

City of Miami Beach - Special City Commission Meeting
Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
1700 Convention Center Drive
September 9, 2004

[Click on back arrow to return to Main Menu](#)

Mayor David Dermer
Vice-Mayor Richard L. Steinberg
Commissioner Matti Herrera Bower
Commissioner Simon Cruz
Commissioner Luis R. Garcia, Jr.
Commissioner Saul Gross
Commissioner Jose Smith

City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Attorney Murray H. Dubbin
City Clerk Robert E. Parcher

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ATTENTION ALL LOBBYISTS

Chapter 2, Article VII, Division 3 of the City Code of Miami Beach entitled "Lobbyists" requires the registration of all lobbyists with the City Clerk prior to engaging in any lobbying activity with the City Commission, any City Board or Committee, or any personnel as defined in the subject Code sections. Copies of the City Code sections on lobbyists laws are available in the City Clerk's office. Questions regarding the provisions of the Ordinance should be directed to the Office of the City Attorney.

Meeting called to order at 5:15:37 p.m.

Times based on the digital recording in the City Clerk's Office

Mayor Dermer announced that earlier in the day, Seymour Gelber, former Mayor of the City of Miami Beach, presented his book on the 1972 Republican and Democratic conventions hosted by the City of Miami Beach. He recognized former Mayor Leonard Haber, former Mayor Harold Rosen, former Councilman Bobby Goodman, and former police officers who worked the event. He congratulated former Mayor Gelber on his book, for adding to the history of the City and wished him success.

Mayor Dermer stated that the City is monitoring Hurricane Ivan very closely. He added that the residents, businesses and hotels have responded extraordinarily well. He complimented the City Manager for the excellent job done in putting together the command staff and in making sure that the proper resources are in place. He gave a very special compliment to the Public Works Department for their effectiveness and efficiency in cleaning the streets after Hurricane Francis.

Commissioner Bower stated that the City Manager made a plea to the residents and businesses not to trim the trees and place the cuttings on the curb. She urged the residents not to keep cutting and placing the cuttings on the curb with another possible hurricane approaching.

Mayor Dermer announced that at the Miami-Dade County Commission meeting this morning, the County Commission was very complimentary of the City of Miami Beach and of the way the City handled Hurricane Francis.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that the staff is still going through the first debris removal. There are City crews as well as the City's private haulers removing debris; the clean-up crews have done a fabulous job of cleaning the streets and picking up the debris. Both public safety and Public Works, the two main functions of local government, have done a great job.

Commissioner Smith explained that there were some residents who criticized the County's decision to order a mandatory evacuation and added that he did not evacuate. He stayed in his house and watched the water bay come over his seawall and almost into his living room. His dock was destroyed and he witnessed some seawalls collapse; and further stated that the decision to evacuate was appropriate and timely. Residents need to listen to the County and evacuate when the County gives the order.

Commissioner Garcia stated that he believes the City waited too long to evacuate the fire fighters.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that the evacuation order primarily deals with civilians. The City's essential employees remain to make sure emergency services can be provided. Once tropical force winds are sustained the Fire Department took the leadership they needed to take.

REGULAR AGENDA

R7 - Resolutions

5:28:12 p.m.

R7A1 A Resolution Adopting: 1) The Tentative Ad Valorem Millage Of 7.425 Mills For General Operating Purposes, Which Is Seventeen And Six Tenths Percent (17.6%) Greater Than The "Rolled-Back" Rate Of 6.314 Mills; And 2) The Debt Service Millage Rate Of 0.748 Mills; Further Setting The Second Public Hearing To Consider The Millage Rate For Fiscal Year 2004/05, On Tuesday, September 28, 2004 At 5:01 p.m. **5:01 p.m. First Reading, Public Hearing.**
(Budget Department)

ACTION: Title of the resolution read into the record. Public hearing held. **Resolution No. 2004-25684 adopted.** Motion made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Cruz; Voice vote: 7-0. Kathie Brooks and Jose Cruz to handle.

Heard in conjunction with item R7A2. See Action R7A2.

Handout or Reference Materials:

1. Notice of Ad in The Miami Herald

5:28:12 p.m.

R7A2 A Resolution Adopting Tentative Budgets For The General, RDA Ad Valorem Taxes, Enterprise, And Internal Service Funds For Fiscal Year 2004/05 Subject To A Second Public Hearing Scheduled On Tuesday, September 28, 2004 At 5:01 p.m. **5:01 p.m. First Reading, Public Hearing.**
(Budget Department)

ACTION: Title of the resolution read into the record. Public hearing held. **Resolution No. 2004-25685 adopted as amended, with the three additions to the budget.** Motion made by Commissioner Bower; seconded by Vice-Mayor Steinberg; Voice vote: 7-0. Kathie Brooks to handle.

Heard in conjunction with item R7A1.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, gave a budget overview.

Kathie Brooks, Budget and Performance Improvement Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Garcia complimented the City Manager on hiring a Budget Director, and on the individual selected.

Commissioner Smith stated that there are \$2.9 million in enhancements and asked if the enhancements were inclusive of the RDA or does the RDA have additional enhancements which are not reflected in the \$2.9 million. It was determined that the RDA enhancements are separate and asked what they are.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that there are service enhancements including additional police officers for community policing and funding of the maintenance of RDA projects which were funded with RDA money.

Commissioner Smith asked if the City can seek reimbursement for prior year's RDA maintenance.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that the Administration will check on this. **Christina Cuervo to handle.**

Deede Weithorn, Chairman of the Budget Advisory Committee, spoke.

David Kelsey spoke.

