

**CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MINUTES
MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD (CRB)
JANUARY 15, 2025**

The Miami-Dade Community Relations Board (CRB/Board) convened its meeting at the Stephen P. Clark Center, Commission Chambers: 111 NW 1st Street, Miami, FL 33130, on January 15, 2025 at 2:08 p.m.

WELCOME

The following CRB members were present at roll call: Juliette Fabien, Yuleisy Mena, Gabriel Paez, Joshua A. Sayles, Marjorie York, First Vice Chairwoman Gizelle M Ortiz-Velazquez, Vice Chairman Eddy Gervais, and Chairman Rene Diaz.

CRB members Ervens Clavel Ford, Marie Jean-Pharuns, Jenni Person, and Joseph R. Salzverg were excused.

Chairman Diaz called the Miami-Dade Community Relations Board (CRB) meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Egglis Cepero arrived at 2:16 p.m.

In addition to the CRB members, Dr. Shirley Plantin, Program Officer, Community Advocacy, was present.

APPROVE CURRENT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. York moved that the CRB agenda be approved, as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Paez, and upon being put to the vote, passed by a vote of 8-0 (Ervens Clavel Ford, Marie Jean-Pharuns, Jenni Person, Joseph R. Salzverg and Egglis Cepero were absent).

CRB COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND DATES

1. Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement (CJLE), Wednesday, January 29, 2025, North Miami Police Department.

Dr. Plantin provided an update on the December CJLE meeting, which had been rescheduled from its original November date due to the Thanksgiving holiday and was ultimately held on December 4th at a new activities facility in Bal Harbor.

Dr. Plantin reported that the meeting drew notable attendance, including FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass, and explained that his presence addressed concerns about FDLE's reduced engagement with the CRB following the departure of the previous liaison.

Dr. Plantin advised the Board members that the newly appointed Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz also attended and expressed her continued support for the CRB's work. She noted that while

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organizational changes under the new Sheriff's Office had impacted the CRB, the Sheriff had proactively called to explain the necessary adjustments.

Dr. Plantin explained that several municipalities, including Miami Gardens and Miami Beach, had requested to host CJLE meetings in their jurisdictions and outlined a strategy to designate specific months to certain departments based on their signature events. As an example, she noted the City of Miami Gardens requested February to align with Jazz in the Gardens, while the City of Miami Beach sought a spring month to coincide with spring break reporting.

In response to an inquiry from Vice First Chairwoman Ortiz about receiving advance notice of CJLE meeting dates and locations, Dr. Plantin clarified that meetings occurred on the last Wednesday of every month at 11:00 a.m., with only the location varying. She confirmed she would provide location updates as they became available and noted that meetings rotated through various venues.

Vice First Chairwoman Ortiz offered to assist with securing locations when needed.

Responding to Mr. Paez's question about available meeting slots, Dr. Plantin confirmed the monthly rotation and emphasized that venues were not restricted to police departments. She explained that past meetings had been held in parks, churches, and libraries, stressing the importance of bringing police into community spaces rather than limiting gatherings to law enforcement facilities.

Mr. Paez praised Ms. Plantin for her work in developing the CJLE committee, observing that it had grown significantly since he joined the board eight years earlier—from having minimal presence to gaining widespread recognition in law enforcement circles.

Chairman Diaz inquired whether CJLE could expand to other counties or provide guidance on issues like street takeovers.

Dr. Plantin described how the street takeover issue had developed through multiple tragic incidents that were discussed across several CJLE meetings. She noted that the Board had started receiving calls from community members who were worried about the dangerous behavior of racers and drifters, which had resulted in fatalities. She traced the problem back to shootings at an adult entertainment club called "The Office," explaining that participants would then escape onto I-95, where the violence continued on the highway.

Dr. Plantin detailed how the problem expanded beyond I-95 South to include State Road 836, 826, and eventually Route 5, prompting concern about whether the issue was specific to South Florida or more widespread across Florida's state roadways. In response, a multi-agency task force was established to address the problem collaboratively. She identified a critical gap in the judicial system, where traffic citations were not receiving appropriate oversight, resulting in cases being treated too leniently without recognition of their severity.

