

**CITY OF MIAMI COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
MINUTES FROM THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009**

Board Members Present

Barbara Bisno, Chair
Anthony Jennings, Vice Chair
Mary Coombs, Secretary
Schiller Jerome
Andres Lemos
Patricia Maldonado
Marlene Sanchez
Marjorie Weber
Haydee Wheeler
Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Board Members Absent

Lyse Cuellar
Carlos Morales
Crystal Curry, CRB Student Member
Dylan Gordano, CRB Student Member

Guests Present

Judge Peter Adrien
Brenda Shapiro
Jose Rodriguez
Amy Carswell

Staff Present

Ada Rojas, Community Relations Coordinator
Natasha Colebrook-Williams, Community Relations Outreach Specialist
Yarenis DeFalco, 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, and due to the appointment of two new Board members, self-introductions were made by Board members and guests in attendance.

III. Items to be approved by the Board

A. Approval of minutes for the April Board meeting

Mary Coombs moved, seconded by Haydee Wheeler, that:

The Board approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Aye: Barbara Bisno, Mary Coombs, Anthony Jennings, Marlene Sanchez, Marjorie Weber, Haydee Wheeler, and Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Nay: None

IV. Committee Reports

A. Programs and Community Outreach

During the last Programs and Community Outreach committee meeting, proposed projects for the remainder of the 2008-2009 fiscal year were discussed. Below are the projects the committee is recommending that the CRB carry out throughout the remainder of the fiscal year.

Human Services Coalition

The CRB has partnered with the Human Services Coalition's Neighborhood Leadership Project (NLP) to celebrate the installation of street lights in Townpark Village, located in Overtown. Palmer Heacox, the contact from HSC, will notify OCR staff when the lights will be installed and when the ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place. The CRB has committed to provide refreshments for the event.

Washington, D.C. Trip

Representatives from the City of Miami Community Relations Board will visit Washington, D.C. to lobby for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians if needed. The trip would be organized by the Miami Dade County CRB Immigration Advocacy committee. If the new administration approves TPS prior to the trip, then the trip may occur to express gratitude

CRB Traveling Film Program

In the grant submitted to the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs, the CRB requested moneys and indicated that we would contribute \$2,000 of our budget toward the CRB Traveling Film Program. The panel for Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs reviewed the grant, and proposed that the CRB be awarded \$6,000 toward this project; however, their budget only allows for \$3,900. The CRB has not yet received this agreement in the form of a signed contract. Until this happens, the CRB will rely only on the \$2,000 that was put aside for this project.

The CRB Traveling Film Program will take place at four higher-learning institutions within the City of Miami during the month of September. Each film will be followed by a discussion, led by an individual who was involved with the film and /or is knowledgeable on the topic.

ADL Miller Early Childhood Program

As a consequence of the CRB's involvement in ADL's "No Place for Hate" committee, and the "Hate Comes Home" workshop at local City of Miami high schools, ADL has agreed to provide their Miller Early Childhood Educator and Parent Workshops, valued at approximately \$2,000, free of charge to City of Miami childcare centers. The Miller program assists "preschool teachers, childcare providers, parents and adult care-givers of 3-5 year olds in creating bias-free environments where preschoolers can live and play in harmony." The workshop is implemented in three parts: an initial full day educator training, a half-day follow-up training for the educators, and a 2.5 hour parent training. The CRB has committed to provide refreshments and, if needed, an additional facilitator fluent in Spanish at the parent training session.

Liberty Square Library

The Community Relations Board has agreed to donate a section of bias-free books to help create a library for Liberty Square Community Center. The donation of books will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2009 at Liberty Square.

The books donated by the CRB will be geared toward children in pre-kindergarten through third grade, and will address the everyday issues children face. A list of possible books has been obtained from ADL's website and Natasha Colebrook-Williams is in the process of getting a price quote for the books. Ms. Colebrook-Williams has also looked into the possibility of having books donated, but due to the time constraint, books will most likely be purchased in order to have them on time for the July date.

Mary Coombs stated that a 10% discount could be applied if the books were purchased at Books & Books, and that perhaps she could negotiate a 20% discount. In addition, Teresa Zorrilla-Clark mentioned that she would contact a company that has donated books and bookshelves to the City in the past, and inquire if they would be willing to donate bookshelves and/or books to the CRB.

Anthony Jennings moved, seconded by Mary Coombs, that:

The CRB approve the donation of books and other media, including the purchase of a bookshelf if needed, for the Liberty Square Library. The total for this project should not exceed \$2,000.00.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Aye: Barbara Bisno, Mary Coombs, Anthony Jennings, Schiller Jerome, Andres Lemos, Patricia Maldonado, Marlene Sanchez, Marjorie Weber, Haydee Wheeler, and Teresa Zorrilla-Clark.

Nay: None

Co-Sponsor BAM Project

The Programs and Community Outreach Committee is recommending that the Board co-sponsor one of the “Becoming a Man” programs. A list of proposed ideas was available for the Board to review. Among the recommendations was the film viewing of “Muhammad Ali: Made in Miami”, followed by a discussion led by Dr. Marvin Dunn. Judge Adrien indicated that he thought this was the preferred project among the options. In addition, the CRB would like to donate a ‘take-away’ item for those individuals who attend. Judge Adrien suggested that the CRB sponsor B.A.M. t-shirts.

Mary Coombs moved, seconded by Patricia Maldonado, that:

The CRB approve \$300.00 toward the purchase of t-shirts for the Becoming a Man program.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Aye: Barbara Bisno, Mary Coombs, Schiller Jerome, Andres Lemos, Patricia Maldonado, Marlene Sanchez, Marjorie Weber, Haydee Wheeler, and Teresa Zorrilla-Clark.

Nay: None

Abstained: Anthony Jennings abstained from voting due to the fact that he is the president of Becoming a Man (BAM).

B. Law Enforcement Committee

Hot Spot & P.U.L.S.E.

Reverend Anthony Tate and Nathaniel Wilcox attended the Law Enforcement Committee meeting and brought along Hot Spot cards that had been filled, as an example of how the process flows. These cards allowed Board members and those in attendance the opportunity to see the type of comments the residents were making. Overall, they said that the Hot Spot campaign has been very successful.

Citizens on Patrol

Major Brenda Williams spoke about Citizens on Patrol (COP). The COP is designed to directly involve citizens on crime prevention by serving as the 'eyes and ears' of police by reporting suspicious or criminal activity. Board members Carlos Morales and Anthony Jennings have previously attended one of the COP meetings and are looking into creating COP programs in communities that do not yet have one.

Major Williams also discussed the Citizens Police Academy and encouraged all Board members to take the course. The Citizens Police Academy is aimed at helping residents better understand the philosophy of the Miami Police Department and its goals and objectives. The program meets once a week for three hours for a period of eight weeks. Barbara Bisno asked that a schedule of the next sessions be provided to all Board members.

C. Nominating Committee

Nominating slates were submitted to Commissioner Angel Gonzalez and Commissioner Sanchez. Appointments are expected to take place during June commission meeting.

V. New Business

Budget Request for the FY 2009-10

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 was submitted on May 18th, 2009. A meeting with the Budget Department is scheduled for June 2nd to review what was submitted and discuss the budgetary process.

Meeting Time for PCO Committee

The members of the Programs & Community Outreach committee agreed to change the date of the meetings from the fourth Wednesday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.