



Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy

Location – Stephen P. Clark Center – 111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> St. Miami, FL 33128 – Room 18-04

## **NOVEMBER 13, 2025 MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order at 1:34 PM**

**2. Roll Call**

**Present**

Rev. Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair) [Presided over the meeting]

Dr. Juan Barek

Rabbi Avrohom Brashevitzky

Pastor Eddy Gervais

Father Elvis Gonzalez

Rabbi Daniel Hadar

Emmanuel Jimmy Loiseau

Pastor Conrad Molleda

Pastor Marc Mortensen

Dr. Kendall Turcios

Rev. Evelio Vilches

**Excused**

Rabbi Mark Rosenberg (Chair)

Pastor Stephen Alessi

Phillip Davis Jr.

Rabbi Robyn Fisher

Harold Foster

Olga Hernandez

Father Patrick O'Neil

Lieutenant Alex Trinchet

**Resigned from the Board**

Pastor Donald Clarke Jr. (Vice-Chair)

**Guests**

Laura Morilla

### **3. Invocation**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Reverend Williams-Dawson call the meeting to order at 1:34 PM and asked who among the Members wanted to do the invocation.
- Dr. Kendall Turcios volunteered for the invocation and told GOD that the Members were grateful for the opportunity to serve this afternoon; then he continued and asked that, if anybody is on their way, that DOG would quicken their steps and make their passage safe. He then thanked the Lord: "that we get to do this in spite of ourselves. Lord, we claim the merits of Jesus, those of us who have that faith tradition, Lord, and we ask that you guide us and direct us, help us to align our hearts with your heart. And I ask this in Jesus"

### **4. Opening**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Reverend Williams-Dawson Thanked Dr. Turcios for the invocation and, after acknowledging that there was nobody physically present in the room from the public and that the guest speaker had to cancel because of health challenges, suggested that Board Members scan the minutes of September Minutes if they had not done so yet in order to be ready to vote on them once we reach quorum as some confirmed Board Members were running late.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Reverend Williams-Dawson, after confirming that everybody was alright with the September meeting minutes, acknowledged that we couldn't take action towards the scheduled IAB elections until there was quorum and invited Program Director Alex Jospitre to give the Board the updates as to our "Old Business" items : 'the Miami Dade eviction aid program', 'alligator Alcatraz' and CBOs.

### **5. Old Business**

#### **MIAMI-DADE SLASHED EVICTION AID PROGRAM. FAITH LEADERS PUSHING TO RESTORE FUNDING.**

- Program Director Alex Jospitre explained that Faith leaders, community members, and other nonprofits are still holding events like rallies and prayer vigils to urge county officials to reverse the cuts and restore funding. They're advocating through organizations like 'PACT (People Acting for Community Together)' and the 'Advocacy Collective'  
The county's 2025-2026 budget included cuts of about \$40 million in grant money to local nonprofits, including social services organizations that provide eviction prevention services. The cuts are particularly harmful because they reduce funding from the full amount available to about 70%.  
Program Director Jospitre also added that it is important to note that some Organizations like Catholic Charities have been developing affordable housing complexes, such as Wenski Groves, to provide housing for those in need, according to the Miami Herald.

#### **ALLEGATOR ALCATRAZ**

- Program Director Alex Jospitre stated that after an appeals court panel temporarily blocked a district judge's order to close the "Alligator Alcatraz", the immigration detention center remained open and immigration activists report it is rapidly filling up again after being partially emptied.  
And now, the legal battle is currently paused because of the federal government shutdown, which has furloughed federal attorneys, halting the appeals court case.  
Program Director Jospitre said that he is in contact with an organization called FLIC (Florida Interfaith Coalition) an ordained Clergy of 10 faith traditions which is still pushing to get access

to the facility to provide regular group spiritual services, but also individual spiritual care, prayer and presence.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson asked Father Gonzalez if he had visited the facility recently
- Father Gonzalez answered that the number of detainees is still steady between 1500 to 2000 detainees while they are still letting authorized people in and out
- Program Director Alex Jospitre added that groups of people like the Florida Interfaith Coalition, which he is in contact with, are still going there trying their best to be let in.

#### COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO) AFFECTED BH BUDGET CUTS BACK IN SEPTEMBER

Program Director Jospitre informed that as was discussed during the last meeting, Community-Based Organizations were facing significant cuts (up to \$16.5 million). Since CBOs in Miami-Dade have been heavily engaged in advocacy efforts and public pressure has led to some funds being restored, up to 70%.

