

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council (SEDC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, July 18, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: 111 NW 1st Street, 18th Floor, Conference Room 18-3, Miami, FL 33128

Chairperson: Dr. Raul Moncarz

Meeting Directed By: Gabriel J. Paez, Director LGBTQIA Advisory Board

I. Call to Order

Chairman Dr. Raul Moncarz called the meeting to order at 1:24 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Moncarz welcomed attendees and introduced two guests:

- **Dr. Rosario Concha**, University of Miami Human Rights Law Clinic
 - **Esteban Wood**, WeCount!
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III. Roll Call / Attendance

Council Members Present:

- Dr. Raul Moncarz (Chair)
- Dr. Bernadette West (Vice Chair)
- Nicole A. Marriott
- Retha Boone-Fye
- Dr. Thomas Breslin
- Santiago Leon
- Beatriz Baldan
- Marcos A. Kerbel

Guests Present:

- Dr. Rosario Concha (University of Miami Human Rights Law Clinic)
- Esteban Wood (WeCount!)

Staff Present:

- Gabriel J. Paez, Office of Community Advocacy (Meeting Director)
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IV. Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to Be Heard

Dr. Rosario Concha spoke about the Human Rights Law Clinic's work on gender-based violence, including domestic violence, human trafficking, and vulnerable populations. She emphasized the importance of disaggregated data and policy reform addressing men, women, boys, girls, and LGBTQ+ communities.

Esteban Wood highlighted the exclusion of domestic workers from the Human Rights Ordinance due to the five-employee threshold and announced an upcoming research project in collaboration with the University of Miami to collect data and develop policy recommendations.

Council members raised questions regarding outreach strategies, trust-building with immigrant workers, and suggestions for partnering with other County advisory boards.

V. Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2025

Motion: To approve the June 27, 2025 minutes with a name correction

Made by: Retha Boone-Fye

Seconded by: Dr. Thomas Breslin

Vote: Unanimously approved

VI. Chairperson's Report – County Budget Discussion

Chairman Moncarz led a comprehensive discussion on the \$402 million County budget deficit. Councilmembers discussed:

- Gas tax revenue limitations
- State land seizure issues and legal implications
- Program consolidations and staff reductions
- Ideas for cost savings including remote work, four-day workweeks, and reductions in administrative spending
- Recommendations for data-based fiscal reform to be submitted to the Mayor

Action: Dr. Martin will consolidate policy proposals into a report for the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners prior to the September budget hearings.

VII. Council Member Reports

Councilmember Beatriz Baldan presented on solid waste system challenges, including the incinerator proposal, siting issues, construction delays, and the environmental impact of interim solutions.

VIII. Follow-Up on General Discussion Items

a. Trust Fund Legislation Outreach

Council was informed that Laura Morilla contacted Commissioner Milian Orbis on June 2 and July 7 requesting a meeting and sponsorship for trust fund legislation. No response has been received.

b. Website and Public Access Update

Vice Chair Dr. West submitted three papers for upload. Dr. Martin is coordinating with IT to publish materials on the new Council webpage.

c. Florida Memorial University Engagement

Councilmember Boone-Fye confirmed outreach to Valerie Williams at FMU is in progress. Awaiting confirmation of a representative.

d. Bylaws Review

Members noted the need to distinguish between the founding ordinance and draft bylaws. Clarification was requested on term limits and governance processes.

e. County Legislative Agenda and Preemption

A formal presentation is pending from the County Attorney's Office. Coordination is ongoing.

IX. Meeting Focus Topic – Federal Reserve Report Deep Dive

The Council discussed the Federal Reserve report and its implications for Miami-Dade's economic development strategy. Key points included:

- Workforce undercounts (especially domestic and agricultural labor)
- Regressive revenue strategies
- Equity in infrastructure investment
- Potential alternative tax structures
- Impacts of property speculation and corporate ownership on housing
- Need for coordinated research and reporting on regressivity of proposed fiscal tools

Councilmembers proposed submitting a formal report evaluating tax equity and leveraging university partnerships for analysis.

X. Old Business

Dr. Jaime Suchlicki Recognition

Councilmembers followed up on a previously approved motion (from the May 30, 2025 meeting) to honor Dr. Jaime Suchlicki with a County proclamation. Members requested an update on the status of the recognition and coordination with Dr. Martin.

XI. New Business

Potential New Members

Members expressed strong interest in inviting Dr. Rosario Concha, Esteban Wood, and Ursula Price to join the Council. Dr. Martin will follow up regarding next steps.

XII. Announcements

- **Next Meeting:** Friday, August 22, 2025 at 1:00 PM
 - Members were reminded to send any policy ideas or written reports to Dr. Martin for submission to the Mayor prior to the September budget hearings.
 - Calendar invites and meeting materials will be sent in advance of the next meeting.
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XIII. Adjournment

Motion to Extend Meeting:

Made by: Dr. West

Seconded by: Dr. Breslin

Approved: Unanimously

Adjournment Time: 3:21 PM
