



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
LGBTQIA+ ADVISORY BOARD GENERAL MONTHLY MINUTES
Tuesday, June 04, 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 3:02PM
- II. Roll Call
Members present: Bobby Joe Bracy D3, Ariel Trueba D6, Kevin Correa D7, Jennifer Stephenson D8, Harold Marrero D9, Grace C. Lopez Mayoral Appointee #1 & Dr. Travis Stokes Mayoral Appointee #2.
Members absent: Patricia Hernandez D1, Darrell Burks D9, Orlando Lopez D12, Christos Costantinides D13.
Open Seats: D2, D4, D5, & D10
Guest(s): Patky Changkachith, William Abreu, Vanessa Azzam

7 members out of 11 appointed members were present. Quorum was achieved.

Before "Reasonable Opportunity to be Heard" Chairman Trueba shared "I want to emphasize something very important that I take very seriously and suspect on this board. You know, I want to treat each other with respect. That's what we're here to serve. So, I want to make sure that at any meeting going forward. If there's any type of disrespect, I will ask you to please refrain from being disrespectful".

MDPD Officer Patky shared that he can be a resource as a community officer and expressed that he would assist advocating for the board. Officer Patky was not aware that the board has a member who is an officer of MDPD.

- III. Reasonable Opportunity to be Heard: No member of the public present to speak.

- IV. Approval of Agenda **(Actionable Item)**
Motion to approve by Harold Marrero. Seconded by Jennifer Stephenson.
Motion approved unanimously

- V. Approval of Minutes **(Actionable Item)**
May 2024, Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve by Travis Stokes. Seconded by Jennifer Stephenson.
Motion approved unanimously

Chairman Trueba thanked Board Member Bobby Joe Bracy for having worked with Commissioner Danielle Cohen-Higgins for honoring Jorge Mursuli who passed away, on May 6, at the age of 63. Jorge Mursuli led SAVE (Safeguarding American Values for Everyone) during a pivotal time in the movement. In 1998, the organization successfully advocated and passed the Miami-Dade County Human Rights Ordinance, which secured equal rights for gays and lesbians in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit and financial services. Board Member Bracy also thanked Director Paez for being flexible and allowing the Mursuli Sympathy Resolution to be present during the June Pride Month Kickoff.

- VI. Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau Update – William “Will” Abreu
Dan Rios was unable to present, hence William Abreu being present.

William Abreu shared data on the Rainbow Springs Campaign. after three months of the second year in existence, the campaign has generated over 22.7 thousand room nights, over 42.9 thousand airplane tickets and over 14 million dollars to the local economy.

- VII. Committee Discussion
- a. Governmental & Legislative Affairs (GALA)
GALA Committee has not met due to lack of quorum.
 - b. Communications Committee (CC)
CC has not met due to lack of quorum. Director Paez is creating a list of items for the committee to develop further.
 - c. Quality of Life (QOL)
Has not met due to lack of quorum

Dr. Travis Stokes was assigned to the Communication Committee by Chairman Trueba.

- VIII. Old Business
- a. Lake Worth Beach Sanctuary City
At the previous GALA Committee meeting there was a motion to defer this item, to no time certain. Chairman Trueba felt the board have continuously move something that really does not have appetite at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

After consulting with Board Legal Counsel Terrence Smith, he stated via email that “according to the Bylaws, the committee only serves at the pleasure of the LGBTQIA+ Board in an advisory capacity. The committee's action in deferring the matter to no date certain does not prevent the Board from considering the matter during a publicly noticed Board meeting”.

After expressing his concerns and counsel's interpretation a motion to discuss the item once again was moved by Jennifer Stephenson. It was seconded by Bobby Joe Bracy. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussing the item Dr. Stokes motioned to do sanctuary city, Yes or No. Yes, means you want it. No, means you do not want it. Chairman Trueba requested a roll call vote.

Bobby Joe Bracy	No
Ariel Trueba	No
Kevin Correa	No
Jennifer Stephenson	No
Harold Marrero	Yes
Dr. Travis Stokes	No

Motion fails 6-1. This item will no longer be entertained by the board after it failed.

IX. New Business

a. Board Member June Pride Month Participation

Chairman requested that each board member attempt to attend PRIDE Events during the month most importantly if they are in the district which member is representing.

Member Stephenson stated that she had attended the Miccosukee Tribes 3rd Annual Pride Event and that it was very disappointing to see the lack of community participation. Director Paez stated that he would reach out to Houston Cypress, a Miccosukee Queer Leader, and offer assistance for next year's Pride Festival.

X. Chairman's Report

Chairman began by stating and acknowledging the number of individuals present at the June Pride Month Kickoff and how each year it continues to grow in attendance. Chairman also thank Director Paez for all his work. Also thanked the Emcee Jamie Guirola, all the LGBTQIA+ Board members who attended, and the leadership of the County that made it out to the Kickoff. Also attended the City of Miami Flag raising and will be at the Coral Gables City Hall. Very happy to serve in the capacity of Chairman.

XI. Director's Report

Director Paez advised that he went with the Greater Miami LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce to the Washington DC Fly In with the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. This trip was self-funded. Visited with several members of the Miami-Dade Delegation. All presentations were very partisan.

Director Paez also stated the fact that Commissioner Eileen Higgins sponsored a proclamation for the Miami Marlins, calling for Friday, May 31, 2024, as Miami Marlins Pride At the Park Day in Miami-Dade County. Such proclamation was presented to the Miami Marlins at the pre-game ceremony by Chairman Trueba and Director Paez. Director Paez spent much of the month preparing for the Pride Month Kickoff.

Director Paez presented each member with a member binder which includes the founding ordinance, the By Laws, multiple ordinances related to the board, Florida Sunshine Law and a copy of the 2023 Source of Income/Final Disclosure Form. He also reminded members that the 2023 Source of Income/Final Disclosure Form is due by July 1st. It was also mailed to the address on file with the Clerk. If a member served a day or more in 2023, they must submit a form no later than 7/1/2024.

XII. Announcements

- a. July General Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 10, 2024,
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, Florida 33128
18th Floor Room 18-4 at 3PM

- b. Griselle Marino of the Office of Community Advocacy was presented with a Honorary Doctoral In Ministry on May 25, 2024. Congratulations to Griselle.
- c. Harold Marrero shared that on Friday June 28th Divas night will be held at MIA Beer House benefiting Safe Schools of South Florida.
- d. Other events announced for Sunday, June 30, 2024. At 10:30AM Pride Mass at All Souls Episcopal Church on Miami Beach. Vizcaya will be incorporating a Stonewall Poetry lecture at their market and at 8:30PM also on Miami Beach there will be a candlelight vigil being sponsored in part with Miami Beach Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez. The vigil will be held on Ocean Drive and 12th Street in Lummus Park.
- e. Member Stokes expressed his concern of the lack of understanding in the LGBTQ Community towards the TRANS Community. He would like to bring a educational awareness piece for the community. Member Lopez suggested that it be incorporated in the November calendar of activities.

XIII, Adjournment at 4:05PM

Chairman Ariel Trueba

Vice Chair Darrell Burks