Despite the ongoing federal government shutdown significantly impacting Miami-Dade's nonprofits which are seeing increased demand for food, housing and other basic services, organizations are continuing to push for full restoration to protect essential services for vulnerable residents, including seniors and individuals with disabilities, while some like the Jewish Community Services (JCS) and Feeding South Florida are activating emergency operations to meet the surging need.

- Rabbi Hadar added that he learned there were 3 million dollars coming in to help people with eviction.

#### **6. New Business**

##### ORDINANCE PASSED BY MIAMI CITY COMMISSIONERS RESTRICTING FEEDING HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson asked Program Director Alex Jospitre to share the updates regarding the item "New Business" while waiting for the Rabbi Brashevitzky to come back so the Board can reach the necessary quorum for the votes and scheduled elections.
- Program Director Alex Jospitre reminded that this topic, brought up during our last meeting, prompted him to do some research :

The ordinance which was sponsored by Commissioners Carollo and Reyes is against systematic street feeding and requires individuals and organizations to now obtain a permit for feedings that will attract 25 or more people experiencing homelessness in a public place at least 2 days before the event.

Additionally, feedings will be restricted to 5 "designated feeding locations" which must be within easily walking distance to locations where large groups of homeless people are known to congregate. And each location may only host one feeding per day.

To justify these decisions, the ordinance states that groups of homeless people tend to gather, live and sleep wherever food distribution take place regularly which results in increase in unsanitary conditions, and breeding conditions for outbreaks of communicable disease, which negatively impacts the health, safety, and welfare of surrounding businesses and residents."

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson asked Program Director to try to find out about the 5 locations and share them with the Board as soon as possible.
- Dr. Turcios asked for a clarification about the ordinance and wanted to know if it meant attracting 12 people or actually feeding 25 people
- Program Director Jospitre clarified for him and said it about feeding 25 people or more, meaning if someone or an entity is feeding up to 24 people they won't need a permit. And he added that

in case someone, to go around the new rules, is thinking of having multiple groups of 24 people, only one feeding is allowed per day in each of these predetermined locations.

**7. Vote to approve the meeting Agenda**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson asked for a motion and a second to approve the November 13 2025 meeting agenda
- Pastor Marc Mortensen made the motion to approve the agenda
- Dr. Kendall Turcios seconded the motion
- The Agenda for November 2025 was voted on and approved unanimously.

**8. Vote to approve the September 2025 meeting Minutes**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the September 11 2025 meeting
- Pastor Eddy Gervais made the motion to approve the agenda
- Pastor Evelio Vilches seconded the motion
- The Minutes for the September 2025 meeting were voted on and approved unanimously.

**9. Interfaith Advisory Board annual elections for CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-CHAIR**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson then asked Program Director Alex Jospitre to proceed with the scheduled annual Board elections for CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR and 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE-CHAIR
- Program Director Alex Jospitre went to each Board Member for record candidacies and/or nominations for each of the 3 electives positions.  
Then, after distributing the ballots to all Members present, he started with the vote for CHAIR; He indicated the names of the 3 Board Members nominated for the position in question: **DR. JUAN BAREK, DR. REVEREND KAY WILLIAMS-DAWSON** and **PASTOR STEPHEN ALESSI** and asked each Board Member to use their ballot and vote for only one (1) of the 3 nominated Board Members.
- Director Morilla indicated that it is customary with all Boards to allow the people nominated to introduce themselves and explain why they believe they will be the best fit for the position.
- The Board Members agreed, and Program Director Alex Jospitre gave the floor to Dr. Barek first.
- Dr. Barek made the following introduction : *“The simple reason why I'm seeking the position is to expand what I thought I could not do at the beginning, meaning for the first term, when I was chairman, I was more concentrated in putting the bylaws, which took a long time. And for those who were with me this during that time, like the father here and most of the members, it concentrated me more on the bylaws and then the account and raising the money and pretty much putting the board together, and then a few projects during almost at the end of the second term, most of those additional monthly meetings had no quorum and were canceled. So it was really frustrating during the first term when I had the presidency. So I gained more experience with the city of Miami and Miami Lakes, and I have gained many, many connections, and I think I'm ready to come back and do much better with the community. At I see that the board is on track and ready to go. So if it's God's will, I think I can do better, not for me, but for the community”*.
- Program Director Alex Jospitre then gave the floor to 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice-Chair Dr. Williams Dawson.
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice-Chair Williams Dawson made the following introduction : *“Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Dr Kay Williams Dawson, Pastor Emeritus of the Cathedral of praise in the Perrine area. I've been on the board from its inception. I actually was appointed by the mayor. I'm a street person, one of those persons that do feedings. So I've been affected by this new ordinance; But I'm*

