

Miami-Dade County
The Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC)

Dr. Raul Moncarz, Chairman
Monthly Meeting
Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW First Street, Conference Room 18-3
April 28, 2017 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Kenneth Lipner chaired the meeting

II. Board Members Present:

Mr. Subrata Basu; Dr. Thomas Breslin; Mr. Marcos A. Kerbel; Mr. Santiago Leon; Dr. Kenneth Lipner; Dr. Pedro Pellet; Mr. Jesus Permuy; Dr. Brian Peterson; Dr. Jorge Salazar-Carrillo; Dr. Bernadette West; Dr. Robert Cruz; Ms. Retha Boone-Fye; Mr. Robert Schwarzreich

Members Excused:

Dr. Maria Delores Espino; Mr. Jose A. Lopez-Calleja; Dr. Elisa Moncarz; Dr. Raul Moncarz; Mr. Roberto Saco

Members Absent without Excuse:

Mr. Reinaldo Valdes; Ms. Juliana Velez

Visitors:

Mr. Ronald Fulton; Ms. Charisse Grant; Ms. Kristina Raattama

Staff Present:

Mr. Armando Armada and Mr. Robert Hesler

III. Approval of the Minutes – March 24, 2017

The minutes were not available at this time.

IV. Chairperson’s Report

Chairperson Dr. Raul Moncarz is absent and there is no report.

V. General Discussion Items

➤ **Summary of the MARZ Roundtable and Next Steps – Dr. Brian Peterson**

Dr. Brian Peterson provided a typed report on the Research Zone Conference to the council. He highlighted 4 recommendations in the report for the SEDC to consider implementing. Through these efforts he suggested we could have a referendum on a tax for medical research for the first time in the United States.

He suggested we consider inviting other organizations to participate in the effort like the Public Health Trust that runs Jackson Memorial Hospital and Miami Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava who seems enthusiastic about medical research and community land trusts. He also discussed other subjects related to medical research expansion in the health District including the impact of public transportation, affordable housing and prioritization of social and economic needs.

An invitation will be extended for representatives of the Transportation Planning Association and Citizens’ Independent Transportation Trust to attend our next meeting.

Dr. Peterson also discussed the possibility of another casino coming to Miami. He said now might be a good time to prepare a letter to the Miami Herald from the SEDC pointing out some of the positive and negative consequences. He feels confident a referendum to approve it is likely and would pass.

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Ms. Retha Boone-Fye informed the council that the Mayor is giving County owned vacant lots to community based organizations for the building of affordable housing. She believes the council should be in support of this effort.

➤ **Research Program Proposal – Dr. Roberto Cruz**

Dr. Roberto Cruz: This research proposal is primarily aimed at prioritizing the economic development incentives. We can use that data and hardware we already have. Factors to consider are number of jobs and pay rate, income inequality by social groups, and the effects to the environment, for example. Resources needed are: volunteer research assistants, preferably students, volunteer research director(s), office space, internet, library, copier and the REMI Model that the county has. Dr. Cruz continued to discuss additional information relevant to the research. He also said that the council needs to think about how to get policy recommendations as a result of the study and the presentation of the study to county officials and/or the public.

Dr. Thomas Breslin put forward a motion for approval of Dr. Cruz' Research Program Proposal, "Prioritizing Economic Development Incentives," for the ongoing study. Mr. Marcos A. Kerbel second it. Motion was approved by group vote.

➤ **Discussion: Annual Socioeconomic Conditions Event by the Council and Foundation – Dr. Raul Moncarz**
Chairperson Dr. Raul Moncarz is absent, so there was no discussion of this item.

➤ **Discussion: Expansion of Living Wage Requirement** – Mr. Santiago Leon stated that he had heard about discussion by the Florida legislature of striking down any County requirements along this line. Ms. Kristina Raattama stated according to the Florida constitution, governmental agencies can have higher minimum wages.

➤ **Miami Dade Economic Conditions – Mr. Manuel Armada**

Mr. Manuel Armada: Mr. Robert Hesler discussed a graphic representation of the Labor Market in Miami Dade County.

➤ **New Business/Issues of Interest** – Dr. Kenneth Lipner shared two topics: a Reuters' news article about research on President's Trump's investments; six of which are in Miami Dade County or close, and the trickle down tax proposal.

➤ **Public Comments** – No public comments were discussed

➤ **ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.**

Mr. Jesus Permuy moved the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Santiago Leon** second the motion. Motion was approved by group vote.

Next SEDC Council Meeting Date: **May 26, 2017. Committees: Friday, May 12, 2017.**