



City of Miami— Community Relations

Written by Jennifer Vasquez, CRB Board Member
Co-Written & Edited by Natasha Colebrook-Williams, OCR

In Motion Community Dialogue



Guest Panelists Lead the
In Motion Community
Dialogue

Inside this issue:

Board Members	2
Staff Members	2
Goodwill Ambassadors	3
News & Announcements	3
About CRB a	4

Special points of interest:

- Join in the Community Relations Board in our efforts to bring communities together!
- Dialogues that bridge the gap
- Call to Action



Under the Leadership of Mayor Manny Diaz and Commissioner Michelle Spencer Jones, in February 2006 the Historic Lyric Theatre in Overtown showcased the exhibit “*In Motion* (The African-American Migration Experience).” A well recognized exhibit from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Cultures that depicts the migration of African-Americans over the last 500 years and how it crosses other cultural groups. The exhibit was beautifully displayed and brought to light patterns of migration to our very own city. *In Motion* presents a new interpretation of African-American history, one that focuses on the self-motivated activities of people of African descent to remake themselves and their works. The exhibit

allows others to identify the importance of this migration as it is very well rooted in the City of Miami.

Along with the exhibit the City of Miami Community Relations Board, the Black Archives, the History & Research Foundation of South Florida, and the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board hosted a series of community dialogues in collaboration with the “*In Motion*” exhibit. The community dialogues provided a process for diverse communities to come together to engage in meaningful dialogue, which allowed individuals to discover a common ground to build unity, respect, appreciation, and a deeper understanding of change. The discussion that gave guests the opportunity to

ask questions and voice their concerns and experiences, also acknowledged the significant migration experience and changes that have affected South Florida over decades. The distinguished panelists gave their insight, experience and knowledge of the separateness among communities that have created barriers and ways to change that would bridge the gap between diverse groups.

For more information on the *In Motion* Exhibit visit www.schomburgcenter.org

Meet the Board

Jack Blumenfeld, CRB Chairperson

Appointed by: Comm. Angel Gonzalez
District 1

Andre Pierre, Vice Chairperson

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-Jones
District 5

**Haydee Regueyra, CRB Secretary /
Parliamentarian**

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado
District 4

Barbara Bisno

Appointed by: Comm. Johnny Winton
District 2

Bess L. McElroy

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

Carlos Becerra

Appointed by: Comm. Johnny Winton
District 2

Helena Del Monte

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez
District 3

Jennifer Laura Gerz-Escandon

Appointed by: Mayor Manny Diaz

Natalie French

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

Rev. Richard Bennett

Appointed by: Comm. Jeffery Allen
District 5

Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez
District 3

Willy Calvino

Appointed by: Comm. Angel Gonzalez
District 1

Jennifer Vasquez

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado
District 4

Brenda Shapiro

Ex-Officio District 4

Paula Rios

Honorary Student Member

Booker T. Washington Senior High School

Office of Community Relations—Staff

Ada Rojas, Coordinator

arojas@ci.miami.fl.us

305-416-1351

Natasha Colebrook-Williams,

Outreach Specialist

ncolebrook-williams@ci.miami.fl.us

305-416-1035

Julie-Ann Smith, Administrative Aide

jsmith@ci.miami.fl.us

305-416-1034

LEAVING HER LEGACY: BRENDA SHAPIRO



On April 6, 2006 outgoing Chair of the Community Relations Board (CRB), Brenda Shapiro, received honor and recognition from the City Commission for her hard work and dedication to the CRB.

Under the leadership of Ms. Shapiro, the Goodwill Ambassadors were activated at the request of the Miami Police Department, the Mayor, Commissioners and the City Manager to assure that protests and demonstrations are conducted in a respectful and peaceful manner. Since their inception, the Goodwill Ambassadors have been vital to maintaining order during major demonstrations.

In cooperation with Miami Dade County

Public Schools the CRB enlisted two students to serve on the board as honorary student members; which give the students the opportunity to express their concerns and provide insight on issues affecting our youth.

The board also begun a partnership with the NET Department. In addressing an identified need in Overtown, the board assisted in dispelling complaints among residents who feared they were being unequally treated when it came to qualifying for Habitat for Humanity housing.

The CRB in addition launched several other important initiatives during Ms. Shapiro’s term as Chair and her hard work and leadership will always be valued.

