



# Civics Academy

Empowering Communities Through Civic  
Engagement

## Session 2



[Pre-Session Survey](#)



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA



MARLEINE BASTIEN  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner For District 2

# Community Agreements

## Reminder:

- We will not judge one another
- We will listen with care
- Share the space (our goal is for every voice to be heard, and no single voice to dominate..)
- We will ask questions with curiosity
- “You can share my story with others but not my name”
- We will be on time
- We will respect each other

# Civics Academy

## Goals:

- Become an active and engaged citizen
- Learn how to participate in your local government and advocate for your community



[https://youtu.be/Nap0-OJ5oc?si=3\\_AyLf0KW6ScuRGK](https://youtu.be/Nap0-OJ5oc?si=3_AyLf0KW6ScuRGK)

# Session 2

## Community Assessment & Engagement

### Session 1:

- Learned what civic participation is, why it matters, what levels of government handle which issues, who are elected officials are, etc.



# Session 2

## Community Assessment & Engagement

### OVERVIEW

- Define community assets and how they interact with local needs and policies
- Identify assets in our community
- Recognize the systems in a community and their interrelationship
- Select issues you want to address
- Connect how local efforts and solutions connect to the UN Sustainable Development Goals





# Session 2

## Community Assessment & Engagement

### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### Icebreaker Discussion:

- My name is...
- The reason I'm here is...
- What I hope to get out of participating is...
- A time I was engaged in my community was...
- It matters to be engaged in my community because...



Link to video: <https://youtu.be/x6bNwmrBPXI?si=P23MIVY46CQKisR3>

# “Community”

- What does community mean to you?
- What does it mean to be part of a community?
- Can you offer an example of when you’ve been active in your community?
  - What did it look like? What did it feel like?



# What is a system?

A system is a set of connected parts that influence each other...and a community is essentially a living system made up of:

- Residents (human relationships, volunteers, cultural groups)
- Institutions (schools, churches, nonprofits, businesses, city departments)
- Infrastructure (transportation, housing, public spaces)
- Decision structures (local boards, commissions, elected officials)

# Interconnectedness of Systems and Communities

E.g., Housing Stability → School Attendance/Safety/Health

## Education Example:

- What does education do in our community?
- What does education affect?
- What does employment affect?
- Who gets impacted by neighborhood stability?

*One ripple in the system impacts many others...*



# What are “community assets”?

- Human assets: skills, leaders, volunteers
- Institutional assets: schools, libraries, nonprofits, civic groups
- Physical assets: parks, transport, community centers
- Cultural assets: heritage, traditions, local events

ABCD / “Asset-based community development”

[Community Asset Mapping Worksheet](#)

**Complete Parts 1, 2, & 3 ONLY**

# Connecting Assets to Community Outcomes

**Creating solutions to local issues...**

- What needs improvement or support?
- Where do assets feel underutilized or disconnected?

**Let's brainstorm together!**

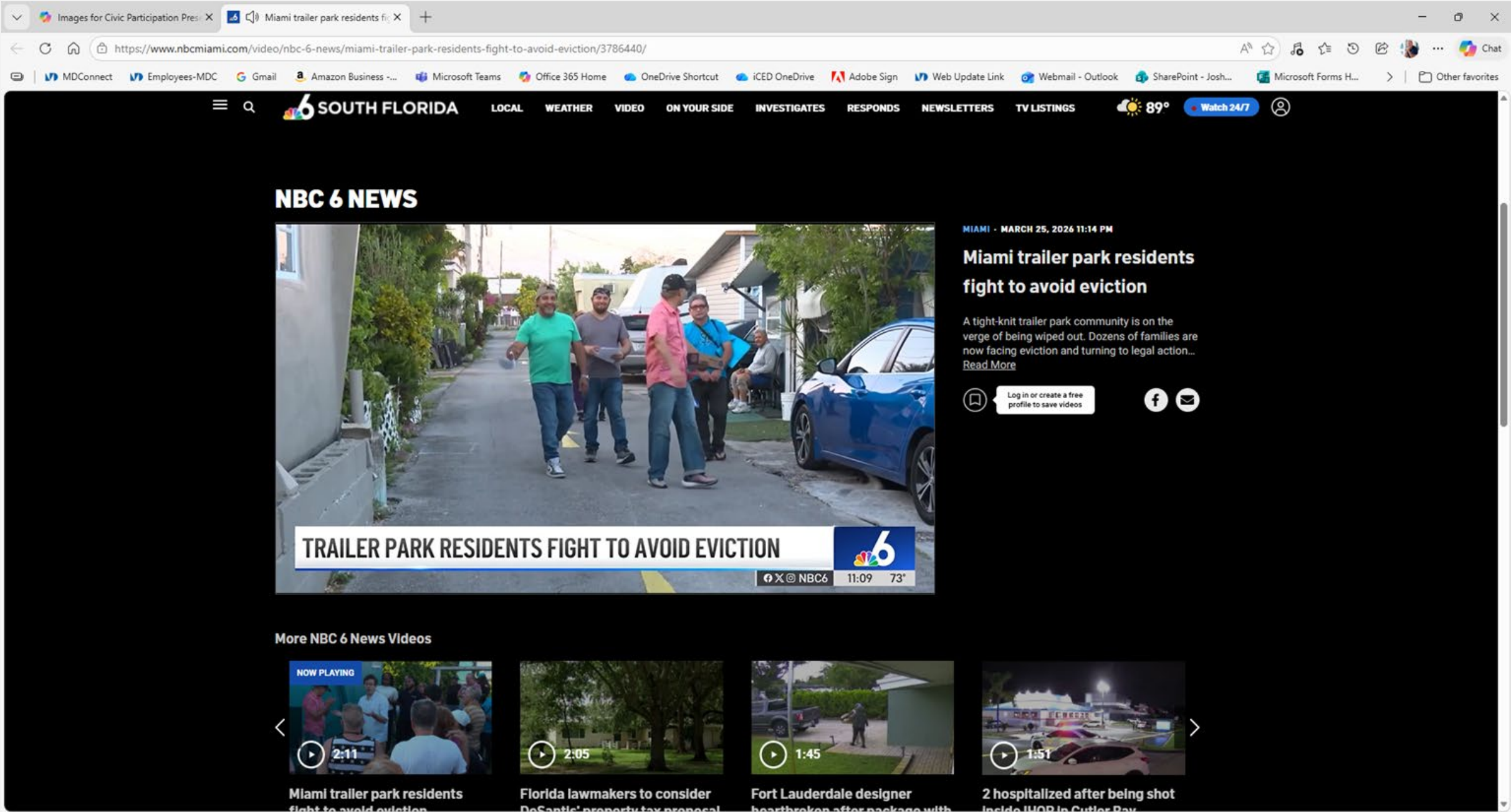
**What are some of your most pressing community issues?**

