



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

Monthly Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

Date: 11/18/2025

Time: 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Meeting video link: <https://youtu.be/VFKJRYIxd80>

Call to Order Time: 10:45 am

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 pm

Miami-Dade County Staff in Attendance:

- Michael Moran, Senior ADA Coordinator, PIOD
- Heidi Johnson-Wright, ADA Coordination Director, PIOD
- Marie-Chantal Darius, ADA Coordinator Specialist, PIOD
- Daniel Borges, Assistant Director, PIOD
- Shanika Graves, Assistant County Attorney, CAO
- Odilanda Brito, Compliance Reviewer, HCD
- Diana Bonet, PROS

Members of the Public in Attendance:

- Juan Carlos Gil
- John C. Williams
- Willie Lucas
- Cynthia M. Hall - Palumbo
- Ernie Martinez

A. Opening and Attendance

- Call to order, attendance recorded, copies of documents distributed.
- Meeting was called to order at 10:45 am with six CODI members present during roll call, and a total of six attending. Quorum was achieved.

B. Roll Call

- District 1, Commissioner Oliver Gilbert: Damian **Gregory** (Absent)
- District 2, Commissioner Marliene Bastien: **Vacant**
- District 3, Commissioner Keon Hardemon: Marylin **Orozco** (present)

- District 4, Commissioner Micky Steinberg: Vacant
- District 5, Commissioner Vicki Lopez: Eddie **Sierra**, Vice Chair (present)
- District 6, Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis: Marisabel **Rey** (Absent)
- 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** (present)
- 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** (present)

Members present: 6 members were present

Was quorum met? Yes

C. **Approval of the Agenda** – Natalia Wong made a motion to approve November’s agenda. Mercedes Vila seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

D. **Approval of Minutes**

- Mercedes Vilar made motion to amend/defer October’s minutes until December. Marilyn Orozco seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- Theo Karantsalis opposes the October minutes due to subjective language when describing his comments and claims as well as his comments with the county attorney. The printed copy present are the changes that Theo would like to be made to the minutes. Kat Magnoli feels everything that happened in the meeting should be recorded. Theo stated a transcript should be attached to the record. Shanika Graves assistant county attorney. Motion on the table was to make the changes to the minutes. If all the members have not had opportunity to read it, then defer this motion by County Assistant Attorney until the next meeting in December to give members time to read the changes.

E. **Public Comments**

- Cynthia- The interface between private businesses and government is the issue. This will continue to expand. Special Transportation Service (STS) does not mean accessibility. Mr. Eddie Sierra, thank you for your statement on civility and decorum. The structured leadership should be made a point because there is too much jumping around. I can’t follow along. There are examples out there.

- Juan Carlos Gil - Juan Carlos thanks the board. Thanked Eddie Sierra for bringing this issue up because it is a systemic county wide issue that's ongoing. My question to you is that we all have physical disabilities, we contact 311, and they are not effective. Who do I send my UBER bill to? Going back and forth is costly. I can't plan STS, and the Metrorail is next to me and is my primary way of transportation but it's down. I utilize the trolley but it's a 2-hour delay. What recourse do we have as people with disabilities on public transit and MDC?

F. Old Business Discussion

- **CODI Member Absenteeism: Chairwoman Magnoli request Mercedes and Natalia to give their reasons for absences.**
 - Natalia Wong: all her three absences were business and personal.
 - Chairman said that is automatically acceptable.
 - Mercedes Vilar stated her absences were personal reasons and there is no reason for the board to make a vote.
 - Theo Karantsalis focused on the absentee issue because chairwoman stated that was an issue she wanted to tackle once she was elected. Theo wanted to remind her of that.
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- **Parking Issues: Mr. Sierra** to speak about parking issues. Issue of inconsistency of parking was brought to the attention of his commissioner and ADA department of the issue in the district. He wants to start emailing every department ADA county liaison to address the issues properly. The issue as it stands is being thrown back and forth between departments. Signage is not put up and cars being towed with a huge price tag. The last two years that coconut grove station was transformed into a large shopping center plaza. When you go to park at the Metrorail to park there for the day, you must pay, and you will receive a notice to pay 40 dollars and another week you receive another notice doubling the original fees. Department of public works and public work transportation are pointing at each other and there's no accountability. Mr. Sierra believes that CODI should be able to email on this issue and that the inquiries being emailed to these county departments are being ignored. 90 to 80 percent of the time the security guard is texting or walking around and not doing anything. The handling of individuals on wheelchairs has been questioned. More accountabilities should be clear and consistent around county departments.
 - Chairwoman stated CODI should write a letter to those various departments to see what can be done.

- Mr. Sierra stated when he called Nathaniel Surrency, he stated he was not in charge of these parking tickets and sent Eddie to Miami Dade transportation and they stated Nathaniel Surrency is the one in charge. Mr. Sierra stated there is no text to 311 and 311 does not have up-to-date information. He had to ask someone to make the phone call for him.
- Shanika Graves agreed and wanted to say something else about reaching out to the district commission office. This is an issue identified in district 7 and maybe happening in other districts and thinks the Chairwoman should send the letter to all commissioners.
- Mr. Sierra stated it was Theo that brought this up about the inconsistency in the parking fees and now its spread out. Sierra stated there is no way of contesting these tickets. Signage is very limited and there's no access to that signage.
- Chairwoman Magnoli asked for Eddie Sierra and Theo Karantsalis to work together to find out who oversees the fees.

G. New Business Discussion

- Get a commissioner to support an idea for parking, it is likely to become County effective. That is the direct route to legislate and change the law. District 7 representative Rabbi Yossi Harli was absent, and this topic will be tabled until next meeting to provide him with the information.
- Eddie Sierra shared a memorandum with the board, and the purpose is to speak about maintaining standards by law for CODI members. Governing requirements as a respectable public body. Chairwoman Magnoli thanked Eddie about the topic of civility and decorum.
- Mr. Karantsalis mentioned inviting everyone on December 18 to the Dade County Federal Credit Union at 5pm. 1500 NW 107th Ave. Sweetwater

H. Other Updates/Announcements - No updates /or Announcements.

- Person-comment
- Person-comment

I. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2025: 10:30 am – 12 pm, SPCC 18-4

J. **Adjournment:** Ms. Wong made a motion to adjourn today's meeting, which was seconded by Marilyn Orozco. Meeting was adjourned.