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Dr. Plantin advised that the Board escalated the matter to Miami-Dade Mayor Levine Cava, who subsequently arranged a meeting between the CRB and Chief Judge Nushin G. Sayfie of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. She reported that the CRB successfully presented evidence demonstrating the gravity of street takeovers and their connection to fatalities.

Following this advocacy, Dr. Plantin noted that Broward County, Palm Beach County, and law enforcement agencies, working in partnership with Homeland Security through the CRB's coordination, confirmed they were experiencing similar patterns and had implemented comparable response measures to those adopted in Miami-Dade County.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update: New Miami Dade Sheriff's Office

Dr. Plantin briefed the board that Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz was sworn into office on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. The ceremony drew over 600 attendees, including guests from Tallahassee, CRB members, and Miami-Dade County Commissioners, all of whom had been extended VIP invitations. Dr. Plantin shared that she had already begun preliminary discussions with Sheriff Cordero-Stutz regarding various pressing community concerns and ongoing issues.

Dr. Plantin reported meeting with Undersheriff Christopher Carothers to address matters affecting Miami-Dade County residents. Their conversations encompassed security preparations for upcoming Jewish holidays, anticipated rallies and protests, and other community safety concerns. She indicated that she was awaiting confirmation to schedule a follow-up meeting directly with Sheriff Cordero-Stutz to formalize ongoing collaborative efforts.

Dr. Plantin emphasized the historical foundation of the CRB's law enforcement partnership, explaining that when she assumed her role, she worked to formalize what had previously been informal relationships. This resulted in an official Memorandum of Understanding signed between the CRB and the Police Legal Bureau, establishing clear protocols and expectations for collaboration. She clarified that with the Miami-Dade Police Department officially sunseting on January 6th, immediately before the swearing-in ceremony, there was now an urgent need to revisit and potentially renegotiate this agreement with the newly independent Sheriff's Office.

Ms. York confirmed her attendance at the swearing-in ceremony and spoke about witnessing such a historic milestone for Miami-Dade County. She described feeling immense pride at participating in this constitutional transition.

Chairman Diaz raised a procedural question about whether the Board should consider requesting that someone from the Sheriff's Office be appointed to serve on the CRB.

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Dr. Plantin stated she would raise this topic in future discussions with the Sheriff. However, she provided important context about Sheriff Cordero-Stutz's stated position regarding civilian oversight.

Dr. Plantin explained that Sheriff Cordero-Stutz had publicly stated her opposition to traditional civilian oversight panels, expressing the view that civilians without law enforcement experience faced inherent challenges in providing meaningful oversight of police operations. Dr. Plantin clarified this was a principled stance regarding the nature of police work and the Sheriff's commitment to operating with full constitutional independence, rather than a blanket rejection of community input. She emphasized that as an elected constitutional office, the Sheriff's Office was no longer under the authority of either the County Mayor or the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), which impacted potential relationship with County-affiliated advisory bodies like the CRB.

2. Update: New Board of County Commission Chair

Dr. Plantin informed the Board that the BCC had selected a new Chairman. She reported that Commissioner Anthony Rodriguez succeeded Oliver Gilbert III as the Chair, officially assuming the position in December, though the new year marked when most of the operational transitions took effect.

Dr. Plantin reported that coordination meetings had already occurred between CRB leadership and Chairman Rodriguez's office. She advised that the CRB's Executive Director had met with the Chair's representatives to ensure continuity and understanding of the Board's work. Dr. Plantin advised that these initial discussions had been productive, with the BCC Chair's team showing familiarity with the Board's functions. Dr. Plantin noted that a senior staff member in the BCC Chair's office brought substantial County experience and existing knowledge of advisory board operations, which she viewed as a positive foundation for building a collaborative working relationship with the new leadership.

Discussion and Determinations

1. Community Fears and Concerns (Community-Sheriff Relations, Immigration, Community Policing)

Dr. Plantin emphasized that community apprehensions about immigration enforcement were substantive and widespread. She described these concerns as "real" fears affecting residents' daily lives and their relationship with law enforcement. She explained that uncertainty about community policing practices under the newly independent Sheriff's Office had created anxiety among residents who questioned whether established trust-building approaches would continue.

