



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



MINUTES, Monthly Board Meeting

6:00 P.M., Tuesday, October 14, 2025

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

Ref: 10-14-2025

Present:	Eugene Fu; Josephine Gordy; Samira Khan; Anjana Mishra; Subbarayan Pochi; Luke Keisuke Nakano; Stephen Lian Thang; Mehmet Ulutas; Tai Vaz; Jim Yu; Preeya Disyanan (ITC)
Excused:	Luna Adachi; Hoda Askari; Sadrul Fasihi; Vinita Chakravarty; Sharon Fine; Jose Keichi Fuentes; Li Gurau; Taylor Haas; Ellis Keeter; Smita Kulkarni; Adrienne Aiko Thompson; Nick Vicera
Absent:	
Staff:	Joshua Ho; Cedric Brazle
Guest:	Carla Hill; Deputy Shariff John Leon; Hassim Ali; 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 not established.

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.**

County Ethics Code would prohibit AAAB board member from seeking a benefit for their own nonprofit or the nonprofits with which they are employed or are a board member. Namely, Section 2-11.1(g) of the County Ethics Code prohibits board members from using their official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for themselves or others. This would mean that board members could not use their board position to donate to their nonprofit, promote an event, or seek any benefit on behalf of a third party. Additionally, Section 2-11.1(m)(2) of the County Ethics Code, prohibits a County board member either directly or through an associate, from appearing before the County board that he/she serves to make a presentation or seek a benefit on behalf of a third party. Thus, a board member directly seeking a benefit for a third party whether through themselves or by another member of their organization appearing before the board to seek a benefit would also be prohibited. 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 Ransom Everglades School – Carla Hill, Admissions Associate

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- **Updates from Miami-Dade Sheriff Office** – Detective Brandy Conway & Deputy Sheriff John Leon
- **From Board of County Commissioners**
 - 30th Anniversary Gala: County Attorney needs to review the contract first before the BCC Chairman or the Chairman's designee signs the contract. An entire amount of the funds to pay for an event needs to be in place before the contract can be signed.

- 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.
 - 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.
 - Thursday, October 9th: Ordinance for First Reading: Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis, District 6, Prime Sponsor, Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, District 8, Co-sponsor, the revision of the Attendance Requirements and Provide Removal of Absentee Members (Asian American Advisory Board: Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code, 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 meetings, irrespective of the reasons for the absences.
 - County Ethics Code would prohibit AAAB board member from seeking a benefit for their own nonprofit or the nonprofits with which they are employed or are a board member. Namely, Section 2-11.1(g) of the County Ethics Code prohibits board members from using their official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for themselves or others
- **Asian Culture Series**
- Pakistan: Saturday, November 15th, 2PM -5PM
 - Pinecrest Branch Library, 5835 Southwest 111th Street, Pinecrest
 - South Korea: Wednesday, November 12th, Noon – 5PM
 - Florida International University (FIU), Modesto Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms
 - Japan: Possible Date: Saturday, December 6th, 11AM – 2PM
- **Current Situations in Asian American Community**
- Mental Health in Asian American Communities (NAMI Miami-Dade)
 - Domestic Violence (MDC Domestic Violence Oversight Board)
 - Substance Abuse in Teenagers (Children's Trust)

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion Items):

- **Current AAAB Executive Board Elections – November Board Meeting**
- Executive Officers shall serve for one year (up to two consecutive terms in the same office) or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin upon results of the election. No vote by proxy shall be permitted. Election shall be by a majority of the votes cast by members present and voting.
 - Current: (Following Officers are Eligible for another term)
 - **Chairperson –**
 - **1st Vice Chairperson – Ms. Luna Adachi**
 - **2nd Vice Chairperson – Ms. Josephine Gordy**
 - **3rd Vice Chairperson – Dr. Eugene Fu**

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:
 - October –
 - November – Pakistan, Saturday, November 15th, 2PM – 5PM, Pinecrest Branch Library

- South Korea, Wednesday, November 12th, Noon – 5PM, FIU Graham Center Ballrooms
- December- Japan
- 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
 - 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
 - 43rd Annual MEDWeek Business Matchmaker Opportunity Conference
 - Kovens Conference Center, 3000 NE 151st Street, North Miami
 - Friday, October 24, 10AM -5PM
 - Free Admission: To Register www.MEDWeekFlorida.org

