

**Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council
Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2026, 1pm-3pm**

Location: Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street, Miami, FL 33128
18th Floor, Conference Room 18-3

Call to Order

The meeting of the Dr. Antonio Jorge Social and Economic Development Council was called to order by Chairman Dr. Raul Moncarz.

Roll Call / Attendance

Council Members present included Retha Boone-Fye, Vice Chairperson Dr. Bernadette West, Chairman Dr. Raul Moncarz, Marcos Kerbel, Beatriz Baldan, and Jesús Permuy.

Also in attendance were guests, including Gerard, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County International Trade Consortium, and a representative from Miami-Dade Economic and Advocacy Trust (MDEAT).

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Moncarz welcomed Council members and attendees and provided brief introductory remarks.

Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to Be Heard

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was offered.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting was made by Mr. Kerbel and seconded by Ms. Baldan. The motion passed.

Discussion Items

The Council engaged in discussion on regional economic trends, including tourism and the small business climate. Members also discussed social and demographic shifts, with reference to immigration trends and regional dynamics impacting Miami-Dade County, as well as updates on the local health landscape.

The Council then reviewed the proposed bylaws. A motion was made by Dr. West to approve the bylaws as presented, with the exception of the provision in Section 3 referencing term limits, which was removed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baldan and passed.

A motion was subsequently made by Ms. Boone-Fye to establish a minimum of four meetings per year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kerbel. Following a vote, the motion did not pass.

New Business

Under New Business, the Council engaged in a brief discussion regarding committee structure and pathways for advancing Council ideas. Members discussed the importance of aligning topics with appropriate Board of County Commissioners committees, identifying Council leads for specific issue areas, and clarifying how items move from discussion to potential engagement with County leadership or departments. During this discussion, the Chairman suggested that Council members be prepared to provide a brief update on a topic of their choosing prior to each Council meeting to support information sharing and focused discussion. No formal action was taken.

Announcements

It was announced that staff will circulate a draft meeting calendar. Members were also informed that the County Planning Division has requested Council input at the February meeting related to the Evaluation and Appraisal Report process associated with the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Moncarz.