*seeking the position of president, just to maintain the continuity of how we move our meetings, our agenda items, to be able to work with our liaison to see what the county is wanting this particular board to do, to be able to hear from everyone. I'm a very inclusive individual. I like to hear what everyone has to say, not just my ideas about how we can advance what we do, but for us to be able to continue to be cohesive as a board and then be a blessing in this community in whatever way we deem necessary".*

- Program Director Alex Jospitre then explained that, since Pastor Stephen Alessi who is absent at this meeting was nominated for Chair by Pastor Evelio Vilches, he invited the latter to make a quick presentation of his nomination.
- Pastor Vilches replied : Knowing Pastor Alessi who has been on the Board for years and has several connections, he nominated him because he thought he would be a good leader. He however agreed that, since he didn't have a chance to talk to him, he didn't know for sure if he wanted the nomination which means that there was a chance for him to turn down the Chair responsibility if the eventuality that he won the elections. He then added that he believed that it was valid to have the race continue only between Dr. Barek and Dr. Williams-Dawson.
- Rabbi Brashevitzky continued in the same direction and said that he seconded the fact that Pastor Alessi would be a very good leader like the other candidates but since he wasn't present there was no way to know he wanted the role or not.
- Dr. Barek suggested that he be removed from the race until next year's election.
- Pastor Vilches proposed to make it super easy by dropping the nomination
- Program Director Alex Jospitre offered to call Pastor Alessi but it was unfortunately to no avail. He then confirmed that the race for Chair would then be between Dr. Barek and Dr. Williams-Dawson.

Program Director Jospitre then continued with the elections of a Vice-Chair and named the five Board Members who were nominated : Dr. Williams-Dawson's name came up again, Lieutenant Alex Trinchet, Rabbi Marc Rosenberg, Dr. Kendall Turcios, and Rabbi Avrohom Brashevitzky.

- Dr. Turcios took the floor to say how deeply honored he was to be nominated but explained that he wished he had the bandwidth for the position but at this time he preferred to respectfully withdraw his name from the race.

Program Director Jospitre acknowledged Dr. Turcios' decision and confirmed that there were at this point only four names for the Vice-Chair race : Dr. Dr, Reverend K Williams-Dawson, Lieutenant Alex Trinchet, Rabbi Mark Rosenberg and Rabbi Avrohom Brashevitzky

For the presentation of the Members nominated for Vice-Chair, Program Director Alex Jospitre said that the Board just obtained Dr. William Dawson's introduction; He continued and acknowledged that Lieutenant Trinchet wasn't able to make it to the meeting; he also acknowledged the absence of Rabbi Rosenberg but confirmed that he was definitely up for the nomination since he had to consult the County Assistant Attorney on his behalf to confirm that he (Rabbi Rosenberg) was authorized to seek a new elective position in the Board after his two consecutive terms as Chair; Lastly, he offered Rabbi Avrohom Brashevitzky to introduce himself as the possible next Vice-Chair of the Board.

- Rabbi Avrohom Brashevitzky replied that he wasn't sure he'd like the position specifically because of the fact that he had to excuse himself for the last two Board meetings
- Program Director Jospitre reassured him by saying that's why the Board has a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair position.
- Rabbi Avrohom Brashevitzky then agreed to be part of the race for Vice-Chair
- Program Director Alex Jospitre then continued with the race for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair and named the Members who were nominated : Father Elvis Gonzalez, Rabbi Daniel Hadar, Pastor Jimmy Loiseau.

- For his introduction for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair race, Father Gonzalez said he was surprised to be nominated. However even though he's busy like everybody else on the Board, he said that he's ready to work as a Faith Community Leader and he will try his best
- Rabbi Hadar for his introduction said that he's ready to bring up perspective because he's coming from the beach. He added that he wants to do it and it is perfect because he's here to help out.
- Since Pastor Loiseau was running late, Pastor Gervais made the following brief presentation of his background : Pastor Loiseau has international insight and his church has 67 to 70 branches around the world so he has serious international insight
- Then, once the introductions were over and all Members voted, Program Officer Alex Jospitre collected the ballots.

