

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES FROM
THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2008**

Board Members Present

Barbara Bisno, Chair
Roudy Thomas, Vice Chair
Mary Coombs, Secretary
Patricia Maldonado
Milton Pizarro
Haydee Wheeler
Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Board Members Absent

Joyce Sanz-Perez
Marjorie Weber
Lyse Cuellar
Anthony Jennings

Guests Present

Gilbert Cabrera, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office
David Chiverton, CEO, Miami-Dade Weed & Seed
Derek Cole, Community Activist
Mildred Duprey de Robles, Conciliation Specialist, Department of Justice
Tracy Kelley, Community Activist
George Wysong, Assistant City Attorney, CRB legal liaison

Staff Present

Ada Rojas, Community Relations Coordinator
Natasha Colebrook-Williams, Community Relations Outreach Specialist
Yarenis Diaz, Administrative Aide II

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Barbara Bisno, Chair, convened the meeting at approximately 6:05P.M.

II. Roll Call

Ada Rojas did roll call of all Board members.

III. Introduction of Guests

A. Miami-Dade Weed & Seed

David Chiverton, Chief Executive Officer of Miami-Dade Weed & Seed, invited Board members to be present at the Miami Peace Festival, which will be held on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at Moore Park. Mr. Chiverton requested the activation of Goodwill Ambassadors during this event. Activities at the Miami Peace Festival include guest speakers, hip hop artists, health fairs, rides for peace (bike rides), etc. The CRB is encouraged to attend and/or sponsor the event. Board presentations are also welcomed.

B. U.S. Department of Justice

Mildred Duprey de Robles is the Conciliation Specialist for the Community Relations Service at the U.S. Department of Justice. The Community Relations Service (CRS) works to conciliate and mediate conflicts and tensions within communities, administrations, and schools arising from differences in color, race, and national origin.

CRS is working with Miami-Dade Public Schools (MDPS) to implement the *Student Problem Identification and Resolving It Together* (SPIRIT) program. The SPIRIT program works to identify and resolve racial tensions involving students at middle schools and high schools.

Ms. Duprey de Robles thanked the Board for allowing her to be present at the Board meeting and looks forward to working with the Board and Law Enforcement Committee on future projects.

IV. Items to be approved by the Board

A. Approval of minutes for the February, April, and June Board meetings

I. February Minutes

Haydee Wheeler moved, seconded by Mary Coombs, that:

The Board approve the minutes for the February 21, 2008 Board meeting

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Barbara Bisno, Roudy Thomas, Mary Coombs, Patricia Maldonado, Milton Pizarro, Haydee Wheeler, and Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Nay: None

II. April Minutes

Teresa Zorrilla-Clark moved, seconded by Mary Coombs, that:

The Board approve the minutes for the April 17, 2008 Board meeting

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Barbara Bisno, Roudy Thomas, Mary Coombs, Patricia Maldonado, Milton Pizarro, Haydee Wheeler, and Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Nay: None

III. June Minutes

Patricia Maldonado moved, seconded by Milton Pizarro, that:

The Board approve the minutes for the June 19, 2008 Board meeting

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Barbara Bisno, Roudy Thomas, Mary Coombs, Patricia Maldonado, Milton Pizarro, Haydee Wheeler, and Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Nay: None

V. Coordinator's Report

A. Attendance at Regular Meetings and Committee Meetings

Ada Rojas reminded Board members that Community Relations Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, at 6 o'clock in the evening. The monthly CRB meeting is the only meeting Board members are *required* to attend. Members are required to attend at least 75% of the meeting in order to be counted as present.

All Board members are encouraged to be part of a CRB committee (Law Enforcement Committee, Programs and Community Outreach Committee, and Nominating Committee) and attend committee meetings.

Law Enforcement Committee meetings will resume on September 16, 2008 at 6 P.M., and will meet the third Tuesday of every month thereafter.

B. Financial Disclosure Forms

Ms. Rojas also reminded Board members to submit their Financial Disclosure forms to the City Clerk's office by July 31st, 2008. Failure to do so may result in a \$500.00 fine. (Ms. Rojas was requested to remind specifically those board members whose forms have not yet been submitted.)

C. 5th Annual Gang Summit

The Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council will host the 5th Annual Gang Summit on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at Signature Gardens. This event is geared to increase collaboration with the community and provide information regarding the gang culture. Board members were provided with registration forms and were encouraged to attend the summit.

