



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
LGBTQIA+ ADVISORY BOARD GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 3:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)

111 N.W. 1st Street 10th Floor Room 1011 Miami, Florida 33125

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 3:00pm (1500 hrs.)
- II. Roll Call

Prior to taking role, Director Paez updated the Board on the attendance policy. Currently the old policy is still in effect, waiting for the BCC to take up the request from the Office of Community Advocacy.

Welcomed Tim Wagoner as an official member of the Board representing Commissioner Bastien. Paul Thomas & Erik Martin reflected as GUEST. They are going through the confirmation process. The member binder was to provide Wagoner, Thomas, & Martin.

Also congratulated Jennifer Stephenson on her promotion as Sergeant for the City of Homestead Police Department under Traffic & Traffic Homicide.

Member(s) Present:

D2 Tim Wagoner, D3 Vice-Chair Bobby Joe Bracy, D4 Cindy Brown, D5 Paul Thomas-Guest, D6 Chairman Ariel Trueba D7 Kevin Correa, D8 Jennifer Stephenson, D11 Rev. Dr. Harold Marrero, D13 Erik Martin, M.A. #1 Grace C. Lopez, M.A. #2 Dr. Travis L. Stokes

Member(s) Absent:

D1 Patricia Hernandez.

Director Paez shared that former Chair Hernandez has been extremely busy this year and been unable to attend. Will remain on the Board until D1 Commissioner Gilbert III appoints a new member. Director Paez spoke with the D1 Commission Aide Jessenia Medrano regarding the need to appoint a member.

Informed the Board that Director Paez spoke with D10 Staff and once again suggested Mildred Suarez. Mildred is a D10 resident that is willing and able to serve.

III. Reasonable Opportunity to Be Heard

Floor opened & closed at 308PM

No member(s) from the public.

IV. Chairman's Report

Attended the Hospitality and LGBTQ Economy Series hosted by the Greater Miami LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce. It was held at MIA where Mayor Cava gave her remarks and sat on a panel with MIA Director Ralph Cutie. The Director made it clear that Miami will remain a welcoming International Airport as they highlight the fact that they have multiple gender-neutral bathrooms. The chairman expressed his support for the airport and the chamber.

Chairman Trueba also provided an update to the community project from Urban Health Partnership. All grants have been reinstated, and all community outreaches will begin shortly, as they wait for NIH guidance after the reinstatement of grants. Finally, the chairman expressed that he is looking forward taking the August break so everyone can come back strong in September and planning October History Month activities.

V. Director's Report

June was a very active month. We did get 4 proclamations. The board got proclamations from Miami Beach, North Bay Village, North Miami, and Miami Gardens. Miami Gardens, and Miami Beach were received on the day of the Kickoff, and the other 2 were sporadic throughout the month. Thank you to those municipalities.

Director Paez gave a midyear report on the 2025 Board priorities. The meeting on the chamber's request was a difficult one to obtain as the second Wednesday of the month is in the middle of committee week. Vacancies currently exist in

District(s) 9, 10 & 12. District 2 appointed Tim Wagoner, District 5 appointed Paul Thomas & District 13 appointed Erik Martin. All three recent appointees have received their welcome package and will be included as voting members for the September 2025 Meeting. Director Paez thanked the members present for their support and dedication.

Regarding MDCR Corrections Director Paez continues to be a member of the MDCR Transgender Committee. Plus, he also pays quarterly visits to MetroWest Correctional Facility. MetroWest holds weekly meetings with LGBTQ inmates to discuss any pertinent hot topic. The current trend with transgenders in Miami-Dade facilities is that we are seeing an increase in the number of transgenders being arrested for prostitution. One of the great things at the in-take facility Turner Gilford Knights (TGK) is that Sgt. Elizabeth Fernandez is one of the in-take sergeants and can diffuse many situations before they turn up in the news.

Chairman requested a rundown regarding the LGBTQ inmate population. MetroWest is an all-male facility. When transgenders are housed in MetroWest they are in the general population per state law. Director Paez confirmed that at the time of the meeting there were no transgenders with ICE holds. TGK Facility Tour to be scheduled for September or October.

Director Paez indicated that he will make efforts to organize a visit to TGK.

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

Motion to approve the agenda by Dr. Travis. Second By Cindy Brown. Motion passes unanimously.

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

a. May 2025

Even though the May 2025 meeting minutes were ready only June 2025 were presented to the membership. As a result, Harold Marrero motioned to defer the May 2025 Minutes until September meeting. Second, by Cindy Brown. Unanimously approved.

b. June 2025

Cindy Brown motioned for approval of June 2025 Meeting Minutes. Bobby Joe Bracy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

a. Ad-Hoc Working Group In-Person Meeting Date

The date will be selected for an in-person meeting via doodle Poll.

b. District 2 Proclamation Request by Legislative Aide Roger Castaño.

After much discussion, motion to refer this item to the GALA Committee by Bobby Joe Bracy. Second by Cindy Brown. Motion unanimously passed.

- IX. Old Business
 - a. Ad Hoc Working Group Update

Harold Marrero updated the Board as to the workings of the Ad Hoc Working Group. As stated in New Business, a meeting date will be selected for an in-person meeting via Doodle Poll.
 - b. Municipal Proclamation(s) discussed during Directors Report.
- X. The Liebe Gadinsky Future Agenda Item(s)
 - a. October History Month

No discussion was had.
- XI. Announcements
 - a. Next Monthly Meeting

South Miami Branch Library
Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 3PM
6000 Sunset Drive
South Miami, Florida 33143
Meeting was CONFIRMED
- XII. Adjournment at 4:50pm (1650hrs)