Dr. Plantin recounted meeting with longtime community members who had previously lived under sheriff's office jurisdiction before the 1962 transition to a police director model. These

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residents expressed feeling marginalized in the current transition process, stating they lacked adequate information about how the changes would affect them and felt their perspectives were not being solicited or considered. She noted that similar concerns had emerged during a recent meeting held in an adjacent building where community members voiced their confusion and worries.

Regarding immigration enforcement specifically, Dr. Plantin reminded the Board that she had raised this issue at the previous CJLE meeting. She explained that Sheriff Cordero-Stutz had previously stated publicly that sheriff's deputies would not participate in mass deportation efforts and that operations would remain unchanged. However, Dr. Plantin reported that recent developments suggested new federal directives and regulations were being implemented that could compel local law enforcement agencies to participate in deportation activities despite the Sheriff's earlier assurances.

Dr. Plantin described the impact of these fears on community behavior. She reported that religious institutions, including churches and other places of worship, had advised their congregants to keep children home from school and avoid going to work. She referenced one particular community in southern Miami-Dade County where residents had reportedly retreated further into agricultural areas near sugar cane fields out of fear of being detained. She acknowledged that information about enforcement actions was circulating through various media channels, including radio broadcasts, though she expressed uncertainty about distinguishing between verified reporting and potentially inflammatory or inaccurate information that might be amplifying existing anxieties.

Dr. Plantin commented about community policing philosophy under the sheriff's office governance and praised the Miami-Dade Police Department for successfully cultivating a collaborative approach. She noted that community members were now questioning whether this model would continued, given that sheriff's offices typically operate under different frameworks and answered to the Florida Sheriff's Association rather than county leadership. She credited Sheriff Cordero-Stutz for repeatedly stating her commitment to community engagement and continuing existing collaborative programs.

Dr. Plantin announced personnel changes in the Homeland Security Bureau, which had been the CRB's primary law enforcement partner for specialized community security matters over the previous years. She announced that Sheriff Cordero-Stutz had replaced the entire command staff before the new year and explained that this turnover meant the CRB would need to rebuild relationships essentially from the beginning, though detective-level staff remained in place.

Dr. Plantin shared that the new major of Homeland Security had proactively made contact and they had scheduled a lunch meeting for the following week to discuss how to maintain operational continuity and ensure the partnership's effectiveness despite the leadership changes. She emphasized that when she communicated with the Sheriff about these transitions, she made clear the CRB was not questioning the Sheriff's personnel decisions or reorganization

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prerogatives, but rather was focused solely on ensuring community needs continued to be met without disruption.

Dr. Plantin commented on the community's emotional state by describing her experience at the previous Sunday's commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Haiti earthquake. She reported that immigration concerns dominated conversations among both officials and community members, with attendees sharing that family members were avoiding school and work due to uncertainty about enforcement timelines and methods.

When asked about potential enforcement timing, Dr. Plantin noted that public statements had indicated actions would begin from "day one" of the new administration, though she emphasized she could not speak to administrative plans or verify circulating information.

Regarding Chairman Diaz's question about whether the CRB's ordinance required revision following the transition to an independent Sheriff's Office, Dr. Plantin clarified the ordinance's structure. She explained that the foundational document did not specify which entity held authority over law enforcement or detailed organizational hierarchy. Instead, it focused narrowly on the CRB's mandate, mission, and responsibilities. Consequently, the CRB's core functions and authority would remain unchanged regardless of whether law enforcement operated as a police department under the administration, an independent sheriff's office, or any future configuration.

2. Establishing a new Memorandum of Understanding between CRB & MDSO

Dr. Plantin reported that she had initiated contact with the Sheriff's Office General Counsel's office and Undersheriff Christopher Carothers to schedule a meeting regarding the establishment of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CRB and the Sheriff's Office. She expressed optimism about the process, noting that the general counsel had been the attorney who drafted the original MOU when she worked with the Police Legal Bureau, and her familiarity with the document would facilitate negotiations.