#### **10. Ongoing Business / Follow up**

##### **PRESENTATION OF PROTOCOL DOCUMENT REGARDING EVENTUAL ICE RAIDS IN CHURCHES**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson presiding over the meeting suggested to continue with this topic while awaiting the elections results from Program Director Alex Jospitre.  
However, since Mr. Jospitre explained that Pastor Loiseau was still not present at the moment, Dr. Williams-Dawson suggested that every Member get the available copy of the document so they can review till our next meeting when Pastor Loiseau would have the opportunity to go over it.

#### **11. Special Business / Hot Topics**

##### **GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN : IMPACT ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) IN MIAMI DADE:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Pastor Williams-Dawson read the item followed by the report produced by Program Director Jospitre regarding it:  
The county has the highest share in the United States of households receiving SNAP benefits where at least one member is aged over 60.  
Roughly 1 million households in Florida benefit from food stamps and among them 215,000 households live in Miami-Dade County.  
Of the more than 215,000 households receiving benefits in Miami-Dade County, three out of five have one or more elderly members (That's according to a Miami Herald analysis of data from the U.S. Agriculture Department)  
With around 60% of households that receive SNAP benefits in Miami-Dade having at least one member who is aged 60 or over, Miami-Dade County has the highest share of elderly SNAP beneficiaries in the State.
- Pastor Conrad explained that his Church has its own food distribution and organization and farm sharing that supply their food. He added they were requesting them to do a survey on people that have stopped receiving benefits in order to make an assessment on the needs and how it's affecting people and present it to the Government.

#### **12. Announcement**

##### **ROAD TO RESISTANCE WE RIDE FOR JUSTICE**

- 2nd Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson introduced the flyer regarding "Road to Resistance, We Ride for Justice and asked Pastor Gervais if he knew about the event in question
- Pastor Gervais replied that he was seeing it for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.
- Then Pastor Jimmy Loiseau finally made it to the meeting and he was invited to vote in order to break a tie in the elections results.
- Program Director Alex Jospitre handed him a ballot and informed him of the candidates for the three elective roles.

- Rabbi Hadar took the opportunity to share an event that was on the news about an individual that was harassing and even threatening his community which prompted them to meet with the State Attorney about it. Rabbi Hadar continued and explained that if an individual goes after someone and harasses that person on some religious ground, it's a misdemeanor but if, instead he goes and harasses your Church, Synagogue, mosque... and doesn't enter the facility, it is not considered a crime which is dangerous according to him. He strongly believes this should be a topic to discuss over and even have the Board voice its opinion on it because with the law as it is for now, someone can come all the way to your place of worship to create problem and, as long as they don't enter the space, there can't be any legal claims against him/her.
- Dr. Turcios a bit confused, said he was under the impression that threats of violence did not fall under protected free speech
- Rabbi Hadar said that exactly what they're trying to clarify with the State Attorney : What crime they can get prosecuted for.
- Pastor Vilches asked if the law says specifically not entering the space or not crossing property line because someone could theoretically scream stuff from across the street.
- Rabbi Hadar answered : from the street and that the scary thing is that the same person came back for different Jewish events like Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, vigils...
- Pastor Mortensen asked if it was a national or state problem.
- Rabbi Hadar answered that it was a state issue so far. He added that it is a threat and that their security personnel apprehended the individual who was handed over to the police, but the problem remains about can they prosecute him

### **13. [Continuation] of the Interfaith Advisory Board annual elections : RESULTS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Rev. Williams-Dawson asked Program Director Alex Jospitre to proceed if he was ready for the results.
- Program Director Alex Jospitre took the floor and explained that the draw he mentioned earlier was between Dr. Barek and Rev. Dr. Williams-Dawson. And Rev. Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson is elected new Chair of the Interfaith Advisory Board.  
Program Director Jospitre continued with the results for Vice-Chair; He explained that Dr. Williams Dawson could have also been Vice-Chair, but since she has been elected Chair, our new Vice-Chair will be Rabbi Marc Rosenberg.  
Program Director Alex Jospitre continued and announced that Rabbi Daniel Hadar has been elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair.  
Program Director Alex Jospitre concluded the results announcements by informing that he reviewed the ballots twice and the results he just announced are confirmed.

