

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(1)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 1, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution reappointing Sam
Accursio and Ivonne Alexander
to the Agricultural Practices
Advisory Board

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor County Infrastructure, Operations and Innovations Committee.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw

Memorandum



Date: December 1, 2021

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor *Daniella Levine Cava*

Subject: Reappointment of Two Agricultural Practices Advisory Board Members

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) reappoint the following two persons to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board: Mr. Sam Accursio as one of two Vegetable Industry Representatives as recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau and Ms. Ivonne Alexander as one of two Nursery Industry Representatives as recommended by the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB). Pursuant to Section 2-934 of the Code, members of the APAB serve four-year terms commencing upon appointment by the Board.

Scope

The recommendations and actions of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board have a countywide impact.

Delegation of Authority

The proposed resolution does not delegate authority to the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact to Miami-Dade County.

Track Record/Monitor

Jerry Bell, Assistant Director for Planning within the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources monitors the APAB.

Background

The APAB currently consists of 13 members representing a variety of agricultural industries:

- Two representatives from the Tropical Fruit Crops Industry of Miami-Dade County, one recommended by the Florida Avocado Committee, and one recommended by the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.;
- Two representatives from the nursery industry, recommended by the Miami-Dade County Chapter of the Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association;

- Two representatives from the vegetable industry, recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau;
- One representative of the aquaculture industry, recommended by the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida;
- One representative of a citizens' association supportive of agriculture, recommended by the Redland Citizens' Association;
- One representative of allied agribusiness recommended by the Dade AgriCouncil;
- One representative of agri-banking, agri-financial consulting, or agri-lending recommended by the Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce;
- One representative of Farm Labor, recommended by Coalition of Florida Farmworkers Organizations;
- One representative of the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District, recommended by the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District; and
- One at large representative recommended by the Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Section 2-935 of the Miami-Dade County Code requires that the Board fill vacancies occurring on the APAB. Pursuant to Section 2-935 of the Code, each designated organization shall submit, for Board review, at least one nominee for their vacant position(s), including the nominee’s resume and the minutes of the organization’s meeting at which the nominee was selected. The required documentation for Mr. Accursio and Ms. Alexander is attached as Exhibit A.

The following nominees were submitted:

Vegetable Industry Representative

Mr. Sam Accursio was nominated by the Dade County Farm Bureau as its nominee to serve a fourth term representing the vegetable industry. Mr. Accursio is currently the Chair of the APAB and recently served as a member of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District. Mr. Accursio is the owner and operator of Sam S. Accursio and Sons Farms which produces squash, beans, and pickles. He has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Dade County Farm Bureau and has been a member of the Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service’s Vegetable Advisory Committee, the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, and the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association. The Dade County Farm Bureau recommended the reappointment of Mr. Accursio to the APAB at their October 2, 2020 meeting. Mr. Accursio’s resume and the minutes of the meeting at which he was selected are attached as Exhibit A.

Nursery Industry Representative

Ms. Ivonne Alexander was nominated by the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association as its nominee to represent the nursery industry. Ms. Alexander currently owns and operates Management & Business Consultants, Inc., a consulting company catering exclusively to the agricultural industry. She previously served as CFO of Nature’s Way Nursery of Miami, Inc., a grower of outdoor landscape material, and previously owned and operated Happy Days Nursery, Inc., a moderate size foliage and woody ornamental plant nursery. She is a Florida International University graduate and had a 23-year career with Farm Credit working with row crop farmers, fruit growers, and nursery operations. Ms. Alexander has also held numerous community positions, including Director of the Dade County Agri-Council, Director and President Elect of the Dade County Farm Bureau, Director and Past President of the Dade County Fair and Exposition Association, and Past Director of the 4-H Foundation. The Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (“FNGLA”) recommended the reappointment of Ms. Alexander to the APAB at their September 24, 2020 virtual meeting. Ms. Alexander’s resume and a letter reflecting the FNGLA’s unanimous approval of her nomination are attached as Exhibit A.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operations Officer



**Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:30 a.m.
Zoom Conference**

The Board of Directors met via Zoom tele-conferencing on Tuesday, **October 2, 2020** at 11:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Sal Finocchiaro conducted the meeting, Tom Rieder, Barney Rutzke, Jr., Larry Dunagan, Mark Wilson, George Butler III, Ivonne F. Alexander, Bill Losner, David Kaplan, David Hanck, David Torbert, Erik Tietig, Jeff DeMott, Margie Pikarsky, Mick Gnaegy, Paul Wiggins and Peter Schnebly.

