



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



MINUTES, Monthly Board Meeting

6:00 P.M., Thursday, June 20, 2024

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

Ref: 06-20-2024

Present: Luna Adachi; Aileen Alon; Hoda Askari; Sadrul Fasihi; Sharon Fine; Eugene Fu; Jose Keichi Fuentes; Josephine Gordy; Li Gurau; Stephen Matsumoto; Subbarayan Pochi; Stephen Lian Thang; Mehmet Ulutas; Tai Vaz; Nick Vicera

Excused: Vinita Chakravarty; Christina Fuentes; Smita Kulkarni; Anjana Mishra; Adrienne Aiko Thompson; Jim Yu

Absent:

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

Guest: Major Patky Changkachith; Nicolle Acuna; Officer John Leon; Chhouksar Praing; Sayla Pith. Karla Fortune; Taylor Haas; Adrian Jordan; Olivia Creech; Kara Hinton; Jeannie Wong

At 6:10 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 May 2024 and requested a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Jose Fuentes moved to approve the May Minutes, Ms. Josephine Gordy seconded, the Board unanimously approved the May Minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Ho welcomed the Board and the guests and thanked all for attending AAAB June General Board meeting. He reminded the Board to update 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 and gratitude for leading the celebration of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month throughout the month of May. 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:

Special Recognition for Huddles for the Holidays Winner presented by Miami Dolphins Football Unites:

Presented by Adrian Jordan, Olivia Creech and Kara Hinton, Community Relations, Miami Dolphins

Ms. Tai Vaz, Chairwoman of the Miami-Dade County Asian American Advisory Board and Vice-President of the Thai American Association of Florida was recognized for her involvement and leadership as she continuously promotes Asian cultural advancement, civic engagement, and support for small businesses through various community events and partnerships. She organizes charitable initiatives via the Gummakonda Reddy Foundation, which embodies the spirit of community support, empowerment, and education. Huddle for the Holidays amplifies and recognizes the culture of South Florida as a celebration of non-traditional holidays. In addition, it raises awareness of communities and nonprofits that the Miami Dolphins support around their causes.

Introduction to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: Latoya Allen, Outreach & Education Coordinator, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - Miami District Office

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. Most employers with at least 15 employees are covered by EEOC laws (20 employees in age discrimination cases). Most labor unions and employment agencies are also covered. The laws apply to all types of work situations, including hiring, firing, promotions, harassment, training, wages, and benefits. Preventing employment discrimination from occurring in the workplace in the first place is preferable to remedying the consequences of discrimination. EEOC is committed to providing training and technical assistance, outreach and education programs to assist employers, employees and stakeholder groups understand and prevent discrimination. We believe that discrimination can be averted if companies, federal agencies and individuals know their legal rights and responsibilities.

Florida International University First-Generation Initiatives: Fang Shu, PhD., Assistant Teaching Professor, Notable Global Learning Faculty, Faculty Representative, Honors College, Director of Marketing, ICHRIE SECSA Federation

(On April 9th, AAAB approved the amount of \$5000 from the AAAB Trust Account to the FIU First Generation Scholarship)

Nearly one-quarter of undergraduate students at FIU are among the first generation in their families to attend college. These trailblazing students are on track to become the next generation of entrepreneurs, community leaders, and researchers. However, they often require additional assistance. Founded in 2006, the First-Generation Scholarship Program at FIU supports these students financially so that they can concentrate on their

studies and graduate on time with minimal debt. Donations to first-generation scholarships are now matched 2 to 1 by the state of Florida, potentially tripling the impact of every dollar given.

University of Miami Sylvester GameChanger: Nicolle Acuna, Research Associate, Community Health Educator, Office of Outreach and Engagement, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

- The Sylvester Office of Outreach and Engagement (SOOE) is rooted in the spirit of outreach and community engagement.
- The focus of these efforts is cancer education, prevention, screening and the importance of early detection.
- SOOE will strategically focus its outreach efforts on serving the medically underserved counties of Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe.
- The goal and mission of SOOE parallels that of SCCC which is to reduce the high incidence and over burden of disease through education, prevention, screening and early detection.
- Extending outreach imprint of SCCC through service, cancer education and screening
- Dedicated to engaging key community stakeholders and leaders in continuous bi-directional meaningful dialogue that will serve as a building block to long lasting, impactful relationships and collaborations.
- These relationships allow for Sylvester to expand its service reach throughout its designated catchment area but more importantly provides our community stakeholders the platform to voice important concerns

- Screening:
 - Address the cancer burden in our South Florida community
 - **Sylvester Game Changer Vehicle**
 - The following services are provided for **FREE**:
 - Cervical cancer screening
 - Colorectal cancer screening
 - Prostate cancer screening
 - Hepatitis B and C viral exposure screening
 - Skin cancer screening (coming soon)
 - HIV testing
 - Sexually transmitted infections (STI) screening
 - In-person counseling and/or referrals for common health concerns
 - Cancer health education rooted on prevention & early detection
 - SOOE offers health education sessions to the community. Our Community Health Educators (CHE) provide informative and timely presentations for civic organizations, community groups, schools, churches, and businesses.
 - Topics include:
 - Cancer 101
 - Breast Cancer
 - Cervical Cancer
 - Colorectal Cancer
 - Lung Cancer
 - Liver Cancer
 - Melanoma
 - Oral, Head and Neck Cancer
 - Prostate Cancer

Request the vehicle for community events, for presentation, and for tabling.

