreiro, Barbara Jordan, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Maurice Ferre and Smith Joseph — will be responsible for identifying im-

mediate opportunities to increase the integration and utilization of existing mass transit services. The committee will be asked to forward recommendations to improve the connectivity of the current mass transit providers (municipal circulators, jitney services, Miami-Dade Transit and Tri-Rail). The TSC also will be responsible for identifying gaps in service and offering solutions to expand transit access for residents and employers throughout

*"I believe this new committee structure will facilitate decision-making to move forward the transportation agenda for Miami-Dade County."*

**—Chairman Jean Monestime**



our community. To the extent solutions require additional dollars for capital investments for new intermodal facilities, bus rapid transit, or light rail, the TSC will identify and recommend to the MPO potential funding sources.

**The Fiscal Priorities Committee (FPC)** — made up of Daniella Levine Cava as chair, Oliver G. Gilbert III as vice-chair, Juan C. Zapata, Audrey Edmonson, Carlos Hernandez, Phillip Levine and Jeff Porter — will concentrate on the programming of transportation dollars to better reflect the immediate priorities of the community. It will thoroughly evaluate the staff recommendations embedded in the planning documents routinely submitted to the MPO for approval and will be responsible for realigning the allocation of dollars within each of these planning documents to respond to the claims our citizens are placing on elected officials throughout Miami-Dade County. Until additional funding sources are available, the FPC will be expected to make the difficult recommendations to advance and defer projects in order to respond to the needs of our current demographic-employment commuting trends.

"There is a renewed sense of urgency to improve transit mobility options and increase the capacity of our public transportation infrastructure, and I believe this new committee structure will facilitate decision-making to move forward the transportation agenda for Miami-Dade County," Chairman Monestime said.



*A motorist heads south on the flyover at the Golden Glades Interchange on I-95, a vital part of Miami-Dade County's transportation infrastructure that has been the subject of multiple planning studies by the Miami-Dade MPO.*



## Chairman Monestime kicks off Black History Month

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jean Monestime kicked off the County's month-long celebration of Black History Month on Feb. 5 at a musical and cultural extravaganza in the Stephen P. Clark Center in downtown Miami.

The event featured traditional African dress, a rousing performance by "The Singing Angels," and a libation ceremony by Chief Joseph Obadeyi Loki Abejoyi of Igbori of Nigeria.

Chairman Monestime invited residents to celebrate the contributions of African-Americans not only during

Black History Month but throughout the year, and to emulate history's great black leaders by advocating for justice throughout their lives.

"Let's follow in their footsteps so we can help create a better life for the people we serve so tomorrow your children and grandchildren will celebrate you," Chairman Monestime said.

The County's Black History Month celebrations are sponsored by the Office of Chairman Monestime, the Black Affairs Advisory Board and the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.



*Chairman Monestime, joined by members of the Black Affairs Advisory Board, cuts the ribbon at the Kinad Inc. African American exhibition in the Stephen P. Clark Center to kick off the County's Black History Month celebrations.*

## Chairman Monestime honors famed singer Betty Wright

In honor of Black History Month, Miami-based soul and R & B singer and songwriter Betty Wright received a proclamation from Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jean Monestime at the Feb. 18 Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Betty Wright won fame in the 1970s with hits such as "Clean Up Woman" and "Tonight Is the Night". A pioneering singer-songwriter and entrepre-



*Famed singer Betty Wright receives proclamation.*

neur, she remains one of the few black female musicians to produce a gold record on her own vanity label. She was signed to her first label in 1966 at the age of 12 and released the singles "Thank You Baby" and "Paralyzed", which won Mrs. Wright local fame in Miami.

Mrs. Wright has worked with many artists including Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Gloria Estefan and Beyoncé.

