



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ASIAN AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD



MINUTES, Monthly Board Meeting

6:00 P.M., Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Stephen P. Clark Center, 18-4 Conference Room, Miami, FL 33128

Ref: 05-14-2024

Present: Luna Adachi; Hoda Askari; Sadrul Fasihi; Sharon Fine; Eugene Fu; Christina Fuentes; Josephine Gordy; Stephen Matsumoto; Stephen Lian Thang; Tai Vaz; Nick Vicera; Jim Yu

Excused: Aileen Alon; Jose Keichi Fuentes; Li Gurau; Smita Kulkarni; Anjana Mishra; Subbarayan Pochi; Adrienne Aiko Thompson; Mehmet Ulutas

Absent: Vinita Chakravarty

Staff: Joshua Ho; Cedric Brazle; Vanessa Azzam; Griselle Marino; Amanda Gonzalez

Guest: Major Patky Changkachith; Xiaoming Lu; Na Liang; Amy Lu; Yuxi Lu; Sergeant Zubair Khan; Officer John Leon; Chhouksar Praing; Sayla Pith. Tony Pith; Jeannie Wong; Winnie Tang

At 6:15 PM., Ms. Tai Vaz, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order; she welcomed the members and guests. Ms. Vaz asked the Program Director to verify the quorum. Quorum was established.

MINUTES: Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, asked the members to review the Minutes for April 2024 and requested a motion to approve the Minutes. Dr. Hoda Askari moved to approve the April Minutes, Ms. Sharon Fine seconded, the Board unanimously approved the April Minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Ho welcomed the Board and the guests and thanked all for attending AAAB May General Board meeting. He reminded the Board to mark their calendar for 2024 AAAB General Board Meetings and stressed having a quorum as it is very important for our communities. He shared his excitement as we celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month through the month of May. He extended his gratitude to AAAB Board Members for successfully hosting the AANHPI Heritage Month Kickoff Ceremony at the Stephen P Clark Government Center and cohosting the Family Fun Day Event with the History Miami Museum and the Miami Dade County Public Library System with more than 1000 guests in attendance. Mr. Ho briefly reported his engagement opportunity from attending the 2024 ARC (AANHPI Engagement & Recruitment Core) National Conference in Chicago from May 6th through May 9th for Asian Health Coalition and All of Us Research Program. He is excited to continue to work with ARC as we are committed to improve the health and wellness of AANHPI and all underserved communities through advocacy, technical assistance, education & research. As a reminder, All of Us Research is research program from National Institute of Health to advance precision medicine research, an emerging approach for disease treatment and prevention that takes into account of individual variability in lifestyle, environment, and biological makeup.

He proceeded to inform that he is working on reappointments and appointments to AAAB and the board members' patience are very welcomed and appreciated. Mr. Ho reminded to those board members who have not fulfilled the requirement to complete the County's mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention training course to do so online as the reports for non-compliant board members will be reported to the Board of County Commissioners. Board Members can now take the course at their leisure with our web-based video and complete the acknowledgment form and submit to our office at Woody.Remy@miamidade.gov.

PSH Video: http://miamidade.granicus.com/player/clip/6171?publish_id=b96c9797-b24e-11ea-888f-0050569183fa&redirect=true&h=fd3e7c3b157b789011de620d1cd37cab

Acknowledgment Form: <https://www.miamidade.gov/humanresources/library/sexual-harassment-prevention-training-acknowledgment-form.pdf>

Mr. Ho reminded the board to complete the County Board Members' Financial Disclosure Requirement for 2023 and the deadline is July 1st: to email the completed form directly to the Elections Department at financial.disclosures@miamidade.gov and Copy hjoshua@miamidadade.gov and Nilda Olmo at the Ethics Commission at Nilda.Olmo@miamidade.gov.