Dr. Plantin explained that the MOU's fundamental purpose was to formalize the partnership and establish protocols for CRB response to community tensions. She clarified that the document was intentionally focused on community-centered principles rather than being overly prescriptive, emphasizing scene safety protocols while allowing the CRB to fulfill its mediation role between communities and law enforcement. Dr. Plantin stated that she anticipated minimal resistance to renewing the agreement, though acknowledged the Sheriff might want to adapt language to reflect her administrative vision.

Chairman Diaz raised the issue that he and Dr. Plantin were no longer receiving text message notifications about police-involved shootings or other critical incidents that could generate community tensions and asked whether this notification protocol could be incorporated into the new MOU.

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Dr. Plantin confirmed she was also no longer receiving these alerts and agreed it would be appropriate to request reinstatement of this communication channel.

When First Vice Chairwoman Ortiz's sought clarification about what was being requested, Chairman Diaz explained the previous system in detail. He noted under the former Miami-Dade Police Department administration, he and Dr. Plantin received immediate text notifications whenever a police-involved shooting occurred or any event transpired that might trigger community unrest. This advance warning system allowed CRB staff to respond to the scene, interface with both law enforcement and community members, and serve as mediators during volatile moments.

Chairman Diaz emphasized the CRB's statutory mandate to mitigate and minimize community tensions. He described how the presence of armed, uniformed officers who had just used deadly force naturally created communication barriers with grieving or angry community members. Having civilian representatives who could "speak their language" and bridge communication between both sides proved valuable. He noted that community frustration often stemmed from the reality that police could not immediately share information during active investigations, and this information gap required sensitive management.

Dr. Plantin expanded on the notification system's operational mechanics. She described receiving calls on major holidays and explained the protocol: after receiving a text alert, she would contact the incident commander, who would assess the scene and advise whether it was safe for her to respond. If the scene remained active or dangerous, they would recommend she stay away until conditions stabilized.

Dr. Plantin emphasized that early notification prevented the CRB from "playing catch up" after situations had already escalated. Rather than confronting large groups of angry residents, CRB representatives could engage with smaller initial gatherings of family and community members, de-escalating tensions before they intensified. She acknowledged that the Sheriff's Office might view the CRB's access to this information differently as an independent constitutional entity, suggesting legal considerations might inform their decision about continuing to share such notifications with county-affiliated organizations.

Chairman Diaz noted that this independence dynamic affected every Miami-Dade County organization that had previously collaborated with the former county police department, not just the CRB.

Dr. Plantin agreed, explaining that the previous relationship had been cooperative, but independence introduced the potential for adversarial dynamics. She cautioned that any county-affiliated entity could bring legal action or complaints against the Sheriff's Office, fundamentally altering trust dynamics.

Responding to confusion about the CRB's status, Dr. Plantin clarified the jurisdictional structure. The CRB remained a Miami-Dade County entity reporting to the Board of County

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Commissioners, but the Sheriff's Office had become completely independent, comparable to municipal police departments like North Miami Beach or Miami Beach. These agencies could decline requests, ignore communications, or refuse cooperation without consequence because they operated autonomously.

Chairman Diaz provided additional context about the Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, explaining they now served the unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County—referred to as UMSA (Unincorporated Municipal Services Area)—representing approximately 1.5 million residents. She noted there were some incorporated municipalities that still contained unincorporated pockets, meaning residents in parts of Miami, Hialeah, and other cities would receive services from the Sheriff's Office rather than municipal departments.

Both Dr. Plantin and Chairman Diaz explained that the five constitutional offices; Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of Courts, Supervisor of Elections, and Sheriff; no longer answered to either the BCC or the County Mayor. These independently elected officials now operated autonomously, accountable only to voters.

First Vice Chairwoman Ortiz asked whether the Board wanted to formally request that the Sheriff's Office reinstate the notification protocol and whether this request would be addressed during upcoming meetings with Sheriff Cordero-Stutz.

Dr. Plantin indicated that requesting this access would be appropriate, though she cautioned it remained entirely at the Sheriff's discretion whether to grant such access.

