



**Miami-Dade County**  
**Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)**  
**Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, Florida 33128**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 18-4**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes- Approved**

**Date:** 9/16/2025

**Time:** 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Call to Order Time:** 10:45 am

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:00 pm

**Opening and Attendance:** Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed.

Call to order, attendance recorded, copies of documents distributed.

**Roll Call:**

- District 1, Commissioner Oliver Gilbert: **Damian Gregory** (present)
- District 2, Commissioner Marliene Bastien: **Vacant**
- District 3, Commissioner Keon Hardemon: **Marylin Orozco** (present)
- District 4, Commissioner Micky Steinberg: **Vacant**
- District 5, Commissioner Eileen Higgins: **Eddie Sierra** (present)
- District 6, Commissioner Kevin M. Cabrera: **Marisabel Rey** (present)
- District 7, Commissioner Raquel Regaldo: **Rabbi Yossi Harlig** (absent)
- District 8, Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins: **Vacant**
- District 9, Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee: **Vacant**
- District 10, Commissioner Anthony Rodriguez: **Natalia Wong** (absent)
- District 11, Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez: **Katherine Magnoli**, Chairperson (present)
- District 12, Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez: **Maria Mercedes Villar** (present)
- District 13, Commissioner René Garcia: **Theo Karantsalis**, Vice Chair (present)

**Members present:** (7) members were present Was **quorum met?** (Yes)

**Miami-Dade County Staff in Attendance:**

- Michael Moran, Senior ADA Coordinator
- Marie-Chantal Darius, ADA Coordinator Specialist
- Jody Cox, ADA Projects Administrator

**Members of the Public in Attendance:**

- David W. McMillan, Ph.D., Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
- Lili Portmann, CILSF
- Ernie Martinez
- Mara Fowler, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, NMSS,
- Ruth Truth Torres, Chief Human Resource Officer at The HR. Doctor, LLC

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:**

1. Meeting was called to order at 11:00am with six CODI members present. Quorum was achieved.

2. Chairman Magnoli requested motion to approve the August 2025 minutes as well as the September 2025 agenda. Damian Gregory made the motion; Marilyn Orozco seconded the motion. CODI members voted to approve August 2025 minutes and September 2025 agenda.
3. Eddie Sierra made a motion to invalidate the August minutes due to lack of effective communication. Theo Karantsalis seconded the motion. Damian Gregory, Theo Karantsalis, Marilyn Orozco, and Katherine Magnoli voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed to invalidate August minutes. At the next CODI meeting, another vote will be taken regarding adoption of the August minutes.

### **Public Comments:**

1. Mara Fowler, NMSS District Activist Leader, spoke on behalf of individuals living with multiple sclerosis (MS). Her goal is to tell her story and to advance federal and state policies that support individuals living with MS and their families. Ms. Fowler also mentioned her current project of lighting up the city buildings and bridges orange raising awareness of MS.
2. Ms. Torres spoke about disabled parking enforcement at Bayfront Park. She raised concerns about new parking enforcement policies and Bayfront Park being classified as a cruise port. Issues:
  - a). Disabled individuals receiving citations
  - b). Jurisdiction confusion: City owned park, but County enforcement
  - c). ADA requires free disabled parking up to four hours

By way of background, Ruth Torres filed a complaint with the Disability Independence Group, and its President, Debbie Dietz, forwarded the complaint to me and asked if CODI could get involved. I interviewed witnesses, collected exhibits, contacted and invited the head of Miami Parking Authority, Angel Diaz, Director of Parking Operations, who did not return emails or attend the meeting, and drafted a resolution, read it into the record, and made a motion for its adoption. The resolution and numerous exhibits were included in the agenda materials.

### **New Business Discussion:**

1. Eddie Sierra raised concerns about ineffective communication methods. He requested the use of both PowerPoint captioning and live transcription captioning.
2. Chairman Magnoli ask if CODI could support the MS awareness initiative by assisting

### **Old Business Discussion:**

- Motion was made by Mr. Karantsalis and seconded by Ms. Orozco. Motion passed unanimously.
- Regarding disabled parking enforcement: Eddie Sierra made a motion – which Marilyn Orozco seconded -- to request Miami-Dade County Commissioners and municipal governments to ensure consistency and transparency in ADA-compliant, disabled parking policies County wide.

**Announcements:** David W. McMillan will present at next meeting about the neurological benefits of the ocean on people with disabilities.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment:**

1. Motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Magnoli and Marilyn Orozco seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.
2. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2025: 10:30am-12pm, SPCC 18-4