MIAMI 21

Times are changing for the City of Miami. On May 13, 2006, at the Coconut Grove Expo Center city residents had the opportunity to learn more about the changes under the leadership of Mayor Manny Diaz. The community presentation was a draft of the Miami 21 plan.

Leaders from the community

as well as those involved in the implementation of this plan were among the speakers. Residents also had an opportunity to see the plans drawn out as they were displayed.

“Miami 21 is a long-term investment in the preservation and improvement to the quality of life in our City.

It will eventually replace the existing zoning ordinance and will provide a clear vision that is both efficient and predictable.”

To learn more about Miami 21 visit:

www.miami21.org



CRB Mission

The City of Miami

Community Relations Board is committed to find constructive ways to continue to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect amongst the diverse population that resides in the City.

GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

The Goodwill Ambassadors are organized and structured by the City of Miami Community Relations Board through the Office of Community Relations. The program is comprised of City of Miami employees and was created to assist the City Manager's Office in providing a stabilizing component that would serve to promote harmonious relationships during special events and demonstrations. The Goodwill Ambassadors

have been essential in several community events and initiatives throughout the City of Miami, including but not limited to, the Venezuelan Presidential Referendum Recall, the FTAA, the Goombay Festival, the MLK march and celebration and several demonstrations. All Goodwill Ambassadors are provided training from the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Services and the City of Miami Manager's OCR Office.

If you are a full-time City of

Miami employee and is interested in becoming a Goodwill Ambassador, please contact Ada Rojas, Office of Community Relations Coordinator at 305.416.1351 or via e-mail at arojas@ci.miami.fl.us.

"Bridging the Gap in our Community."

PRINCETON PRIZE AWARD

The Princeton Prize was developed to recognize and encourage young people who have made or are making efforts to improve racial harmony. For the first time this year, the application process was presented to students throughout Miami-Dade County. The Community Relations Board for the City of Miami was very active in the selection process for awarding

the prize. This year's Princeton Prize was presented to Miss Brittany Little, a senior at Miami Northeastern Senior High. After witnessing first hand racial and ethnic tension among her peers that resulted from the murder of her best friend, Ms. Little created the Theater Against Violence (TAV). The program was designed to give an opportunity to students to express their anger

and frustration in a controlled and positive environment through their participation in plays and theater workshops. The Award ceremony was held on May 9th at the Lyric Theater followed by a reception. Ms. Little was given a certificate and awarded \$1000.



Henry Vonkohorn, Founder of the Princeton Prize, Brittany Little, Recipient of the Princeton Prize, and Joe Serota, Chairman of the Princeton Prize Committee.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CITY OF MIAMI,
COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD

"Our mission is to foster understanding and respect for and among our diverse population and to offer assistance to our communities in the development of unity, respect and understanding."

-Chairman Blumenfeld

For Newsletter Inquiries or Letters to Editor Contact:

NColebrook-Williams@ci.miami.fl.us

CRB Education / Student Participation

Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2006

City Hall,

3500 Pan American Drive

5:00 PM

CRB Special Events /NET Liaison

Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

Miami Riverside Center

444 SW 2nd Avenue

5:30 PM

CRB Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2006

City Hall

3500 Pan American Drive

6:00 PM

CRB Law Enforcement

Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

City Hall

3500 Pan American Drive

6:00PM

**Meeting date and time is subject to change. For more information on meetings, please call 305.416.1351.



About Us:

The City of Miami Community Relations Board (CRB) was established in 1999 by Ordinance (No. 11742) and is committed to finding ways to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among all economic, social, religious and ethnic groups within the City of Miami.

The CRB serves in an advisory capacity to the City Commission and has the responsibility to recommend educational and social programs, designed to eliminate discrimination in any form and to improve community relations by enlisting the sup-

port of civic leaders and citizen groups.

The board consists of 13 members appointed by the Miami City Commission and Mayor, which are representative of the social, racial, religious, linguistic, gender, cultural, and economic characteristics of this city. All members of the board are either residents of the City of Miami and/or own property or work in the City of Miami. Administrative support for the CRB is provided by the City Manager, which is the Office of Community Relations (OCR). The Office of Community Relations was established

in 2002.

The CRB works to embrace, encourage, and ensure harmonious inter-group relations among the individuals that make up the City of Miami. The Board along with the work of the OCR demonstrates dedication and passion in the serving the residents of the City of Miami and providing resources that contributes to the advance of our citizens.