- Jot one issue down PER post-it and bring it to the wall
- Community Asset Mapping Worksheet - Complete Part 4





# Civic Participation Examples...



[Direct Link to Video](#)



# Neighborhood Concern Example: Unsafe street crossing near a school...

- Parents and students identify the issue and share lived experience.
- Existing assets are activated: school staff, parent groups, crossing guards, neighborhood associations, and nearby residents.
- Residents gather stories, map the intersection, attend a public meeting, and contact local officials.
- That engagement can influence decisions about signage, traffic calming, enforcement, or capital improvements.
- The outcome is not only a safer crossing; it can also build trust, relationships, and a repeatable habit of community problem-solving.

# Community Asset Mapping Worksheet

## Complete Part 5

# Today's highlights....

- Policies emerge when citizens articulate needs connected to community strengths.
- Sustainable change happens when local voices shape the solutions.
- Local people best understand local problems.
- Policies informed by lived experience are more effective and enduring because they reflect authentic need, participation, and accountability.

# Session 2

## Community Assessment & Engagement

### CLOSING REFLECTION

- What's one key takeaway from today's session?

### Call to Action :

- What action might you take between now and our next session in 2 weeks?
- Continue to revisit your "Community Asset Worksheet"





# Mayor Daniella Levine Cava



CONNECT WITH YOUR MAYOR

Office of the Mayor

Learn. **Engage**. Become an Ambassador.





# County Commissioner Marleine Bastien



District 2 - Commissioner Marleine Bastien



# Board of County Commissioners



<https://linktr.ee/MiamiDadeBCC>



# Session 2

## Community Assessment & Engagement

### CONTACTS



- **Miami-Dade County**
  - <https://www.miamidade.gov/>



- **Miami-Dade Public Library System**
  - <https://www.mdpls.org/>



- **Community & Education Well-Being Research Center at the University of Miami**
  - <https://sites.education.miami.edu/cewrc/>



- **Maurice A. Ferre Institute for Civic Leadership at Florida International University**
  - <https://www.ferre.fiu.edu>



- **The CLEO Institute**
  - <https://cleoinstitute.org/>



- **Hispanic Unity of Florida**
  - <https://www.hispanicunity.org/>



- **Mexican American Council**
  - <https://www.mexamcouncil.org/>



- **Miami Workers Center**
  - <https://miamiworkerscenter.org/>



- **Prosperity Social & Comm. Dev. Grp Inc**
  - <https://www.santia.org/>



**Become an active resident,** learn how to participate in your local government and advocate for your community.

Choose either In-Person or Zoom attendance

## Class Schedule & Locations:

**Arcola Lakes Branch Library**  
July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28  
Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm  
8240 NW 7 Ave.  
Miami, FL 33150

**Westchester Regional Library**  
June 23, July 7, July 14, July 21  
Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm  
9445 Coral Way  
Miami, FL 33165

**North Dade Regional Library**  
June 25, July 2, July 9, July 23  
Thursdays 6 pm – 8 pm  
2455 NW 183 St.  
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

**Naranja Branch Library**  
July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29  
Wednesdays 6 pm – 8 pm  
14850 SW 280 St.  
Miami, FL 33032

**Zoom ONLY platform**  
June 23, June 30, July 7, July 14  
6 pm – 8 pm

**Learn. Engage. Become an Ambassador.**

Sign up at [miamidade.gov/civicsacademy](https://miamidade.gov/civicsacademy)



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Community Assessment & Engagement



End of Session Survey

Thank you!