

**Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council
Monthly Public Meeting – Official Minutes
Friday, June 27, 2025 | 1:00 PM
Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 10th Floor, Conference Room 1011
111 NW 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33128**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Chairman Dr. Raul Moncarz.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Moncarz welcomed members and guests. Council members and guests introduced themselves. A sign-in sheet was circulated and collected.

III. Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to Be Heard

No members of the public requested to speak during this portion of the meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes from May 30, 2025 (Vote Required)

Councilmember Reetha Boone-Fye made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the correction of the date in the header, which had incorrectly listed “April 25” instead of “May 30.” The motion to approve the minutes with the amended date was seconded by Dr. West and unanimously adopted.

V. Chairperson’s Report and Updates

Chairman Dr. Raul Moncarz introduced the Federal Reserve Report for discussion. He briefly referenced key points regarding the national economic outlook and its relevance to Miami-Dade County. Due to time constraints, he recommended postponing a deeper discussion of the report to the next Council meeting. Council members expressed interest in examining the implications more fully, including potential connections to local budget considerations and workforce trends.

VI. Council Member Reports

Council members shared informal updates on individual focus areas. Key priorities raised included the county's budget deficit and industry-specific impacts. No formal action was taken.

VII. Follow-Up on General Discussion Items

- **SEDC Annual Event and Scholarship:** The Council agreed to defer planning for the next annual event and scholarship to the following year. Members proposed selecting a date in Fall 2027 and will revisit planning in future meetings.
 - **Outreach Updates:** Dr. Martin reported on recent and pending engagements, including:
 - Ongoing collaboration with the University of Miami Human Rights Law Clinic, which has expressed interest in supporting the Council's work.
 - Outreach initiated to the President of Miami Dade College; response is pending.
 - **Census Undercount Report:** Council members reviewed highlights of the undercount's impact on political representation and funding. The Council requested continued follow-up on population data circulation.
 - **Website and Public Access Update:** Dr. Martin reported that efforts are underway to secure a vanity URL and upload Council reports for public access. Members were asked to forward copies of previously authored reports, including those related to casinos and prior studies by Dr. Peterson.
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VIII. Meeting Focus Topic: The Current Immigration Climate – Policy, Data, and Economic Impact

Council members engaged in open discussion regarding the regional effects of immigration policy and enforcement.

- The Council requested data regarding immigration and deportation statistics specific to Miami-Dade County.
 - Councilmembers raised the issue of the "benefits cliff" and referenced the exponential increase in public and employee benefit costs. Discussion touched on the need to examine the broader economic consequences of medical benefits expenditure.
 - Additional concern was expressed around the County's RFP (Request for Proposals) processes and related restrictions such as the "Cone of Silence." Members expressed interest in gaining clarity on these procedures for potential partnerships or public engagements.
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IX. New Business

- **Internships and County Partnerships:** Council members proposed the development of internship opportunities to connect students with the Council's work.
 - **Digital Divide:** Members raised questions about Miami-Dade County's internal efforts to address the digital divide. Reference was made to internal initiatives, including Microsoft Copilot deployment and employee learning platforms.
 - **County Meeting Attendance:** The Council requested a list of County budget meetings and other relevant committee hearings. Dr. Martin will follow up and share a schedule of upcoming meetings to allow Council members to attend as desired.
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X. Announcements

- **Next SEDC Meeting:** The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Friday, July 18, 2025 at 1:00 PM**, location to be determined.
 - **Financial Disclosure Reminder:** All members were reminded to submit their required **financial disclosures and source of income forms by July 1** to remain in compliance.
 - **Bylaws Review:** Dr. Martin will circulate the draft bylaws and integrate past feedback. The Council agreed to finalize review for submission to legal counsel.
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XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:12 PM.