

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(C)(1)

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

DATE: April 5, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the
reappointment of Hemant Patel
and Danielle Torres and the
appointment of City of Miami
Gardens Commissioner Robert
Stephens, III, a total of three
members to the Tourist
Development Council

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Cultural Affairs Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Keon Hardemon.




Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp

Date: April 5, 2022

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Resolution Approving the Re-Appointment of Hemant Patel and Danielle Torres and the Appointment of City of Miami Gardens Commissioner Robert Stephens, III, a Total of Three Members to the Tourist Development Council

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopt the attached resolution approving the appointment and reappointments of the following nominee to the Tourist Development Council: City of Miami Gardens Commissioner Robert L. Stephens, III, Hemant Patel, and Danielle Torres.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

There is no delegated authority for this Tourist Development Council item.

BACKGROUND


On April 4, 1978, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 78-28 pursuant to State Statute No. 125.0104, establishing the Tourist Development Council (TDC). The Ordinance and Statute specify that the TDC is a nine (9) member volunteer board that includes: one (1) County Commissioner, who is appointed by the chair of the governing Board of the County; two (2) elected municipal officials, at least one of whom must be from the most populous municipality in the County; three (3) owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tourist development tax; and three (3) persons involved in the tourist industry and have verifiably demonstrated interest in the tourist development of Miami-Dade County but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and are subject to the tourist development tax.

Further, all members of the TDC must be electors of the County and shall serve staggered terms of four years as determined in the appointing resolution. As a result of three (3) anticipated vacancies on the TDC Board due to the expiration of current terms, a public nominations process was implemented to fill these positions. These positions require: one (1) elected municipal official; and two (2) persons who are owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tax.

In response to the advertisement for nominations, credentials of eligible candidates for the TDC were submitted and reviewed by the Tourist Development Council Nominating Committee. Present at the meeting were: William Perry, III, Airport Parking Association; William Talbert, Special Advisor, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Connie Kinnard, President, Multicultural Tourism - Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. Based on a thorough review of qualifications, the Tourist Development Council Nominating Committee unanimously voted to recommend these candidates to the Board of County Commissioners to fill these vacancies on the TDC Board: Hemant Patel and Danielle Torres. In addition, the Nominating Committee recommended City of Miami Gardens Commissioner Robert Stephens, III for the seat to be filled by an elected municipal official.

Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
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Attached are the biographies summarizing the extensive experience of these nominees in the tourism industry and a chart specifically identifying their professional or civic affiliations and their designated terms.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Morris Copeland".

Morris Copeland
Chief Community Service Officer

Mr. Robert L. Stephens

Home Address: 21443 N.W 40th Circle Court, Miami Gardens FL 33055

Cell Phone: (786) 523-5209

Email: ministerstephens523@gmail.com

Strength: Higher Education Student Support Services

Summary: A highly motivated and enthusiastic individual with broad-based proven experience; Highly articulate and effective communicator; works well with individuals on all levels; Recognized as a resource person, problem solver and team player; Profound expertise in developing plans for expansion, and utilization of intelligence and facilities; Efficient in identifying new opportunities; Profound expertise in developing strategies; Possess excellent interpersonal skill and cross-functional team interactions to collaborate with various teams.

Professional Experience:

Student Services Coordinator, Biomedical Sciences, Barry University. Miami, FL August 2017 – Present

Provide administrative and clerical support for the Department including:

- Serving as receptionist and office manager
- Handling routine correspondence and departmental e-mail
- Creating and maintaining electronic and paper files
- Making travel arrangements for staff, faculty, and students and processing related paperwork

Coordinate calendar and arrangements for BMS events by:

- Securing space and managing setup in collaboration with other units (especially Conference and Event Services, Information Technology, and Facilities Management)
- Handling registration, catering, and accommodation arrangements
- Distributing agendas and pertinent documents

Assist with budget management by:

- Preparing, placing, and tracking orders
- Following up on contracts
- Monitoring charges to accounts
- Maintaining files with relevant records (purchase requisitions/orders, invoices, receipts, etc.)
- Keeping current with University fiscal policies and procedures

