

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 2, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution appointing Lucia
Soria to the Agricultural
Practices Advisory Board

Resolution No. R-408-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor PortMiami, Resiliency, and Sustainability Committee.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks

Memorandum



Date: May 2, 2023

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Appointment of Agri-Banking Representative to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board

Recommendation

The South Dade Chamber of Commerce, pursuant to Section 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code), recommends Lucia Soria, as the Agri-Banking representative to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB). Section 2-935 of the Code requires that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) fill vacancies occurring on the 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 APAB 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 the County.

Track Record/Monitor

The Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Planning Division, monitors the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Background

The APAB consists of thirteen (13) members representing a variety of agricultural industries:

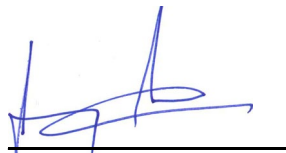
- Two (2) representatives from the Tropical Fruit Crops Industry of Miami-Dade County, one (1) recommended by the Florida Avocado Committee, and one (1) recommended by the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida, Inc.;
- Two (2) representatives from the nursery industry, recommended by the Miami-Dade County Chapter of the Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association;
- Two (2) representatives from the vegetable industry, recommended by the Dade County Farm Bureau;
- One (1) representative of the aquaculture industry, recommended by the Ornamental Aquaculture Association of South Florida;

- One (1) representative of a citizens' association supportive of agriculture, recommended by the Redland Citizens' Association;
- One (1) representative of allied agribusiness recommended by the Dade Agri Council;
- One (1) representative of agri-banking, agri-financial consulting, or agri-lending recommended by the (South Dade) Chamber of Commerce;
- One (1) representative of Farm Labor, recommended by Coalition of Florida Farmworkers Organizations;
- One (1) representative of the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District, recommended by the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District; and
- One (1) at large representative recommended by the Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Pursuant to Section 2-933 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 Ms. Soria is attached as Exhibit A.

Agri-banking Representative

Ms. Lucia Soria is the founder, owner and CEO of Ram-Tech Construction, Inc. (1998-present) a general contractor with experience in infrastructure construction (underground utilities, grading, excavation, paving and drainage, etc.) for commercial and governmental clients in South Florida. Some of these projects include Miami World Center, Miami Beach Edition Hotel, Port of Miami Tunnel, Deering Estate Flow-Way Project, and FPL Turkey Point Storage Facility. Ms. Soria received an A.A. in Early Childhood Education from Miami-Dade College (1985) and a B.S. in Elementary Education from Florida International University (1987) and is a past Chair of the South Dade Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Soria is also a member of the National Association of Women in Construction and has been active in the South Dade Veterans Alliance, FIU Moss School of Construction, Infrastructure and Sustainability, and the PACE Center for Girls among others. The South Dade Chamber of Commerce recommended Ms. Soria to serve on the Ag Board at their November 16, 2022, meeting. Ms. Soria's resume and the minutes of the meeting at which she was selected are attached as Exhibit A.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operations Officer



Lucia Soria President

Construction Experience

24 Years

Education

B.S. in Elementary
Education,
Florida International
University
1987

A.A. Early Childhood
Education,
Miami-Dade College
1985

Areas of Expertise

Site Work /Road
Agricultural Consulting

Licensing/Training/ Certifications

OSHA 10 and 30 Hour
CPR/First Aid
Qualified Stormwater
Management Inspector
Construction Industry
Technician

Employment History

RAM-TECH Construction, Inc.
Miami, FL
President
1998-Present

Professional Associations

South Dade Chamber of
Commerce
National Association of Women in
Construction

Languages

Fluent in English and Spanish

Summary of Qualifications

Lucia is the founder, owner, and CEO of Ram-Tech Construction, Inc., a civil general contractor headquartered in Miami, Florida with experience in infrastructure construction, including all underground utilities, grading, excavating, paving and drainage for commercial and governmental clients. Ram-Tech has built many projects from simple water main extensions to complex roadway construction in South Florida. Lucia has also been lending her expertise and knowledge gained as a resident of the Redlands and Chair of the South Dade Chamber of Commerce to the Agricultural community as a Consultant to advance the best interests of local agricultural businesses.

Her major strengths include leadership, administration, supervision, planning, organization, and financial controls. Mrs. Soria is schedule driven and production oriented, manages and directs multi-million operations within budgets. She sees the big picture and structures resources, people, and processes to achieve results. Lucia has solid communication, negotiation, and problem-solving skills that serve as a foundation to effectively network, collaborate, and maintain positive partnerships with individuals at all levels.

Project Experience Summary

Ram-Tech Construction

MIAMI, FL 1998-Present

President

Responsibilities Include:

Administrative management of office operations and overall organization of the company, client relationships, and marketing. Project leads, negotiating contracts, and contract execution. Directs all administrative functions. Assesses local market conditions and identifies current and prospective construction opportunities. Develops forecasts, financial objectives, and business plans. Establishes procedures for the development and maintenance of construction schedules, cash flow, budget monitoring, hiring policies, contract compliance, and overall quality of the project management process.