## Chairman Monestime attends Walmart grand opening

The grand opening of the new and long-anticipated Northside Miami Walmart became a reality on Jan. 21, and Chairman Monestime was there to celebrate this milestone. The project that was 11 years in the making will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of the neighborhood. Conveniently located at 3200 NW. 79th St., the new store, which will create more than 300 new jobs, is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and will provide Northside residents with low prices on a broad assortment of groceries



*Chairman Monestime speaks at the grand opening of the new Northside Miami Walmart.*

and merchandise, along with a full service pharmacy.

"Today, we are witnessing the beginning of the transformation of the 79th Street Corridor," Chairman Monestime said at the ceremony. "This new Walmart will create hundreds of new jobs while giving a major boost to the revitalization of this area."

The grand opening celebration featured \$6,000 in grants presentations from Walmart to local community groups, including Miami Central Senior High, Miami Dade College, and Miami Northside Optimist.

# Federal and State

## Washington Summary

In April, Chairman Jean Monestime traveled to Washington to meet with the county's Congressional delegation and administration officials to discuss several pressing issues. These topics included transportation, housing, economic development and international trade as well as Haiti.

Chairman Monestime met jointly with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Congressmen Mario Diaz-Balart and Carlos Curbelo. Transportation was the major focus of this meeting. The Chairman highlighted the need to work closely with Congressman Diaz-Balart on addressing the county's transportation needs especially given his position as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Additionally, he met separately with Congresswomen Frederica Wilson and Debbie Wasserman Schultz and discussed the ongoing Medicaid issue in Tallahassee, among other items.

The Chairman also held a discussion on housing issues at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on



*Chairman Monestime with Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz*



*R-L: Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, Commission Chairman Jean Monestime, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Congressman Carlos Curbelo*

promise zones and the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative. The MBK Community Challenge encourages communities to implement a coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people to ensure that they can reach their full potential. Finally, the Chairman held a meeting with representatives from the Federal Transit Administration and Intermodal System Development under the U.S. Department of Transportation about potential projects and funding opportunities for the county as well as PortMiami related activities.



*Congresswoman Frederica Wilson with Chairman Monestime*



# Legislative Report

## Chairman Monestime helps advance Miami-Dade agenda in Tallahassee

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jean Monestime helped advance the County's legislative agenda April 8-9 as part of the annual Miami-Dade Days trip to Tallahassee. Chairman Monestime met with top state officials – including Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera, future House Speaker Jose Oliva, Miami-Dade delegation chairwoman Sen. Anitere Flores, and delegation vice chairman Rep. Jose Felix Diaz – to discuss ways to advance public transportation, economic development and other critical priorities in the County.

In his meeting with Lt. Gov. Lopez-Cantera, Chairman Monestime discussed promoting Miami-Dade as an international trade hub, as well as utilizing tourist development taxes to fund new transit initiatives. In another meeting

with Rep. Oliva, Chairman Monestime and Beacon Council President Larry Williams stressed the need to reauthorize the State Enterprise Zone Program, which has been essential in attracting jobs to disadvantaged neighborhoods.

"We had some very productive discussions on a number of important issues that will help ensure that Miami-Dade's critical needs are addressed at the state level," Chairman Monestime said. "I want to thank the Miami-Dade delegation for all its hard work on behalf of the County, and I'm looking forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship as we work to improve the lives of the residents of Miami-Dade." During his visit to Tallahassee, Chairman Monestime was presented with the Dr. Robert M. Ingram Diversity Award by the Miami-Dade County School Board at the Miami-Dade Days Luncheon.

## Chairman Monestime discusses housing issues affecting Miami-Dade County

United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro met with Chairman Jean Monestime at a private breakfast at Wolfson Campus hosted by Miami-Dade College President Dr. Eduardo Padron to discuss several of the initiatives currently underway at the Department including the work of the White House Task Force on New Americans. The Chairman had the opportunity to share with Secretary Castro pressing housing issues affecting the residents of Miami-Dade County. The conversation took place on May 4, the same day Secretary Castro served as a keynote speaker at the eMerge Americas conference.