Maintain office and instructional equipment and supplies by:

- Preparing requisitions to procure or replace equipment
- Placing approved purchase and work orders
- Monitoring supply inventory and replenishing when necessary
- Keeping the supply / storage area (including cabinets and shelves) organized and accessible

Mr. Robert L. Stephens

Home Address: 21443 N.W 40th Circle Court, Miami Gardens FL 33055

Cell Phone: (786) 523-5209

Email: ministerstephens523@gmail.com

Student Services Assistant II, Financial Aid, Miami Dade College. Miami, FL September 2015 – 2017

- Assist with special projects and assists with appointment calendars
- Assists in the analysis of Financial Aid eligibility
- Assists professionals and clerical staff in advising students of available financial aid programs
- Assists programs coordinators in a variety of activities; including but not limited to loans, documents verifications, and completions of entrance and exit counseling
- Assists with special projects and assisting with appointments calendars
- Conducts workshops and financial aid presentations on and off campus and assists students in the completion of financial aid forms
- Develops, maintains and monitors correspondence related to Standards of Academic Progress committee decisions
- Examines and analyzes system generated reports and corrects data as needed
- Maintains attendance and payroll records and corresponding filing systems for all employees
- Oversees and supervises the part timers and student workers day -to-day operations within the department
- Screens student financial aid programs for appropriate referral and problem resolution

Student Services Specialist, New Student Center, Miami Dade College, Miami FL August 2012 – September 2015

- Assists students with clarifying their career and academic goals
- Facilitate Campus Tours to perspective students
- Facilitate New Student Orientations
- Participates in recruitment activities
- Participates in scheduled training activities and workshops
- Provides admission, assessment and registration information
- Provides pre-admissions counseling, along with academic and career advisement for students in the following categories: prospective, new undecided students
- Resolves student advisement issues
- Serves on college and campus committees

Education:

- Associate in Arts, Political Science Bachelors of Arts in Political Science
Miami Dade College, FL, 2014 Florida International University, FL, 2016
- Master's in Public Administration
Barry University, FL, Present

Hemant "Henry" Patel

email: hemantking@gmail.com

7150 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL33138 (305) 757-2674 ~ Fax: (305) 756-7908 Mobile: (305) 992-9099

Education:

- 2012 CHO, (Certified Hotel Operator Certification & Training)
- 1986 Bhavans Hazarimal Somani College of Commerce. Bombay, INDIA
Business with Economics. Career polytechnic (Banking).
- 1983 Sharda New High School. Bombay, INDIA
- 1981 Vidya Kunj English Medium School, Navsari, INDIA

Professional Qualifications:

- 1984 Special Training in Textile Technology Surat, INDIA
- 1989 Applications of Micro Computers Miami Dade Community College, Miami, FL

Areas of Acquired Knowledge and Professional Work Experience:

- 1981 -1986 Import Export Management for Moon Diamonds Ltd. Bombay, INDIA
Chemical Processing for diamonds quality control.
- 1985-1987 Chiffon Crimpers, Ltd. Surat, INDIA
Managed and Operated Textile Business. Specializing in doing business with major garment manufacturers of India.
- 1988 -1988 One Hour Martinizing - Atlanta GA
Performed various duties, including customer service, Managing cash flow, day-to-day operation for dry cleaning plant. Improved business by doing major advertising and marketing campaign. Acquired and handled Delta Airlines account.
- 1988 -1989 DeKalb County Farmer Market. Atlanta GA
Cashiers, Supervisor. Handling of considerable amount of money in day-to-day operations.
- 1989 - Present King Motel, Miami, FL
Owner/Operator of independent motel in major metro Miami area. Conducted daily business activity of hospitality management in Metro Miami area. Achieved the name recognitions for running the "Best Running Businesses" by The Miami Herald, and operators at City and State Level. Also nominated as Best Independent Hotelier of year Award for1994 by the USA hotel Owners' Conventions.
- 1996-2017 Midtown Inn (Former Super8 Motel) Miami, FL
Acquired independent Motel in Miami, Completed renovations work in excess of half a million dollars. Supervised and managed construction and renovations project. Opened as the first Super8 Franchise motel in greater Miami area. Heavily involved in daily business operations, including marketing, guest service, and maintenance. Achieved the revenue goal in first four months of operations.
- 2017 - Present Hampton Inn & Suites Miami Midtown and A/C Hotel by Marriott Miami Midtown
As Partner, developed a brand new Hilton and Marriott property in the Midtown Miami area.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Regional Director for Florida region on Asian American Hotel Owners Association. (AAHOA – A largest hotel owners association with 8000 members, representing 28,000 properties with \$40 Billion dollars worth of assets and employing more than one million minimum wage employees around the country.)