Dr. Plantin addressed confusion about the Sheriff's planned advisory board and clarified that Sheriff Cordero-Stutz was not creating a competing community relations board or civilian oversight body, but rather an advisory board specifically for the office. She noted the board would address community fears and provide the Sheriff with perspectives from diverse constituencies. Dr. Plantin noted that Rabbi Rosenberg had been announced as Senior Advisor to the Sheriff, and the Sheriff envisioned creating a broader advisory body representing various community interests to ensure her leadership reflected the county's diversity.

Chairman Diaz referenced House Bill 601, suggesting it placed restrictions on who could be appointed to such boards.

Ms. Susan Khoury clarified that House Bill 601 applied specifically to Independent Civilian Oversight (ICO) panels, not advisory boards. She explained that if a sheriff voluntarily chose to create civilian oversight, the legislation established specific parameters for how such oversight could function and who could serve, but these restrictions did not apply to general advisory boards the Sheriff was contemplating.

Dr. Plantin emphasized this was fundamentally different from oversight, the advisory board would inform the Sheriff about community needs across different demographic groups, helping ensure her department remained responsive to the entire county's concerns.

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When Chairman Diaz questioned whether it might be simpler to work through the existing CRB structure, Dr. Plantin explained that because the CRB remained attached to the county government, the Sheriff's office needed its own independent advisory structure. She credited the Sheriff for proactively reaching out and expressing interest in having CRB representation on the advisory board, describing this as "extending the olive branch."

Concerns were raised about public education regarding the Sheriff's Office role and broader changes to constitutional offices, particularly how residents in unincorporated areas who might not closely follow local government would learn about these significant structural changes. Questions centered on accessibility, given that many residents work during traditional town hall hours and cannot attend such events.

Dr. Plantin responded that public education had become the direct responsibility of each independent constitutional office. Since the CRB reported to the BCC and remained under the Chair's authority, it could no longer speak on behalf of independent offices or educate the public about their functions. She noted that Sheriff Cordero-Stutz had publicly committed to holding community town halls with various constituencies, with such outreach funded through the Sheriff's own budget rather than coordinated through county offices.

Dr. Plantin explained that each constitutional officer would need to develop their own community affairs or engagement departments to provide public information. She emphasized that independence shifted accountability from appointed county officials to elected constitutional officers directly answerable to voters. Rather than the Mayor directing county departments to conduct public education campaigns, voters themselves would need to hold these elected officials accountable for keeping constituents informed.

When accessibility challenges were raised, Dr. Plantin acknowledged ongoing information gaps but emphasized that each independent office was either establishing or would establish community engagement infrastructure. She noted that electoral accountability would drive these officials to educate their constituents or risk losing support.

Dr. Plantin then addressed how these changes affected the CRB's Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement committee work. She recounted that since the constitutional amendment passed in 2018, she had cautioned the Board about potential implications and advocated for expanding engagement beyond the County police department to include all municipalities and credited Board members with supporting this strategic diversification.

Dr. Plantin highlighted that recent CJLE meetings demonstrated this strategy's success, with participation from numerous municipalities including Surfside, Indian Creek, Bal Harbor, Bay Harbor Islands, Sunny Isles Beach, and Doral. She explained this intentional cultivation of municipal partnerships meant the CRB's work could continue regardless of who won the Sheriff's election. She expressed gratitude that Sheriff Cordero-Stutz, who had previously served as the liaison to the CJLE for her predecessor and understood the committee's work, had been elected, but noted the Board had been prepared for any outcome.

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Mr. Paez, identifying himself as Director of the LGBTQ Advisory Board, shared that the LGBTQ Advisory Board had created the South Florida Law Enforcement LGBTQ Coalition, modeled after the CJLE but focused specifically on LGBTQ affairs. He credited Dr. Plantin's work with inspiring this initiative and offered the coalition's resources to the CRB. He described the CRB as "the mother of all boards," with other advisory boards operating as extensions of its foundational work. He reported the coalition included law enforcement liaisons from 26 of the county's 34 municipalities, spanning jurisdictions from Homestead to Golden Beach to Miami Beach, and offered continued support despite some municipalities declining to participate.

3. Meeting with new Major of Homeland Security Bureau

Dr. Plantin announced that a meeting was scheduled for the following week on Thursday, January 23, 2025, with the new Major of the Sheriff's Office Homeland Security Bureau. She indicated that the new Major had expressed interest in meeting before the upcoming CJLE meeting and would likely attend to introduce and share the vision for the bureau's work.

