

**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**

<b>MEMBERS:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
Robert Berman	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Tamara Hartnett	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	A	+	+	P	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Rick Munarriz	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Elizabeth Kakouris	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Bruce Steinberger	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Sydney Josepher	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P	City Manager
Dr. Patricia A. Whitely	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	E	+	+	A	Vice President, Student Affairs, UM
Rudy Fernandez	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P	Vice President, Community Relations, UM
David Rivero	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P	Director of Public Safety, UM
Lionel Moise*	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	A	Student Government President, UM
Shawn Kacker	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	+	+	P	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.

- 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.

- 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