



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



MINUTES, Monthly Board Meeting

6:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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

Ref: 09-16-2025

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- Present:** Luna Adachi; Hoda Askari; Sadrul Fasihi; Eugene Fu; Josephine Gordy; Li Gurau; Taylor Haas; Ellis Keeter; Samira Khan; Stephen Lian Thang; Mehmet Ulutas; Tai Vaz; Jim Yu; Preeya Disyanan (ITC)
- Excused:** Vinita Chakravarty; Sharon Fine; Jose Keichi Fuentes; Smita Kulkarni; Anjana Mishra; Subbarayan Pochi; Luke Keisuke Nakano; Adrienne Aiko Thompson; Nick Vicera
- Absent:**
- Staff:** Joshua Ho; Cedric Brazle
- Guest:** Deputy Shariff John Leon; Detective Brandy Conway; Jeannie Wong

At 6:35 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 July 2025 and requested a motion to approve the Minutes. Ms. Taylor Haas moved to approve the July Minutes, Dr. Jim Yu seconded, the Board unanimously approved the July Minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Joshua Ho welcomed the Board and the guests and thanked all for attending AAAB September General Board meeting. He congratulated and welcomed Ms. Samira Khan, AAAB appointee of Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis, District 6.

Important Updates:

County Attorney needs to review the contract first before the BCC Chairman or the Chairman's designee signs the contract. And entire amount of the funds to pay for an event needs to be in place before the contract can be signed. So no more paying the deposit to the hotel/venue and then raising money to pay for the balance due or depending on ticket sales to help pay for the balance due. (Impact: 30th Anniversary Celebration and Community Recognition Gala).

Effective Monday, August 15th, 2025: Board Member Nominees will no longer be required to submit a notarized Oath of Office as a condition of their appointment; Board members who are currently pending due to the outstanding Oath requirement will be placed on their respective boards; and Financial Disclosure, Sexual

Harassment Prevention Training, and Ethics Training will still be required of appointees, pursuant to Sec. 2-11.38, R-355-18, and R-189-05 respectively.

Ordinance relating to advice and County Attorney policy recommendations made by County Advisory Boards; creating section 2-11.39.4 of the Code; requiring approval by Board of County Commissioners of advice and policy recommendations made by County Advisory Boards, task forces and citizens' advisory groups prior to implementation thereof.

Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis, District 6, will sponsor the revision of the Attendance Requirements and Provide Removal of Absentee Members (Asian American Advisory Board, Elders Affairs Advisory Board, Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, and LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board: Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code of Miami-Dade County, a board member shall be automatically removed if, in a given County fiscal year the member is absent from three consecutive meetings or a total of four board meeting, irrespective of the reasons for the absences. If a member fails to comply with such attendance requirements or voluntarily resigns, the member shall forfeit their membership on the board. A member shall be considered absent from a meeting if the member is not physically present for at least 75 percent of the meeting's duration. A member shall also be considered absent from a meeting if the member refrains from voting on any matter for which voting is conducted at the meeting, unless the member is prevented from voting by a conflict of interest. The provisions of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, as may be amended, are applicable to this board.

He reminded the Board to update their calendar for 2025 AAAB General Board Meetings and stressed having a quorum as it is very important for our communities. He informed the Board that he is currently working on reappointments and appointments to AAAB and the board members' patience is very welcome and appreciated. 2024 Source of Income Statement needs to be completed asap as the deadline July 1, 2025 has passed: Email completed form to: financial.disclosure@miamidade.gov , Nilda.Olmo@miamidade.gov , Franklin.Castro@miamidadeclerk.gov and copy hjoshua@miamidade.gov. He once again encouraged 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:

Introduction to Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board – Elizabeth Regalado, Executive Director

- Mission: To ensure that Miami-Dade County has a streamlined diligent and ethical system to address domestic violence.
- Tasked with creating a comprehensive plan for the use of the portion of the Food and Beverage (F&B) sale tax proceeds:
 - Called the one penny tax
 - 1% F&B Tax split 85% for Homeless Services and 15% for the construction and operations of Domestic Violence shelters
 - Revenues collected average \$6 million per year
 - 32 of 35 Miami-Dade County municipalities participate (Miami Beach, Surfside, Bal Harbor exempt due to resort tax)
 - Constructed two shelters to date and partially funding their operations at a cost of over \$4 Million per year
 - F&B tax proceeds required to build a third domestic violence shelter and continue to fund the operations of the two shelters are projected to be available no earlier than FY 2032-33