Board Members Absent: Heather Moehling, Bette Brown, Dale Machesic, Kern Carpenter, Pedro Sifuentes, Phil Marraccini, Sammy Accursio Jr., and Steve Hoveland. Willie Ingram, Brian Morris and Mark Philcox to be inducted 10/22/2020.

Other Attendees: Hal Arve, Tyra Phillips and Jacqueline Rosado.

Losner motioned to ratify Tom Rieder's resignation as president. Alexander seconded. All were in favor. Finocchiaro conducted the meeting.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. Being no deletions or additions to the September 2020 Board of Directors meeting minutes, the minutes were approved by general consent.

Treasurers Report

Brown was absent and Rosado informed all that the comparison in the P&L was that Sept. 2019 the net income was \$1,897.59 and Sept. 2020 the net income was \$5,246.99. The new budget changes is resulting in higher positive figures in the end of the month financials. Losner moved to accept the treasurer's report. Dunagan seconded. Treasure's report accepted as is. All were in favor.

PAC Report

Schnebly announced that he will have a Meet & Greet for Carlos Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County to discuss DERM issues possibly on Friday or Saturday and that he will surely host a Meet and Greet for Kionne McGhee at 5:30 p.m. and Jim Mooney at 6:30 p.m. on Friday October 9, 2020. PAC will contribute \$1,000 to the Jim Mooney Campaign.

Agency Manager's Report

Arve informed that most are working remotely and a couple of people are working out of office. Membership are at 2,900. This is 3rd week for him with COVID-19 and 2 girls and 1 agent test positive for COVID-19.



DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

1850 Old Dixie Hwy., Homestead, FL 33033 • Tel. 305-246-5514 • www.dade-agriculture.org



Nomination Committee Report

Wilson mentioned that with Rieder resigning as president and Finocchiaro moving into presidency, he made a recommendation to have Rutzke move into the vice-president seat and have Moehling fill the secretary seat. Alexander moved to adopt the recommendation that Wilson made to have Rutzke fill the vice-president seat and Moehling fill the secretary seat. Kaplan seconded. Motion moved. All were in favor.

Environmental Policy Concerns

Subcommittee EPC met w/ Legislative committee and the executive committee to discuss retaining attorney Robert Williams from Lewis Longman Walker (LLW). Mr. Williams will draw up a comment letter to submit with a signed petition to the county. The deadline for submitting the comment letter to the county is October 17th, 2020. The Executive Committee met with Mr. Williams via zoom on October 2, and discussed the plan of attack on the DERM issue. Losner motioned to approve and ratify the actions of the EC to hire Mr. Williams with a \$5,000 retainer and at an hourly rate. Alexander seconded. Motion carried. All were in favor.

DCFB Approval to reinstate Mr. S. Accursio to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board

After discussion, Alexander motioned to reinstate Mr. S. Accursio to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board. Pikarsky seconded. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Corrections on the 2019-2020 Board of Directors Attendance Roster: Paul Wiggins was present at the September 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

Daniella Levine Cava appointed Ivonne F. Alexander to her Advisory Board. Alexander will send out to the board information on the Advisory Board information and its 3 goals.

Losner asked to please follow on the UEA issue to know where they are at.

The American Farm Bureau Federation selected Dade County for the "Federation County Activities of Excellence," National Competition for Representation at the 2021 AFBF Annual Convention and Trade Show for the Farm to Inmate Pilot Program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meeting adjourned 12:35 p.m.

Sam C. Accursio, Jr.

PO Box 901767

Homestead, FL 33090

Office: (305) 246-3455 Cell: (305) 431-4895

E-Mail: sam@accursiofarms.com

PROFILE:

Grower of South Florida's finest produce including pickles, beans, squash, zucchini, sweet corn and okra; and owner of Sam S. Accursio & Sons Farms, Inc.

