

Memorandum



Date: May 5, 2022

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

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(2)
July 7, 2022

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Subject: Update on Beacon Council as Miami-Dade County’s Point of Contact on Access to
Opportunity Zone Benefits - Directive 191788

On November 19, 2019, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution R-1258-19, directing the County Mayor or the County Mayor’s Designee to partner with the Beacon Council to support the Beacon Council as Miami-Dade County’s point of contact on access to Opportunity Zone benefits.

Following this direction, the Office of Resilience, RER Planning Research, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion (beginning in summer 2021) have collaborated and coordinated with the Beacon Council on its Opportunity Zone work. The driving purpose of this work is to direct resources and planning efforts to ensure equitable development, investment, and economic revitalization without displacement occur in all Opportunity Zones throughout Miami-Dade County. The progress and activities detailed in this report and this continued collaboration support implementation of Action Item 11 of the Resilient305 Strategy – Maximize Opportunity Zones.

The Beacon Council has undertaken the following activities since its designation as the countywide point of contact, and it will continue to work with Miami-Dade County, municipalities, and other stakeholders to promote Opportunity Zones. For additional information contact Jaap Donath (jdonath@beaconcouncil.com), Beacon Council Senior Vice President Research and Strategic Planning.

Community Engagement

- The Beacon Council provided presentations on Opportunity Zones throughout Miami-Dade County, including to the Florida Association of Counties, the South Dade Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and local municipalities through the Beacon Council Economic Development Partnership with these local municipalities.
- An Opportunity Zone overview was included in general community presentations to business groups by the Beacon Council.
- The Beacon Council has responded to general questions from the community, as well as, from individuals outside Miami-Dade County.
- Beacon Council staff attended Opportunity Zone conferences in Miami-Dade County.

Economic Development Activities

- The Beacon Council created a county-wide Opportunity Zone Prospectus outlining information on the 67 zones. The prospectus is divided in three geographies (north, central, and south) that provided detailed information on the assets available in each area and how that could relate to the Opportunity Zones. The Prospectus was emailed nationally to Qualified Opportunity Zone Funds, as well as professional service providers focused on Opportunity Zones (attorneys, accountants, consultants, etc.) to promote the Miami-Dade Opportunity Zones.
- The Beacon Council responded to individual business inquiries regarding the Opportunity Zones in the county and provide background and introductions to the appropriate individuals.

Opportunity Zone Academy

- Miami-Dade County was selected by the Rockefeller Foundation in 2020 to be part of the National Opportunity Zone Academy cohort that would receive training and technical assistance through Smart Growth America (a nonprofit focused on urban planning and development). Miami-Dade County participates in conjunction with the City of Miami.
- Four community sessions were held with local stakeholders in September and October 2020. These included economic development professionals from the municipalities, staff from CRAs, and community organizations. Topics covered included:
 - Overview of the Opportunity Zone legislation and program
 - Available tools and strategies
 - Equity and Opportunity Zones

Each session included speakers from other communities sharing their experiences with the Opportunity Zone program and providing insights into their activities.

- Throughout 2020, Smart Growth America brought together the seven National Opportunity Zone Academy cohort members through virtual meetings to discuss Opportunity Zone issues as well as other related topics impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- In July and August 2021, four workshops were held to develop a Miami-Dade County Opportunity Zones Project and Investor Strategy. Participants included representatives from the Beacon Council, the County, and municipalities. The virtual meetings held in 2020 with local stakeholders informed the development of this strategy.
- Additional involvement by the Rockefeller Foundation comes through their Rockefeller Foundation Opportunity Collective (ROC). This program has committed grant money to the Miami-Dade Beacon Council Foundation for assistance to Black and Hispanic small businesses by funding technical assistance by local organizations focused on assisting these businesses.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed in the next available Board meeting agenda.

If you have questions concerning the above, please contact James F. Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, at 305-375-5593 or at James.Murley@miamidade.gov.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney

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