4. MLK ATV Takeover-January 17-20, 2025

Dr. Plantin addressed community concerns about ATV groups whose activities on expressways and public roadways had generated significant media attention and public safety worries. She explained that there were actually two distinct groups that needed to be understood separately. The first group, known as GVO (Good Vibes Only), rode in large numbers and had previously taken over State Road 836 or 826 several years earlier. However, she clarified that GVO had collaborated extensively with the CJLE on peacekeeping initiatives.

Dr. Plantin distinguished these riders from a separate group of local ATV operators who appeared on expressways every MLK weekend engaging in dangerous behavior. She explained that law enforcement agencies, working in partnership with CJLE members, had developed coordinated security details over several years to maintain peace and manage these activities. She noted that disruptions had decreased in recent years due to these proactive measures, and confirmed that security details would be operational from Friday evening through Monday evening of MLK weekend based on information from the Homeland Security Bureau lieutenant.

In response to Chairman Diaz's inquiry about goodwill ambassador deployment for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade, Dr. Plantin confirmed that approximately 75 ambassadors were expected to be deployed throughout the parade route. She explained that she had just concluded a meeting with parade promoters and producers before the CRB meeting.

Dr. Plantin clarified logistical changes to the traditional MLK weekend schedule. She explained that Congresswoman Frederica Wilson typically hosted a breakfast early Monday morning before elected officials and community members proceeded to the parade. However, because Congresswoman Wilson needed to attend the Presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., her breakfast had been rescheduled to Saturday, January 18th. The MLK parade itself would proceed as scheduled on Monday, January 20th.

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Dr. Plantin detailed the parade route, explaining that festivities would begin at 7:00 a.m. with elected officials, schools, and various organizations lining up. The parade would proceed along 54th Street, starting at Northwest 7th Avenue (7000 block) and continuing to 32nd Avenue. Following the parade, post-event celebrations including food trucks and community activities would take place at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, located on 36th Street between 54th and 62nd Streets.

5. MLK Parade Security and Youth Bikers

In response to First Vice Chairwoman Ortiz's inquiry about whether youth bikers were part of the Good Vibes Only group, Dr. Plantin clarified that they were an entirely separate and problematic group. She identified them as "Youth Bikers" or participants in the "Bikes Up, Guns Down" movement, explaining they had been a persistent challenge for Miami-Dade County. She noted that one particular individual associated with this group, known as "Screamer," had attended multiple CJLE meetings as the CRB attempted to establish cooperative relationships and address safety concerns.

Dr. Plantin described a specific incident from the previous year's MLK parade when approximately 100 young riders on bicycles emerged and rode directly in front of the Mayor's procession, creating chaos and disrupting the event. She explained that the fundamental challenge centered on minors operating regular bicycles in violation of traffic laws, while the broader community perceived their behavior as harmless youthful rebellion rather than a legitimate public safety concern.

Dr. Plantin described the community's perspective as viewing law enforcement response to these children as unnecessarily aggressive, which complicated officers' ability to address the dangerous behavior. She explained that these youth typically began riding on Friday evening of MLK weekend and continued throughout the entire weekend, deliberately riding in disorganized patterns, cutting in front of cars, and performing wheelies. She described their motivation as seeking the thrill of being rebellious and challenging authority.

Dr. Plantin reported that despite repeated invitations to participate in the One Miami Bike Ride, the youth bikers consistently declined, as they did not want to be controlled or associated with law enforcement. She shared that CRB staff knew who led this group but had been unable to convince him to engage constructively. Each year, approximately 150 riders appeared toward the end of MLK Park celebrations, riding through the crowd in what she described as an intentional provocation.

Dr. Plantin addressed enhanced security measures following recent tragic vehicle attacks in New Orleans and Las Vegas. She emphasized that the Homeland Security Bureau was implementing extensive protective measures for the MLK parade route, including boulders, barricades, and other physical barriers. She stressed that the Mayor's office, parade organizers, and the Sheriff's Office had coordinated comprehensive security protocols to ensure participant safety. She expressed concern that in this heightened security environment, young people exercising their

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right to ride bicycles might be treated more harshly under the justification of maintaining safety protocols.

