

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES/UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009**

**Coral Gables Police Department Community Meeting Room
Coral Gables, Florida**

MEMBERS:

	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Robert Berman	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P
Tamara Hartnett	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	A	+	+	P
Rick Munarriz	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P
Elizabeth Kakouris	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Bruce Steinberger	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P
Sydney Josepher	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P
Dr. Patricia A. Whitley	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	E	+	+	A
Rudy Fernandez	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P
David Rivero	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P
Lionel Moise*	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	A
Shawn Kacker	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P

APPOINTED BY:

Robert Berman	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Tamara Hartnett	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Rick Munarriz	Comm. Maria Anderson
Elizabeth Kakouris	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Bruce Steinberger	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Sydney Josepher	City Manager
Dr. Patricia A. Whitley	Vice President, Student Affairs, UM
Rudy Fernandez	Vice President, Community Relations, UM
David Rivero	Director of Public Safety, UM
Lionel Moise*	Student Government President, UM
Shawn Kacker	Interfraternity Council President, UM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Edward M. Weller, Building and Zoning Department
Elizabeth Gonzalez, Building and Zoning Department

A = Absent
E = Excused
P = Present
+ = **No Meeting**
***** = **New Member**
- = **Resigned Member**

GUESTS: Emily Gresham, UM Director of Community Relations; Alicia Corral, UM Campus Planner; Gilbert Arias, UM Assistant VP for Student Affairs.

Recording Secretary:

Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Berman at 5:10 p.m., after which Committee members introduced themselves and stated their appointing officials.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2009:

Mr. Steinberger made a motion to approve the February 2, 2009 minutes as presented. Chief Rivero seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON U.M. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVES:

Ms. Corral and Ms. Gresham reported progress on campus as follows:

- Faculty and staff townhomes are completed, though unoccupied until the final CO is issued. The homes should be occupied by the beginning of Fall semester.
- The Alumni Center is on schedule, with anticipated completion in July 2010. Brescia Avenue parking lot improvements began today.
- The successful bicycle program will continue next year with 300 new bikes on campus and an expansion of bike paths and racks.

Monday, May 4, 2009

Continued

- Commencement activities begin with six University graduations between May 14 and 17; the primary graduation being held Friday, May 15 at 12:30 p.m. Fourteen Miami-Dade County high schools will conduct their graduation ceremonies at the BankUnited Center between June 1 and June 5, with three graduations per day at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. University police are working with the Coral Gables Police Department to manage traffic.
- Brescia Avenue is being widened for the University Village development, and is anticipated to be completed within a few months.
- There are no major amendments to be submitted to the City for UMCAD 2009 other than the annual report.
- The University is preparing for the 2009 hurricane season and the H1N1 flu.
- The traffic circle at San Amaro Drive and Miller Road is undergoing design work at present, and the internal road remains on track to be completed by December 2010.
- Mr. Fernandez commented that the University and its endowment were as adversely affected by the economic downturn as all others. As a result, most major capital projects have been delayed.

IV. UPDATE/VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: RUDY FERNANDEZ

Mr. Fernandez reported the following:

- The University is endeavoring to identify all possible opportunities from the federal stimulus package. From a funding standpoint, news from Tallahassee is discouraging.
- The University welcomes the new City Manager to the City of Coral Gables, and looks forward to working with him.

V. UPDATE/PRESIDENT OF INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL: SHAWN KACKER

Mr. Kacker reported the following:

- Alpha Epsilon Pi is a new fraternity on campus this year.
- Greek Week (March) was very successful, raising over \$20,000 for cerebral palsy.
- The brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon will be moving into their new house this summer.
- At the Southeastern Interfraternity Council Conference, held in Atlanta, UM's Interfraternity Council won two awards: Academic Achievement Award and IFC Excellence Award, the highest honor awarded at the Conference.
- Fall recruitment will begin August 26 and end September 11, 2009.

VI. UPDATE/PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

In the absence of Lionel Moise, a Student Government update was not presented.

VII. MEETING ATTENDANCE:

The absence of Tamara Hartnett from the February 2, 2009 meeting was unanimously approved.

VIII. NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting shall be Monday, October 5, 2009.

IX. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

- a. **Committee Appointments:** Mr. Berman advised that Committee appointments would be made in May. If eligible Committee members wish to continue Committee service, they were advised to notify their appointing officials.

Monday, May 4, 2009

Continued

b. **Discussion of Meeting Schedule:** Mr. Weller said that the resolution that created this Committee stated that it must meet at least semi-annually to remain active. In view of budget challenges, Mr. Weller asked for input about changing to a semi-annual meeting schedule for cost savings. After discussion, it was agreed to meet in October and April, unless circumstances indicate the need for additional meetings to address specific issues.

Mr. Steinberger made a motion to include meeting frequency on the October 2009 meeting agenda. Mr. Josepher seconded the motion, which passed.

Mr. Weller pointed out that the City's fiscal year begins October 1, and said it would be helpful if the meeting frequency determination could be made prior to the October meeting.

Mr. Steinberger made a motion to meet twice annually, plus as needed. Chief Rivero seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Berman pointed out that the October agenda should include the selection of a new Committee Chair.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Gonzalez
Secretary to the Community Relations Committee