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
 - Will request meeting during the month of July

AAAB Economic Development Committee – Sharon Fine, Chairwoman

- Attended an event hosted by the Miami-Dade Beacon Council – will connect the board
- Report: MDC International Trade Consortium – Preeya Disyanan, ITC Board Member
 - Provided 2024 Calendar List of Events for ITC
 - Introduced Marie R. Gill, Executive Director for Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center in Florida

AAAB Education/Civic Engagement Committee - Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

- Health/Wellness Sub-committee: Chair: Sadrul Fasihi
 - UMC Free Clinic (Mobile Clinic)

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- **Updates from Miami-Dade Police – MDPD Major Patky Changkachith & Detective Brandy Conway**
 - Major Patky attended many sister board under the Office of Community Advocacy meetings
- **Get Out the Vote Campaign (Location, Date, Time, Hosts)**
 - Mr. Ho will attend OCA National Convention in Philadelphia, July 11th thru July 15th
 - 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)

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Health & Safety Fair – In Partnership with Healthy Mind, Heart and Body, Inc., City of Homestead Police Athletic League & Miami-Dade Commissioner Kionne McGhee**
 - Phicol Williams Community Center, 951 SW 4th Street, Homestead
 - Saturday, July 13, 2024, 10AM – 1PM

Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, requested a motion to cohost the Health & Safety Fair – In Partnership with Healthy Mind, Heart and Body, Inc., City of Homestead Police Athletic League & Miami-Dade Commissioner Kionne McGhee. Ms. Josephine Gordy moved to cohost the event, Mr. Mehmet Ulutas seconded, the Board unanimously approved to cohost the Health & Safety Fair – In Partnership with Healthy Mind, Heart and Body, Inc., City of Homestead Police Athletic League & Miami-Dade Commissioner Kionne McGhee.

- **Doing Business with Miami-Dade County, Hosted by Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department**
 - Friday, August 30, 2024
 - City of North Miami Beach

Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, requested a motion to cohost the Doing Business with Miami-Dade County, Hosted by Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department. Mr. Mehmet Ulutas moved to cohost the event, Mr. Stephen Matsumoto seconded, the Board unanimously approved to cohost the Doing Business with Miami-Dade County, Hosted by Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department.

- **Celebration Gala for Mid-Autumn Festival: Beijing Normal University Student Performing Troupe With City of North Miami Beach Multicultural Committee**
 - Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7PM
 - Julius Littman Performing Arts Theater, City of North Miami Beach

After a brief discussion, the board decided to table the item for July meeting. The board asked for clarification from the county attorney as to how we can collaborate with colleges from China.

Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, requested a motion to table the Celebration Gala for Mid-Autumn Festival: Beijing Normal University Student Performing Troupe. Mr. Jose Fuentes moved to table the event, Mr. Mehmet Ulutas seconded, the Board unanimously approved to table the Celebration Gala for Mid-Autumn Festival: Beijing Normal University Student Performing for July Board Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Jose Fuentes asked the board how we can promote cultural awareness with the Buddhist temples in South Florida (Redlands & Homestead), Thai Temple, Cambodian Temple and Vietnamese Temple. Mr. Fuentes suggested to reach out to the City of Homestead to see how we can collaborate to promote Asian American culture and business.

Calendar of Events:

- **June 22, Saturday:** Buddha's Blessing Ceremony at Wat Buddha Metta, Cambodian Buddhist Temple; 20599 SW 304th Street, Homestead; 4PM -8PM; Free Admission
- **June 23, Sunday:** Wat Buddharangsi 42nd Anniversary Celebration; Wat Buddharangsi Thai Temple, 15200 SW 240th Street, Miami; 10AM-2PM; Free event; <https://www.thaitemplemiamifl.org/news/wat-buddharangsi-42nd-anniversary>
- **June 23, Sunday:** Buddha's Blessing Celebration at Wat Buddha Metta, Cambodian Buddhist Temple; 20599 SW 304th Street, Homestead; 10AM-1PM; Free Admission
- **June 26, Wednesday:** Vendor Matchmaking with County's Park, Recreation and Open Spaces; Arcola Lakes Senior Center, 8401 NW 14 Avenue, Miami; 1PM; <http://www.miamidade.gov/VendorMatchmaking>
- **July 25, Thursday:** Overtown Cultural Tour with Miami Dolphins Football Unites Cultural Tour
- **July 27, Saturday:** Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce Miami Annual Gathering and Party: Jacaranda Country Club, 9200 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation; 11AM; \$60 pp
- **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; Dr. Li Gurau seconded; Board unanimously approved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6PM – SPCC 18-4 Conference Room