In response to questions about parade security responsibility, Dr. Plantin clarified that security jurisdiction was determined by geographic location. She noted that since the parade route traversed both City of Miami and unincorporated Miami-Dade County areas, both the City of Miami Police Department and the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office would coordinate joint security operations, with representatives from both agencies having attended planning meetings and multiple county departments deploying resources to create secure perimeters.

6. Rallies and Protests during inauguration

Dr. Plantin addressed potential demonstrations related to the Presidential inauguration coinciding with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She explained that the convergence of these dates had generated considerable community frustration, with many people upset not only about the scheduling conflict but also about the specific individual being inaugurated. She acknowledged that making voices heard through protest was important to the community.

Dr. Plantin reported that while there was significant online chatter and discussion about potential rallies within MLK parades nationally and possible protests at Miami's Freedom Tower, the CRB and law enforcement agencies had been unable to locate concrete evidence of organized events. Despite monitoring social media, consulting with community organizers, and conducting searches, neither the CRB nor the Homeland Security Bureau had found flyers, formal announcements, or tangible plans to substantiate the rumors.

She explained that the lack of documentation created challenges for law enforcement resource allocation, as agencies typically required verifiable information to justify deploying personnel and equipment. Dr. Plantin suggested that the absence of public organizing might be deliberate, preventing law enforcement from preparing countermeasures or intervention strategies, especially given the heightened security already planned for Monday's events.

In response to Ms. Cepero's question about permit requirements for rallies and protests, Dr. Plantin clarified that because citizens had constitutional rights to congregate in public spaces, permits were not always required, particularly for demonstrations on sidewalks or other public property. She explained that while law enforcement typically requested information about expected attendance and locations to facilitate planning, they could not prohibit peaceful assembly.

Dr. Plantin emphasized that the CRB consistently encouraged organizers to coordinate with law enforcement rather than operate adversarially, as voluntary cooperation allowed police to prepare adequate resources and ensure public safety. She referenced her own experience during the George Floyd protests, recounting that she personally attended approximately 19 different rallies and demonstrations, eventually establishing relationships with organizers and connecting them

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with appropriate law enforcement contacts in their municipalities or with the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office.

She stressed that such coordination did not mean law enforcement would deny permission, but rather enabled agencies to prepare appropriately. Dr. Plantin noted that protests had remained peaceful when this collaborative approach was employed, allowing demonstrations to proceed without law enforcement intervention becoming necessary.

7. One Miami Bike Ride-MLK Weekend

One Miami Bike Ride - MLK Weekend

Dr. Plantin provided background on the One Miami Bike Ride, explaining that the initiative originated during the Ferguson era and gained momentum following the George Floyd incident when community-police tensions intensified. During this period, an organization called "Break the Cycle," comprised of professional cyclists, approached the CRB with a proposal to unite community members and law enforcement through organized bike rides. Subsequently, the CRB facilitated this partnership by serving as liaison between county agencies and the community.

Over time, the event grew to attract 500 to 700 participants, including law enforcement representatives from FDLE, state, and local agencies. Riders traditionally followed the MLK parade route on the Saturday or Sunday before the Monday parade to symbolize peace and unity. Throughout the event, organizers intentionally mixed community members with law enforcement officers to promote authentic engagement and relationship-building.

However, as the initiative entered its fifth year, Dr. Plantin reported significant logistical challenges stemming from the Sheriff's Office transition. Previously, the Miami-Dade Police Department had provided comprehensive escort services, including traffic control and signal coordination, necessary for safely managing hundreds of cyclists over two and a half hours. Given the timing of the constitutional transition and the extensive MLK weekend security demands, securing comparable support remained uncertain.

In response to First Vice Chairwoman Ortiz's inquiry about event details, Dr. Plantin confirmed a tentative meetup for 8:00 a.m. at Charles Hadley Park with wheels up at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 18th. Nevertheless, she acknowledged complications including a direct scheduling conflict with Congresswoman Wilson's breakfast and ongoing uncertainty about law enforcement escort availability. Consequently, Dr. Plantin indicated she would address this matter during upcoming meetings with the Sheriff to secure appropriate support for this established community tradition.