He once again asked the Board members to sign up for any of the three Board committees, after careful consideration of time and dedication, to actively engage our communities: Cultural Advancement Committee, Education/Civic Engagement Committee, and Economic Development Committee. Additionally, to inform any events and activities that we may as a board member can support and promote Asian American communities.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Meet & Greet: Francesca De Quesada Covey, Chief Innovation and Economic Development Officer, Miami-Dade County

Francesca de Quesada is the Chief Innovation and Economic Development Officer for Miami-Dade County. Reporting to Mayor Levine Cava, de Quesada Covey leads efforts to accelerate innovation and economic opportunity, growing the County's "FutureReady" economy where all residents can succeed and thrive. de Quesada Covey is a seasoned business development technology executive and investor with over 15 years of experience developing public-private partnerships and advising technology firms, elected officials, and government agencies. Prior to joining the County, de Quesada Covey was the Chief Investment Officer at TheVentureCity, a global early-stage investment firm. In this role, she oversaw the strategy for pre-seed and seed investments and supported the growth of 108 portfolio companies. In parallel, she served the Mayor of Miami Dade County as Tech and Innovation Advisor and she founded the Miami-Dade Innovation Authority in 2023, a not for-profit investment vehicle supporting early-stage companies scale products solving pressing local challenges through strategic procurement partnerships.

Special Recognition for Asian American Community Tour with Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau: Wat Buddha Metta and Wat Buddhangersi Miami

The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau recognized Wat Buddha Metta and Wat Buddhangersi Miami for successfully helping the AAAB for cohosting the inaugural Asian-American Community Tour of Miami with donations of \$1500 to Wat Buddha Metta and \$500 to Wat Buddhangersi Miami. The Asian American Advisory Board is grateful to have such a wonderful partner and collaborator for our communities. Thank you, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau Multicultural Tourism and Development!

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AAAB Executive Committee – Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

AAAB Cultural Advancement Committee – Li Gurau, Chairwoman

- Asian Cultural Series Sub-committee: Chair, Tai Vaz

AAAB Economic Development Committee – Sharon Fine, Chairwoman

- Report: MDC International Trade Consortium – Preeya Disyanan, ITC Board Member
 - ITC is Global Gateway
 - Trade relations
 - Cultural relations
 - Fleet Week
 - ITC Newsletter

AAAB Education/Civic Engagement Committee - Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

- Health/Wellness Sub-committee: Chair: Sadrul Fasihi
 - UMC Free Clinic (Mobile Clinic) will purchase a smaller mobile clinic
 - Full pharmacy is in place

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- **Updates from Miami-Dade Police – MDPD Major Patky Changkachith & Detective Brandy Conway**
 - Detective Brandy Conway – To report suspicious incidents, call 305-4-POLICE. There is a difference between Free Speech versus Hate Crimes.
 - Major Patky introduced Officer Nguyen and Officer Chang for receiving Miami-Dade Police Department's Life Saving Awards.
- **Get Out the Vote Campaign (Location, Date, Time, Hosts)**
 - July 13th: Presidential Townhall Watch Party in Philadelphia (APIA Vote)
 - September 17th: National Voter Registration Day (APIA Vote)
 - Organize Norman Y. Mineta Leadership Institute for Miami-Dade County (APIA Vote)
- **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May)**
 - **Marquee Signage at Miami International Airport**
 - May 15, Wednesday: Gummakonda Reddy Foundation Golf Tournament
 - May 18, Saturday: NAMI Walk 2024, Zoo Miami
 - THEAAAB4AWARENESS - Team Captain: Dr. Eugene Fu
 - May 18, Saturday: Museum of Discovery and Science
 - May 18, Saturday: MDPLS Local Author Series with Sadrul Fasihi; Westchester Regional Library
 - May 18, Saturday: Asian Real Estate Association of America Greater Miami's 2nd Annual Kamayan Dinner
 - May 19, Sunday: Japanese Festival at Ichimura Japan Garden
 - May 22, Wednesday: Miami Dade College – Wolfson Campus Cultural Celebrations in Asia and Beyond
 - May 25, Saturday: Family Fun Day Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month with City of North Miami Beach
 - May 30, Thursday: APABA South Florida's AANHPI Heritage Month Event
 - May 30, Thursday: Federal Detention Center Miami (Invites Only)
 - May 31, Friday: Department of Homeland Security (Invites Only)
 - Doing Business with Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools: TBD