- Miami-Dade County DV Shelters: 224 Beds and 81 FTE
- Intimate partner violence alone affects more than 12 million people every year.
- Women ages 18 to 24 and
- 25 to 34 generally experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence.
- Domestic violence issues lead to nearly 8 million lost days of paid work each year, the equivalent of over 32,000 full-time jobs.
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men aged 18 and older in the US have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- 1 in 10 high school students has experienced physical violence from a dating partner in the past year.
- The total economic cost of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Miami-Dade County for 2020 was \$75,884,459, based on conservative estimates. A 20% reduction in IPV could save over \$15 million. Limitations include non-county-specific data and the use of domestic violence (DV) and IPV interchangeably due to limited data. Despite this, the study offers innovative methods and a framework for other counties. The recent slowdown in the decline of IPV-related offenses highlights the need for continued public investment and private partnerships to address this issue and reduce its economic impact on taxpayers.
- 106,515 domestic offenses were reported to law enforcement
- 217 individuals died because of domestic violence homicide, representing approximately 20 percent of all homicides in Florida.
- 6,620 requests for emergency shelter went unmet due to lack of capacity and resources
- 80,493 crisis hotline calls
- 63,217 arrests for domestic violence related crimes
- Film Screenings of “The Last Drop” a prevention film hosted by Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board
 - *October 8th - FIU Mary Anne Wolfe Theater 3000 NE 151 Street, North Miami Beach, 6PM - 9PM
 - *October 9th - University of Miami Bill Cosford Cinema 5030 Brunson Drive, Coral Gables; 10AM - Noon

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- **Updates from Miami-Dade Sheriff Office** – Detective Brandy Conway & Deputy Sheriff John Leon
- **"Doing Business with Miami-Dade County" Workshop with Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department and City of North Miami Beach**
 - Date: Wednesday, September 24, Noon – 3PM
 - Location: City of North Miami Beach, Marjorie and William McDonald Center
 - 17051 NE 19th Ave, North Miami Beach
- **Asian Culture Series**
- **Collaboration with Chinese Language Teachers Association of Florida, Julia Zhu, President, and Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus World Language Department for 2025 Harvest Moon Festival Celebration**
 - Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus Auditorium
 - Saturday, September 27th, 1PM – 5PM
- **NAMI Miami-Dade Reel Minds**
 - Friday, October 24th, 7PM – 9PM
 - Area Stage – 5701 Sunset Dr Suite 286, South Miami, FL 33143
 - Screening of the full-length film Anxiety Club, a humorous and heartfelt look at anxiety through the eyes of some of the most brilliant (and anxious) comedians working today. Follow Tiffany Jenkins, Joe List, Marc Maron and several other comedians as they offer

candid reflections on their relationship with anxiety through exclusive interviews, standup performances, sketch videos and more.

- Saturday, October 25th - Reel Minds Short Films (For ages 14 and above)
 - Little Haiti Cultural Center – 212 NE 59th Terrace Miami, FL 33137
 - Doors open at 1:00 PM, films screen from 1:30- 5:00 PM
 - VIP Reception: 5:00-6:30 PM
 - Viewing of international short films at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex. Together, explore the stories behind the films and hear vital conversations with talented filmmakers and mental health professionals. Present one of our finalists with the Chrysalis Award- a special recognition for a film that best encompasses NAMI's mission and those we serve.
 - <https://secure.everyaction.com/O2HeMu71CE2vU6bItxeobQ2>
- **Change of November General Board Meeting Date**
 - Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, asked for a motion to change the AAAB November General Meeting date from Tuesday, November 11th, to observe Veterans Day, to Thursday, November 13th. Ms. Taylor Haas moved to approve the change of date, Dr. Hoda Askari seconded, the Board unanimously approved the change of AAAB November General Meeting date to Thursday, November 13th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AAAB Executive Committee – Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

AAAB Cultural Advancement Committee – Li Gurau, Chairwoman

- Asian Cultural Series Sub-committee: Chair, Tai Vaz
- Report: Committee Meeting: June 18th
 - September – China (Miami Dade College)
 - October –
 - November – Pakistan, Saturday, November 15th, 2PM – 5PM, Pinecrest Branch Library
 - South Korea, Wednesday, November 12th, Noon – 5PM, FIU Graham Center Ballrooms
 - December

Japan, India, Iran, Philippines, Myanmar, Taiwan, Türkiye, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Jamaican-Chinese, Israel

AAAB Economic Development Committee – Sharon Fine, Chairwoman

- Report: MDC International Trade Consortium – Preeya Disyanan, ITC Board Member
 - InterAmerican Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities 2025
 - September 29, 8AM -5PM : InterContinental Doral - 2505 NW 87 Avenue
 - September 30, 8:30AM – 3PM : Florida International University (FIU), Modesto Maidique Campus
 - Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo (FITCE 2025)
 - Greater Ft. Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale
 - October 22-23, 7AM – 8PM
 - Free Admission: To Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fitce-2025-florida-international-trade-cultural-expo-10th-anniversary-tickets-1367911763909?aff=FITCEWebsite>
 - Asian Pavilion
 - Day 1: Opening Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting, 11AM
 - Day 2: Industry Forums

AAAB Education/Civic Engagement Committee - Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

- Report: Committee Meeting: June 18th
- Health/Wellness Sub-committee: Chair: Sadrul Fasihi

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Calendar of Events:

