

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 06-92

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2006 3:29 PM
To: Freeman, Claudette (DIST3)
Subject: Commissioner Edmonson's Correspondence

Ms. Freeman,

Gerald Sanchez conferred with me regarding correspondence that Commission Edmonson wishes to distribute to her constituents. I reviewed the content of the letter and it appears to be a proper use of County funds.

Commissioner Edmonson has the right to inform those who live in her district the items she is working on as county commissioner and her future priorities for her community. Given the fact the Commissioner is relatively new to this position, it is reasonable for her to give her constituents some biographical information as well, such as mentioning the fact she served as mayor of El Portal.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

6/22/2006

Post-it* Fax Note	7871	Date	6/22/06	# of pages	3
To	Robert Reyes	From	Gera H. Sanchez		
Co./Dept.		Co.	County Atty's Office		
Phone #	305-579-0273	Phone #	305-375-5151		
Fax #		Fax #	305-375-5634		

Dear Friends:

I am excited to have been appointed to represent and serve you for the remainder (nine months) of former Commissioner Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler's term on the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

As you know, our district is comprised of four municipalities and unincorporated Miami-Dade with distinct characteristics and rich cultures. It is one of the most ethnically and economically diverse districts in this county. It is a district of untold wealth and humble upbringings that spans from Biscayne Bay to the east, Miami River's industrial belt to the west, Downtown Miami to the south and the pioneer suburbs to the north.

Prior to assuming the position of District 3 commissioner, I was elected to serve at the Village of El Portal, first as council member, then as mayor. During my terms in office as mayor, I spearheaded a complete renewal of the charter that launched the revitalization and modernization of the Village of El Portal.

As your representative on the Board of County Commission (BCC) and throughout Miami-Dade County, I will continue to pursue opportunities that benefit our district. Working together, I am certain we can improve the quality of life of the residents in this diverse community, neighborhood-by-neighborhood. With your continued involvement, we will invigorate our neighborhoods and make District 3 the best region of this county.

Thank you and God bless you.

EDMONSON PUSHES FOR CONSTRUCTION CRANE SAFETY

After a series of tragic construction crane accidents in Miami, Commissioner Audrey Edmonson called attention to the confusion and inconsistencies of current work site regulations. The commissioner has since convened a Crane Workgroup, comprised of both public and private sector experts, to develop recommendations to improve and/or change existing policies, regulations and guidelines. Commissioner Edmonson serves as the Workgroup's Chairperson and will meet monthly.

COMMISSIONER EDMONSON SUPPORTS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The citizens of the Brownsville community now have a local bus route which provides a convenient and affordable method of mobility in their neighborhood, the circulator makes it possible for seniors to participate in activities at the local park, and residents can shop at retail stores in their neighborhood.

The bus will make stops at the Joseph Caleb Community Center, Brownsville Metrorail Station, Renaissance Shopping Center and Jefferson Reaves Park.

Commissioner Edmonson, a strong supporter of public transportation, is working with Miami-Dade Transit to introduce neighborhood-based services throughout her district. Recently, she joined

riders on the MetroBus and MetroRail in her efforts to become familiar with the County's transportation performance.

TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY (TECO) WATER CHILLER PLANT

Building community wealth in disadvantaged areas is a key mandate for Commissioner Audrey M. Edmondson. One of her most ambitious projects to date is the creation of an independent economic engine that will slow gentrification and revitalize the historic black community of Overtown.

The recent initiative is the TECO Economic Development Project, a public/private partnership between Miami-Dade County and the newly created 501(c) 3, known as the Overtown Civic Partnership (OCP). This partnership will give birth to a public owned, for-profit business that will reinvest its profits into the Overtown community.

At the center of Commissioner Edmonson's plan is the TECO water chilling plant. This asset has been quietly manufacturing chilled water for air-conditioning and selling it to American Airlines Arena and the Network Access Point of the Americas (NAP) for many years. The plant pumps chilled water through a series of underground pipes to these venues where, through a heat exchange process, cold water and air are used to provide chilled air or air-conditioning.

After the County purchased the plant in February 2006, Commissioner Edmonson instructed the county manager to forge a partnership with the Overtown Civic Partnership.

The County will use the plant to cool most of its downtown facilities including the new county office building currently under construction in Overtown. After the County's needs have been fulfilled, OCP will sell the remainder of the chilled water capacity to private businesses such as the mixed-use high rises along Biscayne Boulevard and downtown Miami. After expenses, profits will be used to support social and economic development of Overtown.

ADVISORY BOARDS

I am looking for constituents interested in serving on the committees below. If you are interested please contact me at (305) 375-5393.

Affirmative Action Advisory Board
Biscayne Bay Shoreline Development Review Committee
Citizens' Transportation Advisory Committee
Enterprise Zone Advisory Council
Flood Management Task force
Industrial Development Authority
Living Wage Commission
Minority & Women Owned Business Advisory Board
Parks & Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee
Small Business Advisory Board

OVERTOWN CHEERS EDMONSON'S DEFEAT OF 14TH STREET RAMP

History did not repeat itself in Overtown under Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson's leadership. In the 60's, the construction of I-95 and I-395, which through Overtown's residential and business corridors, displaced many families and destroyed retail and service sectors.

Earlier this year, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) proposed erecting an I-95 ramp at NW 14th Street. Commissioner Edmonson convened a town hall meeting and public hearings to provide opportunities for residents to air their concerns and get answers to their questions.

With the commissioner's help, Overtown residents made clear – their position – no more roadways through the historic community. Overtown residents and students, faculty and parents from Booker T. Washington (BTW) High School joined Commissioner Edmonson at May's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to officially remove the Overtown ramp from the proposed transportation plans.

CLEANER, SAFER & PROUDER

Commissioner Audrey Edmonson is very involved with constituents, visiting residents of the area along Biscayne Bay from the Venetian Causeway to the northern boundary of district 3. The commissioner and her staff participated in the Bayanza cleanup at both Morningside and Legion Parks. Commissioner Edmonson is grateful to the residents for choosing to get involved in their neighborhoods and through her Council of Homeowner/Neighborhood Improvement Associations support and encourage their efforts.

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Meet District Three Staff

Oscar Braynon, Chief of Staff
Marie Russell, Office Manager
Gerard Philippeaux, Public Affairs & Policy
Richard Miller, Legislative Aide
Rafaela Pedrosa, Commission Aide

Claudette Freeman, MSW, Director,
Social and Economic Services
Kavin Davis, Constituent Services
Myrna Williams, Commission Aide
Nikita Ivory, Commission Aide