



City of Miami— Community Relations

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WAKE UP Miami

Inside this issue:

Board Members	2
Ada Rojas	2
Weed & Seed	2
Fair in Little Haiti	3
City of Miami 2006	3
Immigration	3



Special points of interest:

- If you are a resident of the City of Miami and is interested in serving on the Community Relations Board, please contact Julie-Ann Smith at 305-416-1034.

August 4th the City of Miami Office of Community Relations along with the Goodwill Ambassadors participated in the kick-off of the *Wake Up Miami* campaign launched by the Honorable Commissioner Spence-Jones. Activities included a press conference, followed by a march through the heart of Overtown and the symbolic planting of a bamboo plant in the Overtown Community Garden.

Wake Up Miami is a community empowerment campaign. Its objectives are to empower the residents of District 5 to reclaim their neighborhoods and to change the negative public perception of the inner city communities. Ultimately the campaign will create a re-

newed interest in rebuilding and restoring impoverished neighborhoods.

An integral part of the campaign includes the Reclaim and Rebuild Community Workshops. These workshops are designed to engage residents, businesses, stakeholders and representatives from the City of Miami in meaningful dialogue about the future of their community. The workshops revolve around a legitimate concern for each resident, each neighborhood and the opportunity to become active participants in the development and progress facing District 5. District 5 neighborhoods include, Little Haiti, Model City, Overtown, and Wynwood.



Meet the Board

**Haydee Regueyra, CRB Secretary /
Chair**

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado

District 4

Jennifer Vasquez

Vice Chair

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado

District 4

Bess L. McElroy

Secretary

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

Barbara K. Bisno

Appointed by: Comm. Linda Haskins

District 2

Carlos Becerra

Appointed by: Comm. Linda Haskins

District 2

Helena Del Monte

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez

District 3

Natalie French

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

Teresa Zorrilla-Clark

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez

District 3

Tonja Carter

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-
Jones

District 5

Brenda Shapiro

Ex-Officio

Samantha Imbert

Honorary Student Member

Booker T. Washington Senior High School

Gaurav Sen

Honorary Student Member

Mast Academy

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Making a Difference

The Community Relations Board and Office of Community Relations recognizes that there are individuals and organizations in the community making a difference. In each issue of the CRB newsletters, either an individual or organization working to make a difference in the City of Miami will be featured. In this Fall 2006 issue, we have chosen to feature our own, Ada Rojas—Coordinator of the City of Miami Office of Community Relations.



Ada Rojas has been serving Miami Dade County as a community activist for over 14 years and later became the Coordinator for the City of Miami Office of Community Relations in 2002. Prior to being employed by the City of Miami, Ms. Rojas served as a member of the Miami Dade County Community Relations Board (CRB) for eight years and was one of the founding board members and the first chairperson of the City of Miami CRB.

She has been given the opportunity to do what she loves best, community relations. Her time and efforts have been committed to working to build harmonious relationships between diverse people and communities. In her four year tenure as Coordinator, she has been successful in increasing the depart-

ment size enabling the CRB and OCR to expand its outreach and initiatives. She was instrumental in the creation of the Goodwill Ambassador Program, which has received recognition from several entities including but not limited to, the City Commission and Mayor. Her ultimate goal is to continue to make a positive impact on the lives of the individuals who make up the City of Miami, inspiring them to treat others with dignity and respect.

Weed & Seed and the CRB Joint Venture



In the past months headlines have read of the senseless violent murder of youth under the age of eighteen. Violent acts of crime are taking the lives of the young and innocent, prohibiting them from a future full of hopes and dreams.

Members of the Community Relations Board first response team were asked to

respond to the crime scene in which nine year old Sherdavia Jenkins was murdered while playing with a doll on her home's front porch. Those who responded to the scene on July 3rd were tremendously impacted by the pain and suffering endured due to the lost of such a vibrant child.

In response to the continued shootings in Liberty City, the CRB has partnered with Weed & Seed to address the needs of the people. The joint venture will offer innovative programs and services that will contribute to the safety and advancement of the community of Liberty City.



CRB Ultimate Business Fair

The City of Miami's Community Relations Board and Office of Community Relations in collaboration with the Little Haiti NET Office and S.C.O.R.E hosted the CRB Ultimate Business Fair at the Little Haiti NET on Thursday, December 14, 2006 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The fair was designed to provide assistance to anyone who is thinking of starting a business, planning to expand an existing small business, or looking to make a company more successful. Information booths were

staffed by agency representatives prepared to answer questions and provide assistance. There was also an opportunity to receive free one-on-one counseling provided by S.C.O.R.E.

For more information on the CRB Ultimate Business Fair, please contact the Office of Community Relations at 305-416-1035 or via email at ncolebrook-williams@ci.miami.fl.us.

CRB Mission

The City of Miami Community Relations Board's mission is to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect amongst the diverse population that resides in the City.

City of Miami 2006 National Night Out



Upper Eastside & Model City National Night Out Community Activity at Liberty Square Community Center

This year the staff of the Office of Community Relations had the privilege to participate in National Night Out activities, serving as judges of each Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) area.

National Night Out is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Associations of Town Watch. The initiative is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in local crime prevention programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnership; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

All of the Neighborhood Enhancement Team areas did a wonderful job in presenting activities that were creative, informative, and entertaining.

The winners were:

1st Place – Model City & Upper Eastside

2nd Place – Downtown, Overtown, & Wynwood

3rd Place – Coral Way

Immigration



On November 3, 2006, the City of Miami Community Relations Board (CRB) along with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) co-sponsored and moderated a meeting between City of Miami Police Chief John Timoney and members of not-for-profit community organizations that are committed to assisting immigrants.

In recent months there have been countless rumors of immigration sweeps involving local police, creating near panic among many immigrants in our community. The purpose of the meeting was to better inform the immigrant communities about the role the City of Miami police plays in enforcing immigration laws. The meeting was facilitated by past CRB Chair, Jack Blumenfeld, and was a great success. The audience was given an opportunity to address their concerns pertaining to immigration with the City of Miami's Chief of Police. Stay tune to local channel 77 for the reboardcasting of the meeting.



CITY OF MIAMI,
COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City of Miami Community Relations Board Meeting
January 18, 2006 @ 6:00pm
Miami Riverside Center
444 SW 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida

**Meeting date and time is subject to change. For more information on meetings, please call 305.416.1034.

**For Newsletter Inquiries or Letters to
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