The eMerge Americas conference is a global idea exchange focusing on how technology and innovation are disrupting industries. The conference serves as a platform connecting revolutionary startups, cutting-edge ideas, and global industry leaders and investors across North America, Europe, and Latin America.



*Chairman Monestime with Commissioners José "Pepe" Diaz, Sally A. Heyman and Daniella Levine Cava*



*Chairman Monestime accepts the Dr. Robert M. Ingram Diversity Award at the Miami-Dade Days Luncheon. Presenting the award, from left, are Miami-Dade County School Board members Lubby Navarro, Wilbert "Tee" Holloway and Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall.*



*Chairman Monestime with United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro*

## Chairman Monestime honors Trayvon Martin's mother

Sybrina Fulton was honored at the March 17 Board of County Commissioners meeting as part of Women's History Month in recognition of her work to advocate for families impacted by violence and to raise awareness about racial profiling in the wake of the death of her son Trayvon Martin.

Chairman Monestime presented Ms. Fulton, who was joined by her family, with a proclamation declaring March 17, 2015 as "Sybrina Fulton Day."

Ms. Fulton, along with Trayvon Martin's father Tracy Martin, founded the not-for-profit Trayvon Martin Foundation in March 2012.



*Sybrina Fulton with members of the Trayvon Martin Foundation*

## Gwen Cherry Bulls and Hilton Joseph recognized

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jean Monestime honored the Gwen Cherry Bulls at the Feb. 18 Board of County Commissioners meeting in recognition of their 24-7 victory over the North Philly Aztecs to capture the 2014 Pop Warner Jr. Pee Wee National Champions football title.

It was the third time a team from Gwen Cherry Park won a Pop Warner national title, and the second win for the Bulls. The team, under the supervision of Boys & Girls Club on-site Director O.J. Miller and his coaches, went undefeated in the season with a record of 14-0.



*Chairman Monestime presents proclamation to Boys & Girls Club on-site director O.J. Miller, who supervises the Gwen Cherry Bulls.*



*Chairman Monestime, far left, honored the Gwen Cherry Bulls for winning the 2014 Pop Warner Jr. Pee Wee National Champions football title. Gwen Cherry Park Foundation Chairman H.T. Smith, far right, joined the team in its proud moment.*



*Chairman Monestime also honored Hilton Joseph on his being named the Warren Henry Auto Group Tournament of Champions South Florida Player of the Year. Hilton led the North Miami Pioneers to back-to-back district championships and 9-1 regular seasons.*



## The OneUnited Mural Project

On March 11, Chairman Monestime participated in the OneUnited Bank and the Miami Children's Initiative press conference to announce their partnership in order to present the OneUnited Mural Project. This is in conjunction with the Liberty City Renaissance, a public art works, youth development, community beautification program providing arts enrichment through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education.

The Project is an apprenticeship-based program catered to the youth of Liberty City, the bank's neighborhood. A select cohort of teens will work under the guidance of established local artist and muralist Addonis Parker, in an effort to research, design, and create a public work of art utilizing OneUnited Bank as its canvas.



*L-R: School Board Member Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Artist Adonis Parker, OneUnited President and CEO Teri Williams Cohee, Miami Children's Initiative President and CEO Cecilia Gutierrez, jazz singer Nicole Henry and Chairman Monestime.*

## Community Activist Georgia Jones Ayers passes away

Miami-Dade County lost longtime Community Activist Georgia Jones Ayers, a District 2 resident on Feb. 17.

Ms. Ayers founded the Alternatives Program, which helps first-time offenders stay out of prison and offers post-release job placement so that they can have a second chance at life.

"Ms. Ayers' program is hailed as a model and has impacted hundreds of lives throughout Miami-Dade County and allowed many of them to become productive citizens of our community," said Chairman Monestime. "She will be missed."