Sample Projects Under Direct Administration Include:

- **Miami World Center-** This project includes the site development and infrastructure, such as water, sewer, drainage, and hardscape, for a 3 to 4 block radius of brand new hotels, condominiums, garages, residences, and retail areas.
- **Miami Beach Edition Hotel-** This project was composed of the complete site preparation including drainage, water and sewer, excavating and grading, asphalt paving and signing and marking. This project required extensive permit coordination, maintenance of traffic and utility coordination.
- **Port of Miami Tunnel-** This project consisted of the demolition and disposal of six toll booths, roof canopy, main office booth, guardrails, attenuators and concrete barricades. Lead Paint structural members will be segregated and dispose of at certified location.
- **New Federal Building-** This project included the installation of a cistern tank consisting of 32,000-gallon modular precast concrete system.
- **Florida International University 10th street Roundabout & Infrastructure-** This project consisted of the new construction of one-half mile of a 45-foot wide roadway within the university campus. The project included complete sub-base and base construction, installation of over 100 ft. of French drain with six structures, 2100 ft. of water main, 1800 ft. of force main, 5000 ft. of curbing, 1500 ft. of sidewalk, 1.5"



Lucia Soria

President

asphalt in two lifts, signing, and marking. The project also included the construction of a large circle or roundabout. Ram-Tech performed all grading for sub-base and base, drainage, and water & sewer, with in-house forces.

- **Deering Estate Flow-Way Project-** This project included an extension of the C-100A Spur Canal, construction of a pump station, and approximately 500 ft. of 60" diameter concrete piping discharging with under road crossing of Old Cutler Road along with an educational wetland. Additionally, an outlet spreader structure was constructed along the Right-of-Way of Old Cutler Road, discharging fresh water to the Cutler Drain and ultimately to the coastal wetlands along Biscayne Bay.
- **Miami Intermodal Center, GMP #6-** This project encompasses major drainage, and water and sewer construction, including permitting and coordination with Prime contractor, utility companies, permitting agencies and subcontractors.
- **FPL Turkey Point Storage Facility-** This project entailed major drainage and water and sewer construction as well as excavating and grading. Also included were asphalt and signing and marking. Extensive coordination was required to work within a Nuclear Power Plant.
- **I-595 Casing/Utility Conflicts-** This entailed the construction of water and sewer lines in preparation for the I-595 reconstruction project. Extensive coordination with the Prime contractor in regards to shop drawings, RFI and scheduling was required.
- **TD Bank, Cutler Bay, FL-** This project was composed of the complete site preparation, including drainage, water and sewer, excavating and grading, asphalt paving and signing and marking. This project required extensive permit coordination, maintenance of traffic and utility coordination.
- **Cargo Ventures, Miami Free Zone-** This project entailed the installation of FPL duct banks and fire water lines. It also included maintenance of traffic and paving.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/AWARDS

- South Dade Chamber of Commerce- Director 2019-2020; Chair-Elect 2020-2021; Chair 2021-2022
 - o From April of 2022, Mrs. Soria took on the role of CEO as well to the completion of her term 9.30.22
- South Dade Veterans Alliance "Honoring Women Warriors" Honoree 2022
- National Association of Women in Construction-Director 2019-2020 ; 2020-2021; 2021- Present
- National Association of Women in Construction-Immediate Past President
- National Association of Women in Construction- President
- FIU Moss School of Construction, Infrastructure, & Sustainability- Advisory Council Member; Executive Committee
- Miami-Dade College- Advisory Council Member
- PACE Center for Girls- Committee Member
- Women of Impact Award 2015
- Miami-Dade College Alumni Hall of Fame: Urban Development and Construction



**South Dade Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2022**

Board Member	Present	Absent	Comments
Lisa Greer, Chair	X		
Ken Ross, Chair Elect	X		
Sheryl Rice, Treasurer	X		
Joe Webb, COO	X		
Lucia Soria, Immed. Past Chair	X		
Karl Cetta	X		
Yvonne Knowles			
Lynne Arguelles			Conflict at College
Linda Fagan			
Vicky Thomas			
Yordi Rivero	X		
Baldwyn English			
Rich Candia			Conflict w/Realtor conference
Tamika Smith	X		
Kenneth Wright	X		
Omayra Guedes	X		
Marcial Del Toral	X		
Quorum needed: 9	Yes		

Called to Order: 11:40 a.m.

Staff: Carlos Sobalvarro, Mark Texidor

Chair's message – Lisa Greer

Thank you to Raising Canes – a new Trustee, noting today is National Fast Food Day

Self Intro's were done for the benefit of returning and new board members.