EMPLOYMENT:

Sam S. Accursio & Sons Farms, Inc. – Owner and Operator

LEADERSHIP:

Dade County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Past Director

Miami Dade County Cooperative Extension Service's Vegetable Advisory Committee, Member

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, Member

Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association, Member

South Florida Water Management District Governing Board, Member

CenterState Bank Advisory Board of Directors, Member

1st National Bank of S. Florida Board of Directors, Former Member

HOBBIES:

Hunting and fishing



September 24, 2020

Jerry Bell, AICP
Assistant Director for Planning
111 NW 1st Street, 12th Floor

Dear Mr. Bell,

This letter is to inform you that the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association Board of Directors has approved the nomination of Ivonne Alexander to fill the position as nursery industry representative for the Miami Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board. The nomination was made at our monthly Board of Directors meeting. The approval vote was unanimous by the BOD.

Due to COVID-19 we had an email sent out with a unanimous approval for Ms. Alexander.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Gnaegy
President of Miami-Dade Chapter FNGLA

Ivonne F Alexander
12811 SW 148 Street Road
Miami, Florida 33186

Born in Havana, Cuba on February 5, 1948, Ivonne moved to Miami at a young age. Times were hard for the Alexander family during those days and there was little money for such things as sweets. Ivonne remembers going to Crandon Park and eating seagrapes as a substitute. If you ask her she will tell you how she detests them today.

She went to Shenandoah Junior High School and was active in sports. Friends will attest to the fact that she was a fierce competitor. This is a trait that has served her well throughout her career. After graduating from Miami Senior High School, she attended Miami Dade Community College. She then transferred to Florida International University studying Accounting and Finance.

Having worked her way through school, Ivonne spent some time working in New York City. She then settled into a 23 year career with Farm Credit leaving there as the first female Area Manager and Senior Vice President of the largest and premier agricultural lender in the nation. She started at the bottom rung and worked her way up to serving row croppers, fruit growers and nursery operations. She is well known and respected both inside and outside the South Dade's agricultural community. She proved her worth to the community with her steadfast effort and long hours after Hurricane Andrew by structuring and closing millions of dollars in rehabilitation loans to farmers who could not have recovered without the help from Farm Credit financing.

Ivonne is the former CFO of Nature's Way Nursery of Miami, Inc., a grower of outdoor landscape material catering to the big boxes and previously owned and operated Happy Days Nursery, Inc., a moderate size foliage and woody ornamental plant nursery located at 16700 SW 248 Street which was sold a few years ago as her partners wanted to retire and she wanted to have more time to dedicate to the ag industry as a whole. Ivonne currently owns and operates Management & Business Consultants, Inc., a consulting company catering exclusively to the agricultural industry and deals with all aspects of ag business from regulation to production to the business as a whole in a very competitive environment.

Some of her clients include but are not limited to: Nature's Way Nursery, Acosta Farms, R Plants, Exotic Center, Morejon Farms, Laguna Bay Growers, Capri Farms, Excel Farms and Avocado Sunsets.

It is hard to find one more active in community affairs than Ivonne Alexander. The following is a list of her known affiliations:

1. Dade County AgriCouncil –Director
2. Dade County Farm Bureau – Director and Past President
3. Dade County Fair and Exposition Association – Director and Past President

Page 2 – Ivonne F Alexander Biography- continued

4. Southern Florida Tropical Growers Association Past Director
5. 4-H Foundation – Past Director
6. Business & Professional Women’s Club of Homestead – Past Director & Certified Member
7. Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce – Past Director & Certified Member
8. Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association – President
9. Dade County Cooperative Extension Advisory Committee – Member
10. Florida International University Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture - Advisory Committee
11. Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan – Member
12. Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board – Member



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 1, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(L)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(1)
12-1-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SAM ACCURSIO AND
IVONNE ALEXANDER TO THE AGRICULTURAL
PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, sections 2-931 through 2-936 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provide for the creation, composition, terms, purpose, and duties of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County specifically provides for the designated organizations to recommend at least one nominee; and

WHEREAS, the Dade County Farm Bureau has recommended Mr. Sam Accursio to serve as one of two Vegetable Industry representatives on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association has recommended Ms. Ivonne Alexander to serve as one of two Nursery Industry representatives on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that vacancies on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board shall be filled by the Board of County Commissioners,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that Mr. Sam Accursio is hereby reappointed as a Vegetable Industry representative, and Ms. Ivonne Alexander is hereby reappointed as a Nursery Industry representative on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board, with each to serve a four-year term beginning on the effective date of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner
who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner
and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman
Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Joe A. Martinez
Kionne L. McGhee	Jean Monestime
Raquel A. Regalado	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of December, 2021. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Cristina M. Rabionet