President of the "Greater Biscayne Boulevard Chamber of Commerce in Greater Miami, FLORIDA. Served in every position. The main goal of the chamber is to bring economic development to the area with the Federal government funds.

Served as 15 Indian delegates in June of 1995 to be invited to the "White House Conference for Small Business" hosted by President Clinton.

My Super 8 Motel was awarded "Conversion of the year award" for the year 1998 among the 1800 properties in the Super 8 chain.

Served as area chairperson for three precincts for Democratic National Party, Year 2000 Presidential Election.

Among 50 delegates on American India Foundation Earthquake Relief Mission Delegation with President Bill Clinton to Bhuj India representing AAHOA group.

Appointed in 1999 on the political action committee by AAHOA, Chairman Dan Patel.

Served as a Florida regional director on AAHOA board (1996 – 1998).

Elected again on the AAHOA board in 2001 in Nashville TN Convention as Director-at-Large and executive committee member for second year in three year term.

Committee served in AAHOA: (www.aahoa.com/boardmembers)

1996 – 1998	Governmental affairs/Political Action committees.
2001 – 2002	Community Service/Anti-Discrimination committees (co-chair) Audit Committee
2002 – 2007	Community Service/Anti-Discrimination committees (Chair) Governmental affairs and Political Action committee. Education Committee, Women's Committee
2008 – 2010	AAHOA - Treasurer
2010 – 2011	AAHOA – Vice Chairman
2011 – 2012	AAHOA – Chairman of The Board
2012 – 2013	AAHOA – Ex Officio

*** PUBLIC SERVICE ***

Following are some of Hemant Patel past and present activities.

- One of the Four AAHOA members to White House Conference on Small Business 1995, Appointed by Governor of Florida, Lawton Chiles.
- Served for Democratic Party as a Chair Person for poll watching. 2000 presidential election (Dade County, Miami, Florida)
- Past board of director of AAHOA 1995 to 1997, Florida Region.
- Active member of AAHOA since 1993.
- Active Member on AAHOA's Governmental affairs, including key coordinator in Washington for Fair Franchising Legislations, H.R. 3308.
- First Indian to become President for Chamber of Commerce in Miami, FLORIDA
- First Indian to serve on Miami's Coalition of Chamber of Commerce. (1995)

- Founding Board Member of Biscayne West Home Owners Associations & By-laws Committee
- President of South Bombay, India Lions Club (1983-1984)
- Active Youth Member in the Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA (Indian Patel Community) (1994-1998)
- Member of Upper East Side (Miami) Crime Preventions Council.
- Appointee of Commissioner Winton on Upper East Side Task Force.
- Board Of Directors, Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA (South Florida Region)
- Key Co-Coordinator with NABHOOD (National Association of Black Hotel Owners Operators and developers) & AAHOA. First regional conference ever held in Miami, Florida.
- Member of Delegations with Ex. President Bill Clinton to India for Earthquake relief mission. (April 2001)
- Instrumental in bringing Native American Cultural Festival to City of Miami during my tenure as President of Biscayne Blvd Chamber of Commerce.
- Board Member of Upper East Side Miami Council
- President, Do The Right Thing, Miami Police Department (2005 – 2008)
- Board Member, Do The Right Thing, Miami Police Dept. (2009 – Current)
- Board Member, Tourism and Development Council, Miami-Dade County (2014-Present)
- Board Member, City of Miami Code Enforcement Board, (2017-2019)