### **14. [Continuation] of the Ongoing Business / Follow up**

#### **PRESENTATION OF PROTOCOL DOCUMENT REGARDING EVENTUAL ICE RAIDS IN CHURCHES**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson went back on the topic and offered Jimmy Loiseau (who came late to the meeting) to make a brief presentation of the document.
- Pastor Jimmy Loiseau started by sharing that his Church has been working for several months on this document. He continued :  
" What you see before you is the draft for ICE response. We call it ICE response after speaking to lawyers, the sheriff's department and police department and some of our advisors that helped us draft this. It should be called, not an ice response, but more like law enforcement response; because at any given time, at any given moment, a law enforcement agent may come to your doorsteps. So, it's not just responding in terms of ice. We have to broaden it and not call it ice response. This is a response that if any kind of law enforcement comes into your ground, that this is something that we recommend. The most important thing is, when any kind of law

enforcement official comes to your place of worship, you want to make sure that you have a team that's ready to respond to that. In our church, for example, we have different ministries that are happening: we have people doing ushering, we have people doing security, we have people that are from different departments; So when someone comes up in an official capacity that represents law enforcement, we can't have everyone speak, because whatever they say, whether you gave them the ability to speak or not, that's what they're going to go with. So, we want to make sure that you have a team set in place, so when law enforcement comes, that team, or representative of that team, the ones that will speak to the officers. In our case, we have the first person who is an usher, because that's who's bringing the people in. So, every Usher needs to understand that we have what is called an RRT. That's our Rapid Response Team. Somebody must always be in the building no matter what, whether it's a small service, whatever it may be, someone must always be in the building. If someone is not in the building, whoever is the lead Usher, whoever is ministering at that particular moment, they will know they need to talk to their team lead. That team lead knows how to get to somebody that is that's on the RRT. You have to decide that for yourself who is in charge. But the most important thing is you must have that RRT. Second thing, we recommend that on that team you do have a lawyer. If you have an usher ministry or somebody that does welcoming, you should have that person also be part of that team, besides the leader of that particular house of worship, and others. Number two, once you have your team ready, you need to have an assessment of your building. For example, we had Dr Shirley Plantin who is going to come and do an assessment. That assessment of your building is extremely important because there are places that are sensitive in your building that you need to mark. If those places are not marked with a warrant, the officers can go into that particular space. So it has to be said something like 'Authorized Personnel Only', something simple like that. That sign on the door lets them know this is for authorized personnel only. They're not allowed in there. The only time they are allowed to be there is with a specific warrant that states that they have to search such and such space. If it's a general warrant to search the building, even with the warrant they will have to respect the fact you say this room is for Authorized Personnel Only, so those need to be marked. So, it's very important that those sensitive places, or whatever that may be, are clearly marked. Number three, you need to have training for your RRT and training for the people who volunteer and ministers throughout the week in your building. They need to understand this policy, because at any given moment our building is not having service or having an event, people could be coming to clean, they could be coming to volunteer or set up. So, you need to make sure at any given moment all your volunteers understand that there is now a process in place when an officer comes. So, if an officer comes in an official capacity, they need to understand that they are not supposed to say a word, no matter what document they show; They have to respond that they will call their leader. And finally, you need to have what is called certain code. So, if this, if officers come in doing a particular service, or particular time you have a liability building, you need to have codes. We recommend to use an app instead of WhatsApp to communicate that is more secure and will allow you to talk amongst your team members. And one other thing: we also recommend making public announcements; you must pause your service or event to make an announcement if necessary, and you need to make sure it's not the pastor or the one who oversees the ministry who makes that announcement: that's why you have to have an immigration lawyer on your team if you're dealing with immigration. Even if you're dealing with a different type of issue, you always need to have a lawyer because there are certain statements you cannot make. There are certain statements even my bishop cannot make. We must make sure that we are law abiding citizens and we're following protocol. So, we want to always make that balance of protecting our congregants, while respecting the law; we can't be fighting against the law. Also, you will see I added documents to show the difference between a judicial warrant and an administrative warrant, and this is where the confusion lies around. This is part of the training the RRT will get. The last two pages, you will see a sample of what an official