Commissioner Garcia, regarding the distribution of the Quality-of-Life money given to the North Beach Development Corporation, asked what percentage of the money goes to salaries and soft costs versus what is allocated to projects.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated he would calculate it and get back to him. **Kathie Brooks to handle.** He also stated that the Commission has directed the Administration to look for ways to alter the process which would put more of the money into services without having it go through a third party. The Administration committed to bring the process to the City Commission after this year's budget cycle.

Donna Zemo, Director of the Miami Beach Visitors Center, requested an additional \$15,000 to the Visitors Center for a total of \$40,000, the same as last year.

Mayor Dermer suggested that in the negotiation with the Greater Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau for Resort Tax money, to write the funding amount into this contract.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that the Miami Beach Visitors Center funding for last year was the same as this year, \$25,000. The Visitors Center is requesting an additional \$15,000. Currently in the contract with the Bureau there is an allocation of \$30,000 to the Chamber.

Adonis Garcia, Vice-President, Miami Beach Local 1510, Fire Fighters Union, talked about the civilization of two positions in the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Dave Noel, President, Miami Beach Local 1510, of the Fire Fighters Union, spoke.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, explained the rational and budget impact of hiring state certified civilian fire inspectors for the Fire Prevention Bureau and through attrition fill vacancies in the fire fighter ranks with those fire fighters that are currently functioning as fire inspectors.

Floyd Jordan, Fire Chief, spoke.

Deede Weithorn, Chairman of the Budget Advisory Committee, spoke about trend analysis. The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) took some very important steps this year to get the expense trend inline. She explained that what the City Manager is doing with this item is making a statement with regard to the trend line. In order to get the trend line under control one of the recommendations is to

civilianize the fire inspectors. With the savings of six people at a little over \$108,000, in four years the \$108,000 goes up 50%. That is over the trend line for what the City needs to do to make a fiscally responsible budget. The BAC looked at this issue and voted to endorse the City Manager's recommendation.

The following are the three budget changes:

Motion made by Commissioner Cruz to amend the budget to have trained fire fighters as inspectors and not civilians in the Fire Prevention Bureau; seconded by Commissioner Smith; Ballot vote: 4-3; Opposed: Commissioners Bower, Garcia and Gross.

Mayor Dermer recommended continuing funding for the proclamation position in the City Clerk's office.

Motion made by Commissioner Garcia to keep the proclamation position as long as the salary comes from the Mayor's Office's and the City Manager's Office from salary savings. No second offered.

Mayor Dermer stated that this is not an appropriate motion.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to keep the part-time proclamation position into the budget; seconded by Commissioner Bower; Voice vote: 6-1; Opposed: Commissioner Garcia.

Commissioner Gross suggested funding the \$15,000 for the Visitors Center from the \$1.6 million being set aside for contingency.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that he would look for the \$15,000 for the Visitor Center from the \$1 million in the Bureau's contract and leave the \$1.6 million in contingency.

Commissioner Smith agreed as long as the money does not come from any of the enhancements.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that he would rather get the money from the \$1 million the City gives to the Bureau. He explained that out of the \$5 million, there is \$1 million that the City has the ability to direct the expenses under its contractual arrangement.

Commissioner Smith stated that he does not want the funding of the fire fighters positions to come out of some enhancements.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, assured the Commission that he will not cut any enhancements.

Handout or Reference Materials:

1. Notice of Ad in The Miami Herald
2. Interoffice Memorandum from Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager, to Saul Gross, Commissioner, dated September 9, 2004, RE: State Certified Fire Inspectors
3. Voting Ballot on the question of having trained fire fighters as inspectors and not civilians in the Fire Prevention Bureau
4. Letter from David Kelsey to Mayor and City Commission, dated September 9, 2004, RE" Resort Tax "Quality of Life" Funds by Hotel Sales – Objection to Reduction in Percentage of Finds Allocated to South Beach
5. Color copy of the PowerPoint presentation given by Kathie Brooks

R7B1 A Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Normandy Shores Local Government Neighborhood Improvement District Adopting The Tentative Ad Valorem Millage Of 1.123 Mills For Fiscal Year 2004/05 For The Normandy Shores Local Government Neighborhood Improvement District, Which Is Thirteen And Five Tenths Percent (13.5%) Greater Than The "Rolled-Back" Rate Of 0.989 Mills, Subject To A Second Public Hearing Scheduled On Tuesday, September 28, 2004, At 5:02 p.m.

5:02 p.m. First Reading, Public Hearing.

(Budget Department)

ACTION: Title of the resolution read into the record. Public hearing held. **Resolution No. 2004-25686 adopted.** Motion made by Commissioner Bower; seconded by Commissioner Smith; Voice vote: 7-0. Kathie Brooks to handle.

Handout or Reference Materials:

1. Notice of Ad in The Miami Herald

7:26:54 p.m.

R7B2 A Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Normandy Shores Local Government Neighborhood Improvement District Adopting The Tentative Operating Budget For Fiscal Year 2004/05 Subject To A Second Public Hearing Scheduled On Tuesday, September 28, 2004 At 5:02 p.m. **5:02 P.M. First Reading, Public Hearing.**

(Budget Department)

ACTION: Title of the resolution read into the record. Public hearing held. **Resolution No. 2004-25687 adopted.** Motion made by Commissioner Bower; seconded by Commissioner Smith; Voice vote: 7-0. Kathie Brooks to handle.

Handout or Reference Materials:

1. Notice of Ad in The Miami Herald

NEW ITEM

The carry-over item from the September 8, 2004 Commission Meeting regarding the appointment to the Personnel Board was deferred. Lilia Cardillo to place on the October 13, 2004 Commission Agenda.

Handout or Reference Materials:

1. Email from Elizabeth Gibson, City Clerk's Office, to Robert Parcher, City Clerk, dated September 8, 2004, RE: Personnel Board appointee and their occupations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28:26 p.m.

End of Regular Agenda