



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

February 26, 2025, 6:00 PM
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street, 18-4, Miami, FL 33128

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Chairwoman Michelle Abreu.

Roll call was conducted, and the following members were present:

- Chairwoman Michelle Abreu, Clara Adkins, Heather Paschal-Binns, Yumanela Candelaria, Dr. Gabrielle Carey-Johnson, Second Vice Chair Milagros Del Valle, Marie Soeurette-Eloi, Elise Gerson, Past Chair Dr. Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Member at Large Katherine Leiva, Dr. Jacqueline Pena, Yama Paillere, Gloria Martinez, Josephine Novo

Excused Absences: First Vice Chair Lourdes Abadin, Lunice Alvarado, Yvette Ayala, Mercedes Carlson, Chelsea Granell, Nadege Vilsaint, Maria Santamaria

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and approved.

- Motioned by Dr. Gabrielle Carey-Johnson, seconded by Milagros Del Valle.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with a condition to add committee names and the individuals serving on them to item 10.

- Motioned by Yama, seconded by Milagros.

4. Public Comment

Angeline Evans from the YWCA South Florida invited the Commission to partake in Dr. Seuss Week with YWCA.

5. Board Updates and Voting

• **Election for Member-at-Large:**

The voting process was conducted by the Chair with ballots distributed.

- Based on the votes, Marie Soeurette-Eloi, was elected as Member-at-Large.

• **Name Badges Vote:**

A motion to approve new name badges for board members was presented.

- Motioned by Dr. Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, seconded by Yama P.
- The motion passed unanimously.

6. Event Updates

• **In the Company of Women Awards Ceremony (March 13, 6pm-9pm):**

Finalizing ticket arrangements was discussed.

• **Power of the Purse Event (March 14, 11am-2pm):**

Heather Paschal-Binns and Dr. Gabrielle Carey-Johnson were both requested to attend.

7. Special Updates & Recognitions

• **Partnership with Miami International Airport:**

Rose provided updates on the partnership for Women's History Month, mentioning a meeting with Creative Director Richard Ettienne.

• **Michelle's Recognition:**

Chair Michelle will be honored at UniverSoul Circus on March 8.

• **Human Trafficking Advocacy Award:**

Maria Santamaria has been selected as the recipient of the award at the 6th Annual Power & Influence Luncheon on March 7 at the Biltmore Hotel.

• **Women's History Month Proclamations:**

- City of West Miami: March 5 at 6pm.
- Coral Gables: March 11 at 9am.

8. Committee Reports & Strategic Planning

- Rose highlighted ongoing communication efforts via email.
- Discussion about quorum and the need for members to confirm their availability as soon as possible.



9. New Business

- **Women in the Military Collaboration:**

The partnership with South Dade Women's Veterans Alliance was discussed. The event is rescheduled to March 19, with the exhibit being installed earlier due to early voting in the lobby.

- **Young Women's Preparatory Academy Women's Symposium:**

Invitation for the symposium on March 19, 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM was discussed.

- **Additional Events:**

- March 12: The Miami Woman's Club - Rose is Guest Speaker
- March 12: Leading Lady Event at West Kendall Regional Library
- March 1: Virtual Mom Collective Summit at Frost Art Museum, 10am-2pm. Board members were asked to email Rose if they want to attend.

- **Discussion on Meeting Venues:**

Leiva led a discussion on the differences between using municipal spaces and community organizations for meetings.

- It was decided that a mixture of both types of venues would be appropriate moving forward.

10. Announcements & Closing Remarks

- **Next Meeting Date:**

A vote was held to change the next meeting date from March 26 to March 19, 2025.

- The motion was unanimously approved.
- The next meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Yama P. and seconded by Josephine Novo.