

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES FROM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

Board Members Present

Roudy Thomas, Vice Chair
Mary Coombs, Secretary
Milton Pizarro
Anthony Jennings
Marjorie Weber
Teresa Zorrilla-Clark
Carlos Morales

Board Members Absent

Barbara Bisno, Chair
Haydee Wheeler
Lyse Cuellar
Patricia Maldonado

Staff Present

Natasha Colebrook-Williams, Community Relations Outreach Specialist

I. **Welcome and Call to Order**

Roudy Thomas, CRB Vice Chair, convened the meeting at approximately 6:00 PM.

II. **Roll Call**

Natasha Colebrook-Williams did roll call of all Board Members.

III. **Coordinator Report**

Due to an unforeseen family emergency, Ada Rojas, the Coordinator for the Office of Community Relations, was unable to attend the board meeting. Included in the board package was the Coordinator's report, which provided an overview of the 5th Annual Gang Summit, the CRB Budget for the Fiscal Year 2008-09, and registration information for Sunshine Seminar being offered by the Miami Herald Newspaper.

IV. **Committee Reports**

- A. Nominating Committee – The CRB nominating committee met and developed a slate of applicants to be recommended to Commissioner Joe Sanchez, District 3 and Angel Gonzalez, District 1 to be considered for appointment to the Community Relations Board.
- B. Law Enforcement Committee - The last Law Enforcement Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 6:00pm. Members of the Law Enforcement Committee agreed to attend the Citizens on Patrol meetings held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the City of Miami Police Department starting October 7, 2008 at the downtown station. Roudy Thomas, Co-Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee, attended the 5th Annual Gang Summit and provided the board a brief overview of his experience. The Law Enforcement Committee also reviewed Mayor Diaz's campaign to combat crime, which detailed a list of initiatives the U.S. Conference of Mayors developed to address issues of crime.
- C. Programs & Community Outreach Committee - As a representing member of the City of Miami CRB, Marjorie Weber is a member of the Haitian American Emergency Relief Committee (HAERC). The goals and objectives of this committee are divided into two components: (1.) the immediate crisis of a lack of food, clothing, etc. and (2.) the long-term crisis of securing equipment and funding to rebuild the country. Ms. Weber is primarily involved with the immediate crisis and is working in collaboration with HAERC, Miami-Dade County CRB, and the

Office of Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones to assist Haiti. CRB members Marjorie Weber and Anthony Jennings met with Commissioner Spence-Jones and discussed the initiative to assist Haiti, among other CRB projects. An invitation was extended to CRB members to attend the HEARC committee meetings.

CRB member, Teresa Zorrilla-Clark, raised the issue that Cuba was also in need of assistance due to recent Hurricanes and the Community Relations Board should attempt to extend assistance to everyone. The only entity that has been authorized and received a permit by the United States government and has been accepted by the Cuban government to assist is the Sisters of Charity. Ms. Zorrilla-Clark requested that the CRB provide assistance to Sisters of Charity. Sisters of Charity are open until 8:00 PM, located at 500 NW 63rd Avenue, and the contact person is Sister Eva who can be reached at 305-463-4800. To ensure that items are accepted by Cuba, the Sisters of Charity are quiet with their efforts and refrain from getting involved with political figures. One of the greatest needs is to assist with moving items and packing shipping containers.

CRB members, Marjorie Weber and Carlos Morales are going to attend the FDIC Indy Mac Loan Modification Program on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at the University of Miami Conference Center from 8:00AM to noon. The mechanics of the loan modification program for Indy Mac mortgage customers will be discussed, strategies for effective outreach to borrowers and how best to use the information for housing counseling and homeownership preservation advocates.

CRB members, Mary Coombs and Barbara Bisno along with OCR staff met with Helena Del Monte, ADE Executive Director, to discuss doing a MLK Day of Service at the Association for the Development of the Exceptional, Inc (ADE) center located in the City of Miami. The center is located in Commissioner Marc Sarnoff's district, but services clients throughout Miami-Dade County. The project will be presented in collaboration with ADE, CRB, and the University of Miami Hope organization. In the next few weeks a planning meeting will be held to work out the logistics and an update will be provided to the board.

CRB member, Patricia Maldonado discussed the possibility of doing the United Nations Film Festival with the UNA of Greater Miami. The UNA of Greater Miami is not fully active at this time; therefore the Programs & Community Outreach committee is considering hosting the film festival with other partners. Ms. Maldonado has been in correspondence with Miami Dade College concerning the film festival.

V. **New Business**

- A. Sunshine Seminar hosted by the Miami Herald – The CRB members present were not interested in attending the Sunshine Seminar hosted by the Miami Herald because this topic will be addressed during the Ethic Training being offered at the CRB Retreat on September 27, 2008.

VI. **Old Business**

- A. The CRB was reminded of the date and time of the CRB Retreat. The agenda along with documents were distributed via email to all CRB members.

Adjourned at 7:00PM