



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
LGBTQIA+ ADVISORY BOARD GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 3:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)
111 N.W. 1st Street 18th Floor Room 18-4 Miami, Florida 33128**

Mission

The Miami-Dade County LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board is comprised of individuals who are working directly to improve the lives of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The purpose of the Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners with respect to laws and policies that support Miami-Dade County's LGBTQIA+ residents, visitors, and businesses, to ensure a strong voice for the LGBTQIA+ community in local government and public policy and to encourage and support the development of the LGBTQIA+ community.

This diverse group of leaders plays a critical role in prioritizing the LGBTQIA+ community in all legislative and budget efforts. The board partners with local government entities and promotes and advances LGBTQIA+ initiatives. To accomplish its objectives, the Board builds working relationships with county leaders and their representatives.

Agenda

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 320pm

Prior to the roll call Director Paez asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the loss of former Miami-Dade County LGBTQ Advisory Board Chairwoman Aiyana Angeni Gonzalez.

II. Roll Call

<u>Present Member</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Open Seat</u>	<u>Guest</u>
Bobby Joe Bracy D3	Patricia Hernandez D1	District 2	Cindy Brown D4
Ariel Trueba D6	Kevin Correa D7	District 4	Dr. Travis Stokes M. A. #2
Jennifer Stephenson D8	Harold Marrero D11	District 5	Lilliam Jarquin FIU
Darrell Burks	Orlando Lopez D12	District 10	Victoria Lerma FIU
Christos Constantinides D13		M.A. #2	Maria Ilcheva FIU
Grace C. Lopez M. A. #1			Todd Delmay SAVE
			Cecile Houry

Chairman asked the newest appointee, Dr. Travis Stokes, Mayoral Appointee #2 to introduce himself. Dr. Stokes began by saying that his personal mission statement which is "Aspire to inspire before you expire". That's how he likes to lead. Dr. Stokes indicated that he has been a resident of Miami-Dade County for the past 21+ years and serving at the LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board is the next step of his evolution of servicing his people.

III. Reasonable Opportunity to Be Heard
No one was present to speak before the board.

Guest Cindy Brown raised the point for clarification purposes that neither Dr. Stokes nor herself would be able to make motions nor vote since they are not fully vetted board members.

- IV. Approval of Agenda (**Actionable Item**)
Motion to approve agenda by Darrell Burks
Seconded by Christos Constantinides
Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Approval of Minutes (**Actionable Item**)
February 2024, Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve agenda, as amended by Darrell Burks
Seconded by Christos Constantinides
Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau Update - Dan Rios
Share the latest copy of the "PINK PALM" The LGBTQ+ Travel Insider for Greater Miami & Miami Beach. This is an annual publication. Ideas for the next publication are welcomed. Getting ready for Miami Beach Pride. Float to host many dignitaries of Spain, Brazil, Canada, Argentina, and the UK.
Rainbow Springs (RS) Campaign is doing better this year than last year at this time. 2023 Figures show 13,832 airlines tickets to Miami & over 14,805 room nights. For a booking gross revenue of \$9.1 million.
Working with IGLTA (International LGBTQ+ Travel Association and will be hosting them in June at the Biltmore Hotel.
- VII. Committee Discussion
- a. Governmental & Legislative Affairs (GALA)
No update as the committee was unable to meet in April.
 - b. Communications Committee (CC)
No update as the committee was unable to meet in April.
 - c. Quality of Life (QOL)
February 2024 Committee Meeting was the last meeting. At this meeting the Committee discussed Pride Month Kickoff and October History Month. State of the Community and Domestic Violence Awareness in the LGBTQ+ Community were deferred to next committee meeting.
Committee motioned for Director Paez to work with Stonewall Museum for two possible traveling exhibits to be displayed at the Stephen P. Clark Center Lobby, one for June 2024 Pride and the other for October 2024 LGBTQ History Month. The exhibits are titled 1) Transcending Gender Bodies and Lives and 2) The Big Picture: Gay Movie Posters. Each exhibit will be at a cost of 150\$ for a total of 300\$. To purchase a motion would be needed with approved minutes. Member Guest-Cindy Brown asked if it would be possible for someone to sponsor the purchase. She offered to sponsor the 300\$ purchase and Vice-Chair Burks offered to split the 300\$ with Member Guest Brown. Director Paez indicated that due to not having QOL meeting he has begun drafting the June Pride Month Kickoff. Chairman Trueba suggested Jaime Guirola as Emcee and Member Guest suggested Elizabeth Schwartz as speaker. The June Pride Month Kickoff is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 1PM in the Lobby of the SPCC.

Motion to accept the purchase of the Stonewall exhibit by Member Guest Cindy Brown & Vice Chairman Darrell Burks. Motion moved by Christos Constantinides. Seconded by Jennifer Stephenson and approved unanimously.
Motion to move the June General Board Meeting from Wednesday, June 12, 2024, to Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 3PM in Room 18-4 of the SPCC. Motion moved by Vice-Chairman Burks, Seconded by Member Grace C. Lopez and approved unanimously. Director Paez is working with the Office of the Mayor to iron out the details regarding the Pride Flag raising.