- Compliance – Conflict of Interest Forms to be collected
- Board Responsibilities – Board Dues
- Board Schedule 2022-2023 – 3rd Thursday monthly, unless otherwise notified, 11:30 a.m.
- Committees:
 - o Community Engagement & Outreach – Lynne Arguelles and Karl Cetta co-chairs
 - Kenneth Wright, Marcial Del Toral
 - o Business & Civic Dev – Rich Candia and Ken Ross co-chairs
 - Yordi Rivero
 - o Military Affairs – Joe Webb and Tamika Smith co-chairs
 - Marcial Del Toral
 - o Operations & Membership – Joe Webb chair
 - Yordi Rivero

Member Benefits reviewed:

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LOCAL



SOUTHDADE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Shout Outs (Tuesdays)
- News Leader article (2x month)
- Networking
- Trustee only Events
- Member to Member Benefits
- Healthcare benefits – Jericho Health
- Onsite Utility Services
- Social Media blasts for members and Trustees
- Schooley Mitchell operating expense savings

This is a fluid list, as EXCO is reviewing membership benefits and existing affinity agreements.

Suggestions made:

Sheryl – video with membership benefits to have on website

Yordy – offering Instagram and FB links

Lisa – separate newsletter relaying benefits

Kenneth – week at a glance newsletter

Chamber Signature events reviewed with tentative timeline:

- State of South Dade (January) collaborated with EDC
- Ladies of Legacy Luncheon (March) collaborated with NAWIC
- Golf Tournament (May or June)
- Health & Wellness Fair (October)

Follow up discussions:

Lucy suggested considering a Military Gala in the evening.

Sheryl suggested a Red White and Blue July event for Military

Yordi suggested hiring links from members for open positions – on Newsletter and Website

Mark advised that while MiaDade College is tentative for 10/14/2023 for the next scheduled Health & Wellness Fair, they are flexible with a change to ensure participation by Fruit & Spice Park, also a SDCC member.

Discussions about HARB:

- Tour for Trustees 12/8/2022; 16 RSVPs thus far
- SDCC's relationship with HARB were reviewed including their 3 primary needs:
 - o Housing
 - o Education choice
 - o Employment for spouses

It was suggested that we learn how small businesses can become vendors with HARB

Calendar of Events reviewed:

- o October
 - Grand Opening for South Dade Kia (10/5/2022)
 - Grand Opening for Vicky Bakery (10/28/2022)
- o November

South Dade Chamber of Commerce

47 N. Krome Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33030 - Mail to: P.O. 901544 Homestead, FL 33090

Telephone: 305-247-2332 - www.southdadechamber.org

MDC007

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SOUTHDADE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- TOY DRIVE (HARB and PATCHES)
- Farm Month – GMCVB
- Grand Opening Raising Cane's (11/8/2022)
- Grand Opening Losner Park (11/5/2022)
- MAC Virtual Meeting (11/17/2022)
- Grand Opening Homestead Community Health Center (11/18/2022)
- South Dade Veterans' Alliance – Honoring Women Veterans 11/5/2022 – Lucy Soria honored
- o December
 - TOY DRIVE (HARB and PATCHES)
 - Membership/Holiday Luncheon – 12/7/2022 – Capri
 - Onsite Utility Services Savings Program
 - Spotlight a Trustee;
 - Tour of HARB 12/8/2022, Trustee Event
 - Military Appreciation Breakfast 12/15/2022 (tentative) – HARB (Carlos to check menu and whether we can decorate prior to)
- o January 2023
 - State of South Dade (1/19/2023 tentative)
- o February 2023
 - Municipal Mayor/SDCC Board Tour of HARB
 - Membership luncheon or breakfast
- o SDCC Schedule:
 - Office Closed 11/24/2022-11/25/2022
 - Office Closed 12/21/2022-1/2/2023

Treasurer's Report – Sheryl Rice

Treasurer's report was shared and discussed: Closure of FYE 9/30/2022, showing net loss \$2.8K; 2022-2023 Dues paid in Sept were classified as prepaid and recorded in October; and then 1 month 10/30/2022. \$15K left for military purposes. 10/30/2022 results with \$57.5K. Health & Wellness \$5K still pending receipt; will amend F/Stmts to move Health & Wellness Fair income to October.

Budget w/be completed once resolution of occupancy, operating expense savings and CEO/Exec Dir position. Motion to accept by: Ken Ross, Seconded by Yordy Rivero; unanimously approved.