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8. Nova Exhibit

Mr. Sayles announced a traveling exhibition commemorating the Nova Music Festival Exhibit, which would travel from New York to Los Angeles, and would also serve as a memorial to the victims of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack since the Holocaust, in which 1200 Jewish lives were lost.

He stated the exhibition would be held at Greenwich Studios in North Miami, and serves as both a remembrance of the 405 festival attendees who lost their lives and a platform for survivors to share their powerful testimonies. In addition, he indicated the studio had partnered with Commissioner Steinberg and she would be attending with elected officials on January 28.

First Vice Chairwoman Ortiz made a motion agreeing that the Community Relations Board (CRB) members would attend the Nova Music Festival Exhibit on Tuesday, January 28 through 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Greenwich Studios in North Miami. This motion was seconded by Ms. Mena and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 9-0 (Ervens Clavel Ford, Marie Jean-Pharuns, Jenni Person, and Joseph R. Salzverg were absent).

Chairman Diaz advised the CRB members to notify Dr. Plantin about their participation in the Exhibit.

HOSTSPOTS

1. Gun Violence (10 & 13-year-old shot and killed in the New Year)

Dr. Plantin briefed the board on recent gun violence incidents affecting children in the community. She reported that a ten-year-old child was fatally shot while attending a New Year's celebration with her parents when someone fired shots into the air, striking the child in the back of the head. Shortly thereafter, a thirteen-year-old was shot and killed while eating food in front of his home in the same general area of South Miami-Dade. Given that the Sheriff's Office was conducting active investigations, she indicated limited information could be disclosed at present, though she planned to request updates at the January 29th CJLE meeting.

Additionally, Dr. Plantin addressed a January 14th shooting incident on Interstate 595 involving a female passenger who was struck while her husband drove their vehicle. The victim had been hospitalized and was released the previous day. Dr. Plantin expressed uncertainty about whether the shooting stemmed from road rage or community-related violence, noting this incident represented part of a troubling pattern the CJLE had been monitoring for several years.

In response to Ms. York's inquiry about whether this was unique to South Florida, Dr. Plantin acknowledged she did not know and intended to pose that question to the Florida Highway Patrol at the upcoming CJLE meeting. She questioned whether the pattern indicated a Florida-specific issue or a broader trend, emphasizing the need to understand connections between incidents and

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develop appropriate public education campaigns similar to those addressing texting while driving or drunk driving.

Following Dr. Plantin's comments, Ms. Susan Khoury shared observations from a recent crime watch walk in Florida City and Homestead. She noted that residents were reluctant to provide information to law enforcement, particularly when media cameras accompanied officers during door-to-door canvassing. Consequently, she suggested the CRB consider hosting a town hall meeting to create a safer environment where community members might share information about the children's deaths.

Dr. Plantin acknowledged the CRB's limitations, explaining that without subpoena power, the Board could not compel testimony or conduct independent investigations. Therefore, law enforcement presence at town halls was essential to address community questions. However, she noted that previous town hall experiences had sometimes resulted in community frustration, with residents blaming the CRB rather than law enforcement when they felt concerns went unaddressed after officials departed. Nevertheless, Dr. Plantin recognized this type of community engagement represented core CRB mission work and indicated willingness to reach out to Mario Knapp, the newly appointed Homestead Police Chief, to explore potential collaboration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. York shared that she had visited the Office of Black Affairs earlier in the day and learned that the kickoff for Black History Month would take place on Tuesday, February 4th at 11:45 a.m. in the Government Center building. Additionally, she announced that the Mayor's State of the County address was scheduled for January 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Miami Senior High School, offering to provide flyers to interested board members.

Dr. Plantin advised that the CRB had received a request from the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) to present information about the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.

Following brief discussion, First Vice Chairwoman Ortiz moved to invite CITT to present at a CRB meeting. Chairman Diaz seconded the motion, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 9-0 (Ervens Clavel Ford, Marie Jean-Pharuns, Jenni Person, and Joseph R. Salzverg were absent).

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the CRB, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.