AAAB Education/Civic Engagement Committee - Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

- Health/Wellness Sub-committee: Chair: Sadrul Fasihi

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Calendar of Events:

- October 15, Wednesday: CG Bethel High School 5th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL SUMMIT; CG Bethel High School, 16150 NE 17 Avenue, NMB; 9:30AM – 1:30PM
- October 16, Thursday: University of Miami Lantern Festival Celebration 2025, UMAASA; UM School of Architecture Courtyard; 6PM
- October 17, Friday: Kālidāsa and the Idea of Literature- Diwali Celebration at FIU with special guest Dr. Shiv Subramaniam, Assistant Professor of Religion at Emory University; FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Tamiami Hall, Room 121; 6:30PM; Free but Registration required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diwali-celebration-2025-tickets-1669288610169>
- October 18, Saturday: Japan Fes Florida @ Miami Beach; Indian Beach Park / 4601 Collins Ave, Miami Beach; Noon – 8PM; <https://www.japanfes.com/new-blog/2025/oct-18th-indian-beach-park>
- October 22, Wednesday: The Christmas Truce of 1914, Humanity's Light in the Darkest of Times (FIU & Florida Grand Opera); FIU Steven J Green School of International and Public Affairs, FIU SIPA II, Room 102; 10AM – Noon; Free Event, Registration Required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-christmas-truce-of-1914-tickets-1564302353449?aff=oddtcreator>
- October 22, Wednesday: India-US Chamber of Commerce South Florida - 2025-2026 Business Outlook: Trade, Technology, and Market Impacts on Indian American Success; Founders Shooting Club, 5320 Powerline Road, Suite 120; 6PM -7:30PM; \$10 <https://iuccsfl.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af84d65ff65ac7f3810e3f2d8&id=be208d20c7&e=070b6bc084>
- 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 FITCE 2025
 - 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
 - Florida's 43rd Annual MEDWeek Business Matchmaker Opportunity Conference Tickets, Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite
 - 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 24, Friday: NAMI Miami-Dade Reel Minds - Connecting Mental Health Awareness with the Arts!; Screening of the full-length film Anxiety Club; Area Stage – 5701 Sunset Dr Suite 286, South Miami; 7PM; Tickets <https://secure.everyaction.com/O2HeMu71CE2vU6bItxeobQ2>
 - October 25, Saturday; NAMI Miami-Dade Reel Minds - Connecting Mental Health Awareness with the Arts!; Little Haiti Cultural Complex, 212 NE 59th Terrace, Miami; 1PM – 6:30PM; Tickets Required <https://secure.everyaction.com/O2HeMu71CE2vU6bItxeobQ2>
 - October 25, Saturday: H.E.L.P. Health and Education Love Project 4th Annual Banquet and Awards Night; Sunset Lakes Community Center 2801 SW 186th Ave., Miramar; 7PM -11PM; \$60pp; Tickets 305-753-8791
 - 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/>
 - November 6, Thursday: Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau Annual Meeting - the tourism industry's largest gathering of Miami-Dade partners and community stakeholders; Coastal Convention Center at Fontainebleau Miami Beach; 4441 Collins Avenue; Tickets <https://us.eventsforce.net/greatermiami/34/register>
 - November 7, Friday: AREAA Greater Miami 2025 BOD Installation Ceremony: Madam President Mariesen Sartori; Tower Club 26th Floor; Tickets Required
 - November 12, Wednesday: AAAB Asian Culture Series – South Korea; Florida International University (FIU), Modesto Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms; Noon – 5PM
 - November 15, Saturday: AAAB Asian Culture Series – Pakistan; Pinecrest Branch Library, 5835 Southwest 111th Street, Pinecrest; 2PM – 5PM
 - November 15, Saturday: Gummakonda Reddy Foundation 10th Annual Fundraising Brunch; Jacaranda Ballroom & Patio, 9200 W. Broward Blvd. Plantation; \$225pp; RSVP 407-720-5865 (Rohith or Andy)
 - 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:

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 6PM – SPCC 18-3 Conference Room