judicial warrant looks like, and what administrative warrant looks like. It's important that everybody understands the difference, especially if they're going to have the capacity to let or not law enforcement into a building, they need to understand the difference and be able to make the right decision. An administrative warrant cannot be used, we used to get into a building, no matter what. As an administrative warrant it basically has no teeth. A judicial warrant has teeth because it is signed by a judge. And it is also stamped by a Judge. You can adjust this document according to your specifications. It is flexible depending on how you want to apply it. The goal is that we want to make sure that everybody that has a house of worship has a plan in place; Then they can periodically, review the plan and update it necessary. This allows us to make sure there's no surprises. I know we haven't had any incident with houses of worship, but I'll give you an incident: we have a campus in West Palm Beach, and a few weeks ago I got a call from one of our campus administrators, about officials who followed some individuals home. They couldn't find the person, and because they were not educated, they allowed the officers to come in to talk to them, and you can't allow this. You can talk outside to them. So, it's extremely important that we understand that these officers have a job to do, and we respect that, but we need to understand that we have rights for being in this country whether you're an American citizen or not. The Laws offer everybody protection. We don't want to wait when there's an incident to start talking about it and figure out what to do next. It's important for us to have something in place just in case, so we know how to respond and are not taken off guard. It's better to be prepared than not prepared.

- 2nd Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson thanked Pastor Jimmy Loiseau for his presentation and said that they will continue to tweak the document as needed

#### **15. [Continuation] of Announcement**

- 2nd Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson invited Program Officer Alex Jospitre to continue the announcements with the case of former Board Member Olga Hernandez.
- Program Director Alex Jospitre explained that Mrs. Hernandez texted him a while ago to inform she was resigning from the Board but she never followed up with the requested email/letter to confirm her decision. Mr. Jospitre continued and explained that his Department Director suggested sending her text to the appropriate office as proof of her resignation. Pending the result of the suggested process, Program Director Alex Jospitre informed the Board that Mrs. Hernandez should be considered out of the Interfaith Advisory Board.  
Then Program Director Jospitre also informed of the resignation of former Vice-Chair Pastor Donald Clarke from the Board because his Church is moving to Broward. He explained that Pastor Clarke didn't want to continue as a Board Member despite informing him that his Church moving to Broward wouldn't keep from being part of the IAB. So, Mr. Jospitre informed that the Board is now reduced to 18 Members while he's working to convince 2 religious leaders to join the Board in 2026.
- Pastor Conrad Molleda asked if there were special requirements for someone to be part of the Board
- Program Director Alex Jospitre answered that one only needs to be recommended and appointed by a Commissioner to be part of the Board and added that the Board has a lot of vacancies. He invited the Board Members to invite anybody they think would fit to come and be part of the Board.
- Program Director then gave the floor to Pastor Vilches through the acting Chair
- Pastor Vilches announced that for the coming year he'd like his absences to be excused, because he's going to miss the first three meetings of 2026 due to military training as he was recently commissioned as a reserve chaplain in the Air Force as Captain.
- Program Officer Jospitre then excused the absence of outgoing Chair-Rabbi Rosenberg who had to cancel last minute because of his responsibilities with the Sheriff's Office.

- To Conclude the announcements, Program Director Jospitre reminded that, during the January 09 2025 meeting, the December 2025 meeting was voted out because of the Holidays and wanted to know if they wanted to keep this way or change it. However, he added that if they wanted to change it, it would require a vote
- 2nd Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson asked the other Members their opinion on it
- Pastore Vilches replied that they found out the two busiest months are July because it's summer, and then December because of the holidays. He then continued and said he would keep it and meet at the beginning of the year when the new officers would be installed.
- Dr. Barek added that besides everybody is busy during the Holidays.
- Pastor Molleda added that in the past there were events organized by the county where the Interfaith Advisory Board was required to participate and asked if there any plans of that sort.
- Program Director replied that he bumped into Michelle Johnson from the Mayor's office who said she would stop by the meeting but couldn't make it. He asked Mrs. Johnson if there were anything planned for the Holidays and she replied that there were nothing planned. He concluded by reassuring the Board Members that he would inform them of anything that comes up.
- 2nd Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson thanked all Members dropping pictures and "closeout" videos of to update all Members of what everybody's doing at a personal level.

#### **16. Adjournment**

- 2nd Vice-Chair Williams-Dawson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting
- Moved by Pastor Vilches
- Seconded by Father Gonzalez
- Adjournment voted and approved unanimously at 2:46 PM