- September 14, Sunday: Fushu Daiko 35 Years of Taiko South Florida Celebration Concert; Broward Center for the Performing Arts Amaturo Theater, 201 SW 5th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale; 6:30PM; <https://tickets-center.com/tickets/972213>
- September 16, Tuesday: Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration Kickoff Event; Stephen P Clark Government Center Lobby; Noon; Free Event
- September 17 & 18, Wednesday, Thursday: WTE Miami 2025 - business-to-business (B2B) event that sets the stage for global expansion into the highly competitive and lucrative U.S. tourism market; Miami Beach Convention Center; 9AM – 5:30PM
- September 24, Wednesday: "Doing Business with Miami-Dade County" Workshop with Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department and City of North Miami Beach; Marjorie and William McDonald Center, 17051 NE 19th Ave, North Miami Beach; Noon – 3PM; Free but Registration Required www.Miamidade.gov/vendorevents
- September 27, Saturday: 2025 Harvest Moon Festival Celebration; Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, 300 NE 2nd Ave, Building 1 Room 1261, Miami; Free Parking Building 7; 1PM – 5PM; Free Admission
- September 25, Thursday: Technology and the AI Evolution, a Networking Mixer hosted by the India- US Chamber of Commerce, South Florida; Deccan Spice, 1151 S. Federal Hwy, Pompano Beach; 6PM – 7:30PM; \$10pp <https://primeeventz.com/event-detail/Mjgx/networking-event-technology-and-the-ai-evolution/deccan-spice-pompano-s-federal-hwy-pompano-beach-florida-usa>
- October 5, Sunday: Tết Trung Thu, Vietnamese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival 2025 hosted by the Vietnamese American Community of South Florida; Polish American Club, 935 SW 71st Street, North Lauderdale; 6PM; Free Event
- October 8, Wednesday: Film Screenings of “The Last Drop,” a prevention film hosted by Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board; Florida International University Mary Anne Wolfe Theater 3000 NE 151 Street, North Miami Beach, 6PM -9PM; Free Admission but Registration Required <https://events.humanitix.com/national-domestic-violence-awareness-month-film-screening-the-last-drop>
- October 9, Thursday: Film Screenings of “The Last Drop,” a prevention film hosted by Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board; University of Miami Bill Cosford Cinema 5030 Brunson Drive, Coral Gables; 10AM - Noon; Free Admission but Registration Required <https://events.humanitix.com/national-domestic-violence-awareness-month-film-screening-the-last-drop-77unx4d7>
- October 9, Thursday: Annual Mahāvīra Nirvāṇa Lecture – Worldly Sciences and Jains in the World, hosted by FIU Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs; Florida International University Tamiami Hall, Room 121, 11200 SW 8th Street, Miami; 6:30PM – 9PM; Free but Registration Required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-mahavira-nirvana-lecture-tickets-1636588924529?aff=oddttdtcreator>
- October 17, Friday: Diwali Celebration at FIU with special guest Dr. Shiv Subramaniam, Assistant Professor of Religion at Emory University; FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC); 6:30PM; Free but Registration required (Link will be forwarded)
- October 22 & 23, Wednesday & Thursday: Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo (FITCE 2025); Greater Ft. Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale; 7AM -8PM; To Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fitce-2025->

[florida-international-trade-cultural-expo-10th-anniversary-tickets-1367911763909?aff=FITCEWebsite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/floridas-43rd-annual-medweek-business-matchmaker-opportunity-conference-tickets-890361544347?aff=oddtcreator)

- October 24, Friday: Florida's 43rd Annual MEDWeek Business Matchmaker Opportunity Conference - M. Gill & Associates, Inc.; Kovens Conference Center, 3000 Northeast 151st Street, North Miami; 10AM -5PM; Free but Registration required
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/floridas-43rd-annual-medweek-business-matchmaker-opportunity-conference-tickets-890361544347?aff=oddtcreator>
- October 24, Friday: Elevate Small Business Conference with Commissioner Eileen Higgins, District 5; Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus; All Day; Free Event but Registration Required www.elevatesmall.biz
- October 25, Saturday; NAMI Miami-Dade Reel Minds - Connecting Mental Health Awareness with the Arts!; Little Haiti Cultural Complex, 212 NE 59th Terrace, Miami; Tickets Required
<https://secure.everyaction.com/O2HeMu71CE2vU6bItxeobQ2>
- November 2, Sunday: Free Japanese Festival; Ichimura Miami-Japan Garden, 1101 MacArthur Causeway, Watson Island, Miami; 10:30AM -4PM; Free Admission with Additional Purchases;
<https://friendsofjapanesegarden.com/>
- Sundays: ACE Talk Radio Show with Winnie Tang, Josephine Gordy & Joshua Ho on WAVS 1170AM & 107.9 FM, Sunday evening from 9PM – 10PM www.ACE-Talk.com

Adjournment: At 7:56PM, Mr. Mehmet Ulutas moved to adjourn; Ms. Taylor Haas seconded; Board unanimously approved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6PM – SPCC 18-4 Conference Room