RECENT RECOGNITIONS:

- Sponsor reorganization City of Miami Police Department (1999 & 2003)
- Awarded Honor Guard Recognitions by City of Miami Police Department.
- Public Service Award by US Congresswoman Carrie Meek (1996) as an outgoing President of Greater Biscayne Blvd, Chamber of Commerce
- Best Conversion of the Year SUPER 8/Cendant Franchisee. (1998)
- Key Coordinator Recognition, Florida Governor Chiles appointed delegate to White House Conference on Small Business during President Clinton's Terms. (1995)
- Member of Super Bowl Host Committee for Greater Miami Visitors and Conventions Bureau and Chamber of Commerce. (1995)
- Recipient of a Leadership Awards from Prominent organizations like, GOPIO, NABHOOD (National Associations for Black Hotel Owners Operators & Developers), AACSA (Asian American Convenient Stores Association)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Always praised by local politicians, Civic Leaders, Law Enforcement and homeowners associations in playing vital roles in the betterment of the neighborhood including bringing motel owners and community together.
- Volunteered on Gore Liberman Campaign as well as, Hilary Clinton for President Campaign in South Florida.
- Testified in front of the Congress Judiciary Committee for the entire Lodging Industry to fight unfair legislations of Pool Lifts in hotels.
- As a Chairman of AAHOA, took bold actions against choice hotels franchise company to protect many franchisee members.

Danielle M Torres

1981 SE 18th Street | Homestead, Florida 33035
305-972-5115 | dmtorres74@hotmail.com

To obtain a challenging position that I may utilize my experience in sales, food and beverage and operations to lead and direct a in a team environment to assist with achieving and exceeding budgeted revenue goals.

Experience

- June 2012-
Current** **Director of Sales & Marketing**
Courtyard by Marriott - Miami Homestead, Homestead, Florida
100 guest rooms, 1000 sq. ft. meeting space (2013 YTD 89.3% Occ., \$147.47 ADR)
- July 2009-
Current** **Director of Sales & Marketing**
Hampton Inn & Suites - Miami South/ Homestead, Homestead, Florida
126 guest rooms, 2500 sq. ft. meeting space (2013 YTD 95.8% Occ., \$141.39 ADR)
- Assisted General Managers to head up the opening operations for both hotels.
 - Responsible for room/ catering budget creation and attainment
Exceeded budgeted revenues by \$422K
 - Successfully directed the sales efforts to ramp up and open both hotels.
 - Positioned the hotels with third party vendors and other similar channels.
 - Attended trade shows to create awareness in the FIT markets.
 - Created packages with local area attractions, dining and shopping outlets.
 - Solicited local area businesses for referrals of transient and group reservations.
 - Solicited potential social and corporate clients through a range of different channels to capture meetings and social events.
- 2009 - Current Greater Homestead/ Florida City Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
Chairman of the Green Committee and Health and Wellness
- 2010 - Current Greater Homestead/ Florida City Chamber of Commerce
MAC - Military Affairs Committee - Secretary Exec. Board of Directors
- 2011—Current Key Largo Chamber of Commerce - Member
- 2012 - Current Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce - Member
- 2009 - Current TEVA-Tropical Everglades Visitor Association - Board of Directors
- 2009 - Current Kiwanis of Homestead
- June 2003-
June 2009** **Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel & Conference Center - Miami Airport/ Hialeah Gardens**
256 guest rooms, 10,000 sq. ft. meeting space
- Assisted Owners/ General Manager to rebrand and reposition the hotel through a multi-million dollar renovation.
 - Responsible for room and catering budget creation and attainment.
 - Created a destination for shopping clientele and promoted to the Bahamas and Western Caribbean, through international sales visits to travel agencies and trade show participation
 - Contracted with many wholesale and receptive operators in the Latin America and the Caribbean to promote and successfully sell the hotel as a shopping destination. Hotelbeds #1 product west of the Miami International Airport •

- Obtained contract with Norwegian Cruise Lines for all crew lodging for port of Miami disembarking from 2005 - 2009.
- Positioned the hotel appropriately in domestic and international distribution channels to ensure maximization of rates and revenue.

