



COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
2010 ANNUAL REPORT
(Pursuant to City Code Section 2-890)

Mission Statement: To foster mutual understanding and tolerance amongst all ethnic groups within the City of Miami.

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 and provide educational and social programs, designed to eliminate discrimination in any form and to improve community relations by enlisting the support of civic leaders and citizen. The board consists of 13 members who are representative of the social, racial, religious, linguistic, gender, cultural, and economic characteristics of this city. Administrative support for the CRB is provided by the City Manager's staff and its liaison. The board meets monthly to review and discuss issues affecting our community's ability to work, play, learn, celebrate and engage in governance with good will toward our fellow residents.

Responses to the following questions are as follows:

1. Has the board served the purpose, which it was created?

Yes. The CRB has continued its partnerships with community groups throughout the City, including the Overtown Community Oversight Board and the Blue Ribbon Panel to work to reduce community tensions. The CRB has also met extensively with NET administrators, police and fire officials, and commissioners and their staffs to see how the CRB can work to improve relations with community groups and better address individual neighborhood needs.

Because of budget cuts, the CRB has had to look for ways to maximize its impact without incurring an expense. One such way has been the implementation of a growing CRB communications network. Using the popular Constant Contact email-marketing tool, the CRB sends out emails about community events, meetings and issues. The account was secured at no charge and allows the CRB to communicate with nearly 1000 residents and community groups.

Building on last year's relationship with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the CRB worked on securing several free workshops in public schools in the city. Workshops are planned for Shenandoah Middle School, a school and community that the CRB has never reached to date with specific programming.

The CRB has thus established itself as a significant and recognizable body in the community.

2. Is the board serving the community needs?

Yes, the Board has worked diligently to embrace, encourage, and ensure harmonious inter- group relations among the residents of the City of Miami. CRB Chair Patricia Maldonado coordinated a meeting with Miami Herald editors and Commissioner Richard Dunn and his staff after the Commissioner office and residents expressed concerns about biased and unfair coverage of the African American community. The meeting was set up in December but actually held in February 2011. The result was a greater understanding of how the Herald works and showcased the needs and concerns of residents in the African American community.

3. Accomplishments for the year 2010:

The Community Relations Board, in collaboration with the City's Office of Community Relations, has participated in numerous events.

The CRB event participation is as follows:

ADL Workshops

The CRB recommends educational and social programs designed to eliminate discrimination and to improve community relations by enlisting the support of civic leaders and citizen groups. For example, the CRB this year, as in years past, worked with the Anti-Defamation League to schedule diversity workshops to public school students in schools within the City of Miami.

Princeton Prize

The CRB has also remained active in the selection of the Princeton Prize winner, which commends young people who are working to increase understanding and mutual respect among all races.

CRB Community Meetings

In an effort to better engage the community, the CRB has held meetings in Little Haiti, Allapattah, Brickell, Little Havana, Model City, Flagami just to name a few.

CRB/Economic Development

Over the years, the CRB mission's has evolved to meet the changing community needs and specific neighborhood needs. Some neighborhoods struggle with economic development. The slow economy has hit South Florida particularly hard because of the

housing climate and declining property values. To that end, the CRB aims to give businesses a boost by promoting programs and resources that help small businesses grow.

This year the CRB teamed up with Constant Contact, a popular online marketing company, and the Miami Chapter of SCORE, a resource of the Small Business Administration, to host a day-long workshop for small businesses on Saturday 2, Oct. 2010, at the Miami Museum of Science in Coconut Grove.

District 5 Community Forum

Neighborhoods struggle with crime and violence. This year the CRB hosted a community forum in Model City with Mayor Tomas Regalado, Commissioner Richard Dunn, (District 5) and members of the City of Miami Police Department. As chair of the CRB, I took part in the Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by Commissioner Dunn to take a look at the recent police shootings in Overtown.

The CRB Law Enforcement Committee also actively meets with the City of Miami Police, coordinating stronger communication to better respond to issues affecting residents throughout the city. The committee convened a meeting with all the City of Miami Police commanders. The Board has also met with top police officials and fire department officials on improving their image and community relations in specific neighborhoods.

One Bullet Kills the Party

Also this year, the CRB unveiled the *One Bullet Kills the Party Campaign* to educate the public about celebratory gun use at parties and on holidays. The campaign was launched before July 4, 2010 and ran through New Year's and featured radio and TV public service announcements.

February 2011 Overtown Board Meeting

The CRB worked in partnership with the City of Miami Police Department, the mayor's office and the Overtown NET Administration office, to host a meeting in Overtown about community policing strategies. The meeting has been postponed until March 2011.

Whether there is any other board, either public or private, which would better serve the functions of the board.

No, the Community Relations Board is unique in many ways. It provides cohesion and fosters mutual understanding, tolerance and respect among all ethnic groups. Only the CRB has the diverse composition and commitment to address proactively the various issues of the community so as to reduce tensions and address needs which at times roil

and cause dissension within our communities. The board maintains a position of balance and openness between its citizenry and local government.

Whether the ordinance creating the board should be amended to better enable the board to serve the purpose for which it was created.

No, the ordinance addresses various issues and should not be amended.

Whether the board's membership requirement should be modified?

No, the Board's membership is adequate and should not be modified.

The cost, both direct and indirect, of maintaining the board.

Due to operational budgetary cuts in the last year's budget, the CRB has been able to continue its work despite the reduction in staff from three to one. The CRB is working with staff to be efficient and effective, by creating community forums to address community issues, partnerships with groups and organizations to improve results and looking for funding through grants to help fund programs. Our efforts with the ADL is an example of how the CRB uses resources without having to incur costs and still achieve its mission.