To clarify Committee Meetings being held virtually. The meeting cannot be held virtually. As long as there is an in-person quorum, then it can be opened to members to participate virtually.

VIII. Old Business

This item was heard before committee discussion out of respect for our FIU & Legislative Update speakers.

a. Florida Legislature Update

Parental Rights in Education Act "Don't Say Gay" settlement update provided by lawsuit plaintiff Cecile Houry

Ms. Houry introduced herself and spoke firsthand on having participated in the "Don't Say Gay" lawsuit together with her partner and was represented by Robbie Kaplan. Others involved were Equality Florida and Liz Schwartz. It took two years to settle the lawsuit, a big victory for the LGBTQ Community because at the end of the day before nothing was written. Now it's written and it defines instruction narrowly and allows teachers to do many things they previously did.

b. FIU Metropolitan Center Assessment Survey Update

The Advisory Board has been working with FIU Metropolitan Center on doing an assessment survey. They provided an update on the progress. Lilliam Jarquin prepared a presentation that will be circled to the board members after the meeting.

The Needs Assessment seeks to find:

- What are the services currently existing for the LGBTQ+ community in MDC?
- What services and programs does the LGBTQ community need?
- What are the gaps?
- What are other communities doing to address the gaps?

Two survey instruments to capture perceptions of both LGBTQ+ community members and allies. Both surveys available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

5 topic areas:

- Healthcare and Physical Health
 - Mental Health
 - Housing Status*
 - Discrimination and Safety
 - Access to Local Services
- LGBTQ+ community survey: 50 questions

Ally survey: 26 questions *Note: Ally survey does not ask respondents questions related to housing status.

The survey went live on September 06, 2023. As of Monday April 01, 2024, there are a total of 790 survey responses.

Ms. Jarquin touched

- 1) Survey Demographics
- 2) Top three issues: Safety & Violence, Discrimination, Healthcare
- 3) Healthcare
- 4) Mental Health
- 5) Housing Status
- 6) Discrimination & Safety
- 7) Access to local services

Maria Ilcheva from FIU asked the board members to reach out to their appointing commissioners and ask them to post the link to the survey in their newsletters.

IX. New Business

a. 2024 Potential Forum(s)

- State of the Community
- Domestic Violence Awareness in the LGBTQ+ Community

The Greater Miami LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce have decided that they will not be doing a State of the Community with the Mayors. Instead, will be more of a DEI conversation. The reason this was brought up was because the board would like to partner with the chamber provide a forum for the community to participate in bringing a free forum for the community. Domestic Violence Awareness will be brought up at the next QOL Committee.

X. Chairman's Report

On Saturday the Chairman was the City of Miami's Family and Youth Day. Always very involved in events throughout the community.

XI. Director's Report

Been working with the GM LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, he has been visiting and taking part in the other LGBTQ Advisory committees both in the City of Miami & Miami Beach. These committees are working on similar issues that the Board is. However, City of Miami Beach is working on walking tours related to the LGBTQ community. They challenged the other two boards/committees to develop similar tours within their jurisdiction. Miami Beach will be working on an exhibit focused on Ruth Shack. Director Paez was tasked to obtain footage or photos during the 1977 HRO Battle, which she was so prominent in helping it pass. Also been working with community members that come to the Office of Community Advocacy seeking assistance in housing, employment, healthcare, and legal assistance. Always either doing either Advisory Board work or LGBTQ advocacy work. Having Vanessa Azzam as an addition to the staff has helped a great deal as we can bounce things off, brainstorm ideas to assist. Director Paez announce that he will be going on vacation starting Friday, April 26, 2024, and will return on Monday, May 6, 2024, just in time for the May General Board Meeting. Director Paez expanded further on Ms. Azzam's experience in working for the City of Miami and then for the Office of County Commissioner Keon Hardemon District 3.

XII. Announcements

a. Next general board meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 3PM
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. 1st Street 18th Floor Room 18-4
Miami, Florida 33128

b. Miami Beach Pride Parade Sunday, April 14, 2024 at noon Ocean Drive and 5th Street

c. Marlins Pride at the Park May 31, 2024. Working with the Office of County Commissioner Eileen Higgins for a proclamation. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

d. CommuniTEA Dance 2024 @ the Adrienne Arsht Center Sunday, June 9, 2024

e. Stonewall Museum is looking at Miami-Dade County to partner with them in their acknowledgement of the Stonewall 55th Anniversary. The date Stonewall is requesting is Sunday, June 30, 2024, as part of the Stonewall protests that began in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Lower Manhattan in New York City. This is something that Director Paez will be working on with the Office of the Mayor, given their ability to work with a budget.

- f. The Miami Heat at every home game acknowledges a community hero. Many of this season's heroes have been law enforcement officers or first responders. On the Thursday, April 4, 2024, home game the individual acknowledged was Director Paez. The recognition was accepted, by Director Paez, not only on behalf of the LGBTQ Community, but the entire Miami-Dade Community and he dedicated it to the memory of his late mother.
- g. A copy of the "Financial Disclosure Form" was shared for familiarity purposes. This form is due by Monday, July 01, 2024.

XIII. Adjournment at 4:43PM.

Chairman Ariel Trueba

Vice Chair Darrell Burks