



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
LGBTQIA+ ADVISORY BOARD GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 08, 2024, 3:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Stephen P. Clark Center
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 at 3:10PM

Chairman Trueba spoke how the community had experienced some horrific tragedies and ask for a moment of silence for Andrea Dorias Dos Passos, a transgendered female who was brutally murdered while she slept outside the Miami City Ballet location on Miami Beach.

Cindy Brown spoke about the life and work of Jorge Mursuli. Jorge passed away on May 8, 2024. Mursuli led SAVE (Safeguarding American Values for Everyone) during a pivotal time in 1998 when they successfully advocated and passed the Miami-Dade Human Rights Ordinance. His leadership was unseen and was unlike other leaders. He had the passion to inspire people to follow him. It would be great for the Board to recognize Jorge at some point.

II. Roll Call

Present

Patricia Hernandez D1, Bobby Joe Bracy D3, Ariel Trueba D6, Kevin Correa D7, Jennifer Stephenson D8, Christos Costandinides D13, Grace C. Lopez M.A.#1, Dr. Travis Stokes M.A. #2

Absent

Vice Chair Darrell Burks D9, Harold Marrero D11, Sgt. Orlando Lopez D12

Open Districts Seat(s)

District 2, District 4, District 5, District 10

Guest(s)

Earl Mowatt and Sally Pope-Smyth of Urban Health Partnerships, Luigi Ferrer of the Florida Department of Health, and Silvana Erbstein of AHF.

Chairman Trueba allowed the guest(s) to introduce themselves.

III. Reasonable Opportunity to Be Heard

No one present from in the audience to speak on an agenda item.

IV. Approval of Agenda **(Actionable Item)**

Motion to approve the agenda by Bobby Joe Bracy. Seconded by Dr. Travis Stokes. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes **(Actionable Item)**

April 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the agenda by Dr. Travis Stokes. Seconded by Bobby Joe Bracy. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) Update - Dan Rios

Dan Rios was unable to attend. No presentation from GMCVB.

VII. Committee Discussion

a. Governmental & Legislative Affairs (GALA)

Elections were deferred until the next meeting as there were members that were unable to attend. Those interested in running for Chair/Vice-Chair or interested in nominating anyone can send Director Paez the names and a short statement on your interest in running.

Also discussed the Sanctuary City resolution of Lake Worth Beach. Bobby Joe Bracy made a motion to defer it no date certain. It passed 5-1. Chairman Trueba brought up that it had been discussed at a previous board meeting and moved to committee. Chairman would like to bring it to the board and vote on it as he doesn't want it lingering. Member Bracy stated that he didn't accept the friendly amendment proposed by member Hernandez linking it to the assessment survey results.

This item was brought by former chairwoman and since no decision was made it was sent to committee. Now its stuck in Committee and Chairman Trueba would like to bring it to the board for a decision either way. Member Hernandez stated that it's the committee level and the committee needs to decide if it moves forward. After much further discussion member Stephenson asked for any statistic or data on how it has impacted Lake Worth Beach. Director Paez to seek any data or statistics.

b. Communications Committee (CC)

This committee has not met due to lack of quorum.

c. Quality of Life (QOL)

Committee meetings have been having difficulties in meetings due to lack of quorum. Committee meetings can be held virtually if you have an in-person quorum.

Director Paez gave a rundown of the kickoff.

Jaime Guirola Emcee, Lisa LeSueur will provide the invocation, UM Student to lead us in the pledge of allegiance, Miami Gay Chorus to sing the national anthem, Caridad Moros will read a poem. Speakers will be Director Paez, Chairman Trueba, Mayor Levine-Cava, BCC Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert III, Stonewall Director Robert Kesten, Commissioner Eileen Higgins, and State Senator Shevrin "SHEV" Jones.

VIII. Old Business

Working on potential forums with the Greater Miami LGBTQ Chamber Commerce. The first Forum is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 30, 2024, at the Miami Airport Marriott. The Domestic Violence forum will be discussed at the next QOL Committee meeting.

IX. New Business

Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Training by
Lisa LeSueur - National Alliance on Mental Health, Miami-Dade County.

Director Paez informed the Board that Lisa LeSueur is also a Reverend, and she will be providing the invocation at the Pride Month Kickoff.

Lisa LeSueur introduced herself and gave an overview of the training. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides education, support, and advocacy for those living with mental health conditions and their families. They are your local Miami affiliate! Lisa provided the training focusing on statistics, myths, warning signs, persuasion questions and resources. All questions from the members were answered. No action taken by the Board.

X. Chairman's Report

Celebrated Miami Beach Pride. Walked with the Miami-Dade contingency of MDPD, MDFR, MDCR, Director Paez, Vice-Chairman Darrell Burks, and other multiple departments. Other board members present were Christos Costandinides, Cindy Brown, Grace C. Lopez, and Jennifer Stephenson. Also attend the SAVE Champions of Equality GALA. Mayor Levine-Cava gave opening remarks.

XI. Director's Report

Director Paez has been working on the June Pride Month Kickoff. Director Paez gave a shout-out to Miami-Dade Corrections department. In 2021 when they first participated, they had a prisoner van and two officers. This year they had a van that pulled the float with Director Green at the helm of the float plus more than 40+ MDCR employees. Also attended the Life Celebration of Former Chairwoman Aiyana Angeni Gonzalez, which was held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 11AM in the Cor Jesu Chapel of Barry University.

XII. Announcements

- a. June Pride Month Kickoff
12 Noon in the Lobby of the
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, Florida 33128
- b. Next general board
meeting is Wednesday,
June 4, 2024, 3PM
SPCC Floor 18
Room #18-4
- c. 3rd Annual Miccosukee
Prid3 Fest June 1, 2024 at
12pm

XIII. Adjournment at 5:10 PM.

Chairman Ariel Trueba

Vice Chair Darrell Burks