Minutes for September 22, 2022 will be deferred to December Board meeting

Chair's Report – Lisa Greer

Items for Board Review:

- Moving SDCC office to 257 Krome by end of January 2023 to reduce occupancy expense
- Wings over Homestead Sponsorship by SDCC – to be deferred to EXCO for review and formal recommendation
- Miami Dade County Ag Practices Board recommendation
 - o Lisa Greer recommended Lucia Soria be nominated for this seat
 - o Motion to nominate Lucia Soria for Ag Practices Board seat made by: Karl Cetta; Seconded Ken Ross; unanimously approved

South Dade Chamber of Commerce

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SOUTHDADE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- MCAA letter to Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners (Lucy)
 - o Lucy reviewed letter and need with industrially zoned properties; the group met with Chairman Pepe Diaz, who suggested new verbiage for review by County attorney; MCAA is requesting a letter of support from SDCC Board. Lucy noted follow up discussions resulted in County attorney acceptance of the proposed verbiage change.
 - o Motion by to provide support letter: Yordi Rivero; Seconded by Karl Cetta; unanimously approved
- ByLaws review – deferred to January Exco/Board meeting
- SBA EIDL Loan \$91,600; payments are due; ask for Board authorization for SBA to release information to new EXCO
 - o Motion to authorize SDCC EXCO to communicate with SBA made by Sheryl Rice; seconded by Marcial del Toral; unanimously approved.
- Checking Accounts for SDCC: Motion was made to update signatory for all SDCC accounts with SouthState Bank to current Exco members, namely: Lisa Greer, Ken Ross, Joe Webb, Sheryl Rice, Lucia Soria - was made by: Kenneth Wright; seconded by Karl Cetta; unanimously approved
- Action Zone – letter of support for grant application for location in South Miami Dade was requested
 - o Motion for letter of support was made by: Karl Cetta; second Lucy Soria; unanimously approved.

Chair Elect's Report – Ken Ross

- Shout Out schedules/Interviewees to be coordinated
- Member Discounts/Membership support –
 - o Cardell Hayes collaboration, South Dade Connections
 - o Member to Member discounts – with outreach to membership to identify all opportunities
 - o Member outreach will also interview for member priorities

Karl Cetta suggested if membership discounts includes company employees, it would be advantageous to provide the member's link with Baptist.

Lucia Soria suggested sharing the City of Miramar program with Cardell Hayes which helps small/micro businesses join the chamber with conditions for participation and networking.

CEO Report – n/a

COO's Report – Joe Webb

Committees (verbal)

Business & Civic Dev Cmte – Rich Candia/Ken Ross

- Meetings to begin to be scheduled

Comm Engagement – Lynne Arguelles/Karl Cetta

- Meetings to begin to be scheduled
-

MAC – Tamika Smith / Joe Webb

- SDCC Virtual MAC meeting 11/17/2022; guest speakers DR Horton and SouthState Bank
- Kenneth sugg'd meeting with a developer who builds progressive/sustainable communities

South Dade Chamber of Commerce

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SOUTHDADE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- MAC committee to be reengaged
- Working on a meet and greet with HARB commanders
- Resia's 288th Street development is close to showcasing (likely January)
- Outreach to local mental health clinic for services/workshops

Old Business:

- Veterans' day parade- thank you to Marcial, Dr Fagan, Kenneth Wright, Tamika Smith and Carlos Sobalvarro for helping and participating
- Health & Wellness – thank you to Lynne Arguelles, Karl Cetta; Lucy Soria, Omayra Guedes, Kenneth Wright, Ken Ross, Joe Webb for participating

New Business:

Kenneth Wright- Membership – goals for growth suggested; discussed the need to understand and quantify benefits first, reach out to members renewed and fallen;

Lucy Soria - New members from agritourism community; MCAA was established because of SDCC efforts to assist and members of MCAA are becoming members of SDCC

Marcial del Toral – suggested small group bonding and education; discussed the results of member outreach will help to drive that initiative

New Members:

- See Agenda

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Lucy Soria 1:56 p.m.

LMG

South Dade Chamber of Commerce

47 N. Krome Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33030 - Mail to: P.O. 901544 Homestead, FL 33090

Telephone: 305-247-2332 - www.southdadechamber.org

MDC010



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 2, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)

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)(4)
5-2-23

RESOLUTION NO. R-408-23

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LUCIA SORIA 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 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County specifically provides for the designated organizations to recommend at least one nominee; and

WHEREAS, the South Dade Chamber of Commerce has recommended Ms. Lucia Soria to serve as the Agri-banking Industry representative on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

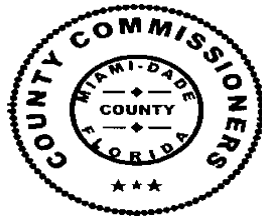
WHEREAS, section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that vacancies on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board shall be filled by the Board of County Commissioners,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that Ms. Lucia Soria is hereby appointed as the Agri-banking representative on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board to serve a four-year term beginning on the effective date of this resolution.

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

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of May, 2023. 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

LUIS G. MONTALDO, CLERK AD INTERIM

Basia Pruna

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CMR".

Cristina M. Rabionet