2003 - 2009 GMCVB – Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau – Member
 2004 - 2009 Hialeah Chamber of Commerce - Member
 2006-2009 Doral Chamber of Commerce - Member
 2007-2009 AMESA - Member

Additional information regarding similar industry positions may be provided upon request.

2000-2003 Homewood Suites by Hilton -Sunny Isles Beach, Miami, Florida - Director of Sales & Marketing
 1998-2000 La Flora Hotel -South Miami Beach, Miami, Florida – Director of Sales & Marketing

Education

1992-1997 University of Massachusetts - Boston
 BS Biology

Skills & Abilities

Fluent in English & Spanish, Internationally Traveled and Hands on/ Team Management Style
 Highly skilled in Microsoft Office Applications including Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook
 Certified in Sales Pro Hotel and Catering System
 Proficient in Hilton & Marriott Hotel and Revenue Systems including OnQ, OnQ Insider, FOSSE & MGS
 Skilled in Adobe Creative Suite and graphic design to be able to create flyers and camera ready artwork



FY 2021-2022 Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council

MEMBERS	AFFILIATION	TITLE	Term
Chairperson			
Keon Hardemon	Miami-Dade County Commissioner	Chairman	03/21 – 03/22
Elected Municipal Officials			
Alex Diaz de la Portilla	City of Miami	Commissioner	09/20 – 09/24
Robert Stephens, III*	City of Miami Gardens	Commissioner	09/21 – 09/25
Owners/Operators of Hotels or other Tourist Accommodations			
Hemant Patel*	Kings Motel	General Manager	09/21 – 09/25
Danielle Torres*	Marriott Courtyard Hampton Inn – Homestead	Director of Sales	09/21 – 09/25
T. Gene Prescott	Biltmore Coral Gables	President	09/20 – 09/24
Involved in Tourist Industry			
Wendy Kallergis	Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association	President/CEO	09/20 – 09/24
William Perry, III	Airport Parking Associates	Partner/Owner	09/20 – 09/24
Olga Ramudo	Express Travel of Miami, Inc.	President/CEO	03/16 – 03/20

**Recommended*



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: April 5, 2022

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(C)(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(C)(1)
4-5-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF HEMANT PATEL AND DANIELLE TORRES AND THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS COMMISSIONER ROBERT STEPHENS, III, A TOTAL OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1978, the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) adopted Ordinance No. 78-28 (the “Ordinance”), establishing the Tourist Development Council (the “Council”); and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance directs that each member shall be appointed by resolution of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance and section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, specify that the Tourist Development Council shall be composed of nine members, including a County Commissioner, who is appointed by the chair of the Board, two elected municipal officials, three owners or operators of motels, hotels, or other tourist accommodations in the County and subject to the tourist development tax, and three persons involved in the tourist industry but who are not owners or operators of motels, hotels or other tourist accommodations in the County subject to the tourist development tax; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance specifies that all members of the Council must be electors of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance and section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, specify that Council members shall serve staggered terms of four years as determined in the appointing resolution; and

WHEREAS, section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, specifies that there shall be two elected municipal officials where at least one such official is from the most populous municipality in the County and the Board shall fill this seat thereby by appointment; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Board approves the appointment of the following three members to the Tourist Development Council for four-year terms commencing September, 2021 and ending September, 2025:

- 1) Commissioner Robert Stephens, III, Elected Municipal Official;
- 2) Hemant Patel, owner/operator of hotels or other tourist accommodations; and
- 3) Danielle Torres, owner/operator of hotels or other tourist accommodations.

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 5th day of April, 2022. 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.

MRP

Monica Rizo