

BACKGROUND

The Miami-Dade County Youth Commission was created by County Ordinance in 2011 as part of the vision of Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, District 1. Its purpose is to provide young people with a vehicle to participate in the process of County government. Motivated students from each Commission district represent and articulate the needs of youth in Miami-Dade and advise the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners on matters affecting the youth population.

The Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD) is implementing The Youth Commission, under the umbrella of the Miami-Dade Violence Intervention Project (VIP), an initiative that is addressing violence throughout the County. The basic component of the VIP has been its uniqueness in pulling young people together as the primary motivators in addressing issues in their neighborhoods and schools. Part of the visionary strategy of the VIP is to give youth in Miami-Dade the tools to take their voices to the halls of government.

Through the collaborative efforts of Miami-Dade governmental officials and departments, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and other community supporters, the Youth Commission is a positive model for young people. Officials hear firsthand what concerned teens have to say, have the opportunity to educate them about the governmental process, and create a symbiotic relationship between youth and the County.

QUALIFICATIONS

The members of the Youth Commission must be between the ages of fifteen (15) to eighteen (18) years at the time of appointment and be in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. To be qualified for appointment, students must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average, demonstrate a sincere interest and the motivation to work for the community, and have a background in community-based activities. Recommended students complete a full interview process.

Each County Commissioner appoints two public/private/parochial secondary school students in his/her district. The County Mayor, County Clerk, and the Agenda Coordinator each appoint an ex-officio member to the Youth Commission. Dade County Public Schools also appoints a voting member to the Youth Commission. Youth Commissioners may serve two terms consecutively.



RESPONSIBILITIES

The Youth Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a) Foster increased youth involvement in the affairs of County government;
- b) Study problems and hold forums on issues, activities and concerns of youth in the County;
- c) Comment upon existing or proposed legislation, ordinances, resolutions and policies that impact the youth in Miami-Dade County;
- d) Present methods to resolve youth-related conflicts between youth and between youth and adults;
- e) Recommend the implementation of community programs to improve the lives of youth;
- f) Monitor programs and policies that affect youth to ensure that they are achieving the intended results;
- g) Work with other youth organizations in the County to collaborate on shared issues and interests;
- h) Submit to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners an annual report of the activities of the Commission prior to the end of the regular school year;
- i) Serve as the Violence Intervention Program representative for their respective school, as permitted by the Miami-Dade County Public School System;
- j) Facilitate an annual Youth Summit in conjunction with the Juvenile Services Department
- k) Utilize social networking sites and/or technology to engage and inform the youth of their community of important County activities.
- l) Participate in a workshop that will introduce the Youth Commission members to a County Commission agenda process, a mock County Commission meeting, the role of the officials who appoint them and the County Attorney.

Additionally, each member of the Youth Commission is to meet with the official who appointed the Youth Commission member on a quarterly basis, or at the discretion of the appointing official, as is mutually convenient for the Youth Commission member and appointing official, to discuss teen and community issues of concern.

For more information, contact (305) 755-6238
or email JAC0076@miamidade.gov

Youth Commission website: www.mdcyc.org

2012 - 2013 Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

District 1

Leon Fussell
Ivonne Logo

Miami Central Senior High School
Miami Carol City Senior High School

District 2

Jude Bruno
Isis Clark

Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High School
Miami Central Senior High School

District 3

Naomie Delva
Virginia Lafontant

Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High School
Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High School

District 4

Lina Rojas
Jacob Stern

Alonzo & Tracy Mourning High School
Ransom Everglades School

District 5

Kathia Irizarry-Muñoz
Estrella Quiroz

Miami Senior High School
Miami Senior High School

District 6

Cesar Castillo
Morgan Owens

Miami Springs Senior High School
Coral Reef Senior High School

District 7

Emily Freeman
Ashley Sanchez

Home Schooled
MAST Academy

District 8

Christopher Fisk Kolychkin
Daniela Nuñez

Miami Palmetto Senior High School
G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School

District 9

Anysa Chebbi
Ambar Mesa

Coral Reef Senior High School
Coral Reef Senior High School

District 10

Brenda Abreu-Molnar
Haley Zilberberg

Terra Environmental Research Institute
School for Advanced Studies

District 11

Cynthia Larroque
Stephanie Pardinias Liuzzi

G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School
G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School

District 12

Walford Campbell
Natalia Gonzalez

Belen Jesuit Preparatory School
MAST Academy

District 13

Stephanie Gastelu
Nicklaus Matos

Barbara Goleman Senior High School
Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School

Ex- Officio Appointments

Miami-Dade County Mayor

Michael Ivory

North Miami Senior High School

Miami-Dade Commission Chair

Vacant

Miami-Dade County Clerk

Daniel Tirado

Miami Beach Senior High School

Agenda Coordinator

Liljuan Gonzalez

William H. Turner Tech. Senior High School

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Board of Education

Shakira Santos

Miami Palmetto Senior High School



Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor, Miami-Dade County

Harvey Ruvín
Clerk of the Courts

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Miami-Dade County Youth Commission



"Our Voices Matter"