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

➤ AANHPI Heritage Month

- **Request for Payment of \$300 from the AAAB Trust Fund to Thai American Association of Florida as payment for Sound and Keyboard during the AAAB AANHPI Heritage Month Kickoff Ceremony at Stephen P Clark Center - Thursday, May 2, 2024**
 - Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, requested a motion to approve the amount of \$300 from the AAAB Trust Account to the Thai American Association of Florida for payment for sound and keyboard during the AAAB AANHPI Heritage Month Kickoff Ceremony at Stephen P Clark Center. Ms. Josephine Gordy moved to approve the amount of \$300 from the AAAB Trust Account for the Thai American Association of Florida, Mr. Stephen Matsumoto seconded, Board unanimously approved the amount of \$300 from the AAAB Trust Account to Thai American Association of Florida as payment for Sound and Keyboard during the AAAB AANHPI Heritage Month Kickoff Ceremony at Stephen P Clark Center.
- **Reception at the Residence of Consul General Kazuhiro Nakai of Japan in Miami for Asian American Advisory Board and Asian American Community Leaders (Invites Only) – Wednesday, May 29, 2024**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Calendar of Events:

- May 2, Thursday: Opening Kickoff Ceremony at Stephen P. Clark Center Lobby
- May 11, Saturday: Family Fun Day Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month with History Miami Museum & Miami-Dade Public Library
- May 15, Wednesday: Gummakonda Reddy Foundation's 14th Annual Golf Tournament, Jacaranda Country Club, 9200 West Broward Blvd.; 11AM
- May 18, Saturday: NAMI Walk 2024, Zoo Miami; 8AM; THEAAAB4AWARENESS (Dr. Eugene Fu, Captain) <https://namimiami.org/2024-walk-for-mental-health-awareness>
- May 18, Saturday: Family Fun Day Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month with Museum of Discovery and Science, 401 SW 2nd Street; 10AM -5PM <https://mods.org/weekend-experiences>
- May 18, Saturday: Japanese Language Exchange Meetup; Westchester Regional Library, 9445 Coral Way; Noon – 2PM
- May 18, Saturday: Miami-Dade Public Library System Presents Local Author Series with Sadrul Fasihi, Pakistani author and Board Member of the MDC Asian American Advisory Board; Westchester Regional Library, 9445 Coral Way; 2:30PM – 3:30PM <https://mdpls.org/branch-westchester-regional>
- May 18, Saturday: Asian Real Estate Association of America Greater Miami's 2nd Annual Kamayan Dinner; Barry University – Bucky's Cove, 11300 NW 1st Avenue; 6PM – 8PM; Members \$40 , Non-Members \$60
- May 19, Sunday: Japanese Festival at Ichimura Japanese Garden in Miami, 1101 MacArthur Causeway; 10AM – 4PM <https://friendsofjapanesegarden.com/>
- May 22, Wednesday: Miami Dade College – Wolfson Campus Advancing Asian Heritage Through Innovation with Anime & MAGIC; MDC Wolfson Campus, Building 8, Room 8106, 300 NE 2nd Ave.; Noon – 1:30PM
- May 25, Saturday: Family Fun Day Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month with City of North Miami Beach; Senator Gwen Margolis Amphitheater, 16451 Miami Dr, North Miami Beach; 1PM – 4PM <https://nmbplib.libnet.info/events>
- May 29, Wednesday: Miami Dade College – Wolfson Campus Cultural Celebrations in Asia and Beyond; MDC Wolfson Campus, Building 2, Breezeway; Noon – 1:30PM
- May 30, Thursday: APABA South Florida's AANHPI Heritage Month Event; White & Case LLP, 200 South Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 4900; 5:30PM

- Sundays: ACE Talk Show with Winnie Tang, Josephine Gordy & Joshua Ho on WAVS 1170AM & 107.9 FM, Sunday evening from 9PM – 10PM www.ACETalk.org

Adjournment: At 7:42PM, Ms. Tai Vaz requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stephen Matsumoto moved to adjourn; Ms. Josephine Gordy seconded; Board unanimously approved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6PM – SPCC 18-4 Conference Room