D. Miami Police Department Citizen's Police Academy

The Miami Police Department is hosting its 12th Citizen's Police Academy class. This year, the Citizen's Police Academy has invited the Community Relations Board to make a presentation to its July 22, 2008 class. Barbara Bisno, Chair, will brief the attendees on the history of the CRB, and its mission and goals. Ada Rojas, Coordinator, will explain how the Law Enforcement Committee and Goodwill Ambassador Program work.

E. CRB Budget for Fiscal year 2008-2009

Ada Rojas informed the Board that, due to the City's \$35 million budget cuts, the Budget Department has asked that Office of Community Relations to reduce its budget by \$23,699. In order to meet that number, given that the operating budget for the CRB is only \$18,816, a reduction had to be made in staff salary and benefits. The proposed OCR budget will thus reduce the Administrative Aide II's position to an Administrative Aide I. This change will be effective October 1, 2008, if the submitted budget is accepted.

A copy of the proposed budget for the CRB was prepared and submitted to the City's Strategic Planning, Budgeting, and Performance Department for review. A copy of what was submitted was provided to all Board members.

There will be two budget hearings during the two September commission meetings. At these meetings, the City Commissioners can accept the proposed budget or modify it. Board members are encouraged to attend the commission meetings in order to express any concerns and/or comments in regard to the proposed budget.

Mr. Cabrera asked Board members to speak with their respective commissioners to inquire about the projects the Commissioners will be involved in for the upcoming year. The CRB can then create projects that coincide with the Commissioner's needs. By doing so, we may be able to induce the Commissioners to grant moneys from their discretionary funds to the Community Relations Board for such projects, thus helping to reduce the impact of CRB budget cuts on the ability to do programming.

VI. Legal Liaison's Report

Commissioner Angel Gonzalez appointed Carlos Morales to the Community Relations Board at the last commission meeting. However, Mr. Morales' name was not one of the three names submitted by the Nominating Committee. George Wysong stated that according to the CRB's ordinance, Commissioners and/or Mayor must select a name from the nominating slate and make an appointment to the Board. If a Commissioner and/or the Mayor does not deem any of the candidates adequate, he/she can choose not to make an appointment; in that situation, the CRB can submit a new slate of nominees.

Mr. Wysong suggests submitting Mr. Morales' name and resume on a new nominating slate for Commissioner Gonzalez. Commissioner Gonzalez can then re-appoint Carlos Morales to the Board.

Teresa Zorrilla-Clark moved, seconded by Haydee Wheeler, that:

The Board approve Carlos Morales' resume and submit his name on the nominating slate to Commissioner Gonzalez

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Barbara Bisno, Roudy Thomas, Mary Coombs, Patricia Maldonado, Milton Pizarro, Haydee Wheeler, and Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Nay: None

Mr. Wysong, in response to a question regarding the extent to which OCR staff time is used on projects outside the CRB mission, responded that there is a provision in the CRB ordinance relating to the Office of Community Relations. This states that the OCR provides support to Board, though ultimately it is up to the City Manager to decide what City staff does. The Office of Community Relations should provide assistance and support to the Community Relations Board, as well as comply with the City Manager's requests.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Programs and Community Outreach Committee

The Programs and Community Outreach Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at noon and the fourth Wednesday of every month thereafter.

Patricia Maldonado has taken the initiative to begin talks with Temple Israel in order to hold the United Nations Traveling Film Festival for next year. Mary Coombs and Barbara Bisno are working with the University of Miami for collaboration with the MLK Day of Services. Anthony Jennings, Mary Coombs, and Natasha Colebrook-Williams attended the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) meeting. CRB involvement will be discussed at the next Programs and Community Outreach committee meeting.

VIII. New Business

A. Rules of Procedure

George Wysong and Mary Coombs will work together on making the necessary changes to the Rules of Procedure for the CRB. Prior to the October Board meeting, a draft copy will be submitted to Board members for their review. This item will be further discussed at the Staff Board retreat, to be held in September.

B. OCR/CRB Retreat

The Community Relations Board retreat will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at Simpson Park. At the request of the Board, the ethics training has been scheduled for the first 30-45 minutes of the Board retreat. Members that cannot attend will need to take this training at a later time.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30P.M.