

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(2)

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

DATE: October 1, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution appointing Sam C.
Accursio, Jr. to the Agricultural
Practices Advisory Board

Resolution No. R-859-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks

Memorandum



Date: October 1, 2024

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Appointment of One Agricultural Practices Advisory Board Member

Recommendation

The Dade County Farm Bureau, pursuant to Section 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code), recommends that Sam C. Accursio, Jr. be appointed to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board (APAB) as one of the vegetable industry representatives. 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 Mr. Accursio is attached as Exhibit A.

Vegetable Industry Representative

Mr. Accursio was reappointed to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board in December 2021 to serve a four-year term ending in December 2025. However, in March 2024, the Clerk of the Court and Comptroller removed Mr. Accursio from the APAB for failure to file a 2022 Source of Income Statement with the Elections Department. In June 2024, the Elections Department confirmed that Mr. Accursio submitted his 2022 Source of Income Statement and is in compliance with applicable financial disclosure requirements. The Dade County Farm Bureau subsequently renominated Mr. Accursio as one of two vegetable industry representatives to the APAB. Mr. Accursio has been the proprietor of Sam S. Accursio & Sons Farms in Homestead, Florida since 1980. He began working entry-level positions on the farm as a child after school, and gradually assumed control of all farm operations in 1983 when his father became ill. Mr. Accursio had previously served on the APAB from 2013 to 2024, most recently as its Vice Chair. He has also served and/or has been a member of the Agricultural Advisory Board, Tropical Research and Education Center (2012-2015); Board of Directors, South Florida Water Management District (2015-2019); and an Advisory Board Member (1995-2002) and member of the Board of Directors (2015-2019) for the 1st National Bank of South Florida. Mr. Accursio is a high school graduate and retains a State of Florida Agriculture Dealer's License and a State Pesticides License. Mr. Accursio's resume and the minutes of the meeting at which he was selected are attached as Exhibit A.


Jimmy Morales
Chief Operating Officer

MDC003



Sam C. Accursio Jr.

27725 SW 187th Avenue
Homestead, FL 33031
305-431-4895

Resume

April, 2024

Professional Experience

1980 to Present – Sam S. Accursio & Sons Farms, Homestead, Florida

Sam Accursio began at the farm with entry level positions as a child after school. Over time he learned and was responsible for every aspect of the operation. In 1983, when his father became ill, he gradually assumed control of all farm operations. At that time, the operation was double-cropping 2000 acres. Today the farm is fully self-sufficient in that all aspects of the farm are handled in house from land prep through planting, growing, harvesting, packing and shipping. The farm maintains a 99-100% GSFI Primus food safety rating on the packinghouse and ranches. At the busiest point of harvest, Sam S. Accursio & Sons Farms and Sam S. Accursio & Sons Packing & Produce employ just less than 200 people including the harvest crew.

Education, Certifications, Licenses

High-School graduate; State of Florida Agriculture Dealer's License; State Pesticide License

Personal/Family History

Hobbies include boating and relaxing in the Florida Keys;
Sam is married; he has 2 married sons and 6 grandchildren

Memberships/Affiliations

Agriculture Advisory Board TREC 2012-2015
Agriculture Practices Advisory Board – Miami Dade County 2013-2024
Board of Directors – South Florida Water Management – 2015 - 2019
Board of Directors – 1st National Bank of South Florida April, 2015 - 2019
Advisory Board – 1st National Bank of South Florida 1995-2002
Board of Directors – Florida Farm Bureau 1990 – 2003; 2021 – Present
Florida Farm Bureau – State of Florida Labor Advisory Board – 2021 – Present



DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

1850 Old Dixie Hwy., Homestead, FL 33033 • Tel. 305-246-5514 • Fax 305-245-9170



May 1st, 2024

Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Planning Division, Metropolitan Planning Section
111 NW 1st St., Suite# 1250
Miami, FL 33128-2560
www.miamidade.gov/planning

RE: Sam Accursio Jr's Appointment to (APAB)

Dear Mr. Stephen Dorsey,

It is the recommendation of the Dade County Farm Bureau Executive Board to appoint Sam Accursio Jr. on the Miami Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board. The Executive Board voted unanimously to have Mr. Accursio appointed. If you should need anything further, please feel free to contact me directly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barney Rutzke Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Barney Rutzke Jr.
President, Dade County Farm Bureau



DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

1850 Old Dixie Hwy., Homestead, FL 33033 • Tel. 305-246-5514 • Fax 305-245-9170



Dade County Farm Bureau

Executive Committee Impromptu Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 30th, 2024, via email at 2:47 PM

President Barney Rutzke Jr called impromptu meeting to respond to a Miami Dade County request to appoint Sam Accursio Jr's representation on the (APAB).

Executive Board Members Present: President, Barney Rutzke Jr; Vice President, Heather Moehling; Secretary, Steve Hoveland; Treasurer, David Hanck; Larry Dunagan; Sal Finocchiaro; Tom Rieder, Hal Arve and State Director, Mark Wilson.

President Report: Barney Rutzke Jr.- Barney asked the Executive Board if they would be in favor of appointing Sam Accursio Jr's to (APAB). The following responses were received in the affirmative Barney Rutzke Jr, Hal Arve Jr., Sal Finocchiaro, Heather Moehling, David Hanck, Mark Wilson, Larry Dunagan, Tom Rieder and Steve Hoveland.



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: October 1, 2024

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(L)(2)

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 ____, majority plus one ____, 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) ____, 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)(2)
10-1-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-859-24

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SAM C. ACCURSIO, JR. 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,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that Sam C. Accursio, Jr. is hereby appointed as the Vegetable Industry 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 **Anthony Rodriguez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of October, 2024. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Cristina M. Rabionet
James Eddie Kirtley

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Cristina M. Rabionet", is written over a horizontal line.