## MLK Parade



*Chairman Jean Monestime, firefighters and other community leaders celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19 with county residents.*

## Three Kings Parade



*Waving from atop a Miami-Dade Police Department boat, Chairman Jean Monestime and staff participate in the annual Three Kings Day Parade held on Jan. 11 along Southwest 8th Street in Little Havana.*

## Cattle Show



*Chairman Jean Monestime joined Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and fellow Commissioners Dennis C. Moss and Javier D. Souto at the opening of the 2015 Miami International Agriculture and Cattle Show, which took place from April 10-12, 2015 at the Tropical Park Equestrian Center. Commissioner Souto has taken the leadership of this international event for the last 8 years. Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser Pedro J. Garcia and Miami-Dade Parks Director Jack Kardys also participated in the celebration.*



Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 220  
Miami, Florida 33128  
802-1415-6835

PPSRT STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Miami, FL  
Permit #1087

## Get involved! Serve on a County Board!

Chairman Jean Monestime needs your help to build a better community. You can help by serving on one of the many active community boards and committees that have been established to advise the Board of County Commissioners. If you are interested in serving on a County board or committee representing District 2, please contact Chairman Monestime's office at 305-694-2779 or e-mail him at [District2@miamidade.gov](mailto:District2@miamidade.gov). Together we can make Miami-Dade County a better community!

### District 2 Staff

**Gerard Philippeaux, Chief of Staff**  
[gerardp@miamidade.gov](mailto:gerardp@miamidade.gov)

**Regina Serrano, Administrative Director**  
[reginas@miamidade.gov](mailto:reginas@miamidade.gov)

**Griselle Marino, Director of Media**  
[gmarino@miamidade.gov](mailto:gmarino@miamidade.gov)

**Elizabeth Owens, Legislative Director**  
[owense@miamidade.gov](mailto:owense@miamidade.gov)

**Terry Murphy, Senior Policy Advisor**  
[murphyt@miamidade.gov](mailto:murphyt@miamidade.gov)

**Marcus Dixon, Policy Advisor**  
[marcusd@miamidade.gov](mailto:marcusd@miamidade.gov)

**Samantha Jacob, Legislative Aide**  
[sjacob@miamidade.gov](mailto:sjacob@miamidade.gov)

**Bradley Woodson, Legislative Aide**  
[Woodson@miamidade.gov](mailto:Woodson@miamidade.gov)

**Maguelena Aldophe, Commission Aide**  
[aldophe@miamidade.gov](mailto:aldophe@miamidade.gov)

**Melonie Burke, Community Liaison**  
[melonie@miamidade.gov](mailto:melonie@miamidade.gov)

**Nancy Dominique, Executive Assistant**  
[ndomini@miamidade.gov](mailto:ndomini@miamidade.gov)

**Evelt Jeudy, Community Liaison**  
[ejeudy@miamidade.gov](mailto:ejeudy@miamidade.gov)

**Alvanys Tarazona, Commission Aide**  
[alvanys@miamidade.gov](mailto:alvanys@miamidade.gov)

## Jean Monestime takes oath as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners

Miami-Dade County made history on January 16, 2015 when Jean Monestime, the first Haitian-American to serve on the Board of County Commissioners, took the oath as Chairman for two years and pledged to tackle the problem of economic inequality as someone who understands the struggles of the poor.

"Several decades ago, I arrived on the shores of Miami-Dade County as a teenage immigrant seeking a better life. Several decades later we are here experiencing the transformative power of the American Dream," said Chairman Monestime, who was unanimously elected as Chairman by his colleagues in November. "To the families and individuals in this community who are struggling to make ends meet, I understand the challenges you face."

To address the income gap, he announced the creation of a new committee structure and a Chairman's Council for Prosperity Initiatives. Speaking to a Chamber packed with supporters, dignitaries and family members, Chairman Monestime said the County is up to the challenge of addressing its problems.

"Our diversity is our strength. Our common goal is to build a stronger and most prosperous Miami-Dade County. Now is our time," he said.



*Chairman Monestime greets Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek at his installation ceremony.*