

*North Miami C.R.A. Advisory Committee
Special Meeting*

*March 2nd, 2015
6:30 P.M.*



The Special CRA Advisory Board Meeting of the City of North Miami was held in Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, March 2nd, 2015, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

(Phonetic spelling of each speaker's name may be used throughout the minutes unless correct spelling is known.)

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay, we can go ahead and begin. We have Roll call.

ROLL CALL	Mary Estime-Irvin	Here
	Clark Reynolds	Here
	Kenneth Each	Here
	Holly Cohen	Here
	Michael McDearmaid	Here

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay and can we begin with the Pledge of Allegiance?

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting: January 12th, 2015

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay, unfortunately we don't have a quorum. So we can't approve the minutes.

IV. ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND/OR ACTION

Agenda Item #1 – FY 14 – 15 Budget Presentation

Mr. McDearmaid: We have some agenda items however that we can discuss informally. Can we begin with the Fiscal Year 14 – 15 Budget? Duke.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Last meeting we actually did but we didn't approve it because we didn't have a quorum. We had a recommendation to

approve the FY 14 – 15 Budget. There was one change in the Budget. As you all know last meeting we discussed removing the Executive Director position from the Budget.

Mr. McDearmaid: Correct.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: That position with benefits totaled \$164,340.00. We also had reallocated the Financial Services with the hiring outside Financial Advisor. It was recommended and we removed that money also. And the money was reprogrammed in this Budget. In the Budget...well let me start by making an explanation for about \$17,000.00 and I know everybody sees the memo. Finance support we have \$9,000.00, was allocated for Finance support, \$8,000.00 for I.T. support. In the Budget that was prepared in our FY 13 – 14 Budget, we had these services in the reorganization but we didn't fix them in the Budget. But we do have all of our finance stuff is handled by the Finance Department now. All the I.T. support, the website, uploading all the documents and everything is also in-house as well. And their stipends that are given to all of the staff, I know everyone remembers when we were looking at possibly redoing the logo for the CRA. So we have stipends for several of the Staff members. They do receive it. And for I.T. and Finance to do all of the support stuff for the CRA. Staff time for day to day management of the CRA, that money is there \$26,000.00. Basically again small stipends were given. Staff is recommending to increase the stipends for myself, Terry and Nikki. The three people from Staff that do work on the CRA. Downtown street improvements \$70,000.00 has been allocated to do some work in District 2 for some trees and landscaping. And 123rd Street improvements over by the credit union. There's going to be some swale work improvements done as well. So that's the 169 that was reprogrammed in this Budget. Other than that, it's the same Budget that we've seen at the last meeting. But with the removal of those two items we had to reprogram the money. This is where we reprogrammed it.

Mr. McDearmaid: Now this reprogramming of the money was discussed at the CRA Meeting, correct?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: At the CRA Meeting, they ordered us to reprogram the money, yes.

Mr. McDearmaid: And this is...this follows their instructions of reprogramming the money?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: It follows their instructions of reprogramming the money. This is Staff's recommendations for the reprogramming of the money. The two projects were actually projects that were mentioned that we were looking at possibly doing this Fiscal Year to try to find the money to do. Well we have the money to reprogram then we said, we decided to use these funds to take care of the two projects. The 123rd and downtown street improvements. The Finance support and the I.T. support, I want to call it a fixed cost because we are using the services. And then the Staff, the additionally funding for Staff that is a recommendation of Staff for that one.

Mr. McDermid: Any discussion of these changes?

Mr. Reynolds: Downtown Street improvements, what's that about?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: That's going to be for landscaping in the downtown area for District 2. Trees and some swale improvements also.

Mr. Reynolds: Okay where is the 124th Street improvements? Are they just part of the regular Budget?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Yes. If you look on...this sheet here. If you look on the second page of that sheet, you will see...hold on I'll tell you exactly where it's at. It's on the first page. I believe it's the street scape. Let me look at the narrative. I know we outlined it in the narrative. The \$245,847.00, it's in the street scape improvements of the 371.

Executive Director Ghany: And \$70,000.00 is for...

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Is for downtown street improvements.

Chief Each: Your Clean Team is that going to be budget by the City now?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Yes, the City's taking over the Clean Team.

Executive Director Ghany: That has been budget for the past two years.

Mr. Reynolds: I think that if the Council buys into it, it means that we've really bought in. We as a collective group have bought into the continuing

of the way we're going without an Executive Director. And using the facilities downtown, the Staff downtown and then our consultants which I think is a very efficient way to go at this point. I'd love to allocate the money to all these other projects and not having to pay people.

Mr. McDearmaid: By the way, can we acknowledge that our City Manager and...

Executive Director Ghany: Executive Director.

Mr. McDearmaid: And CRA Director...Executive Director I hear Aleem Ghany.

Executive Director Ghany: Yeah I'd like to apologize. Actually I just came back from a downtown meeting with the County on annexation. And actually one of the things that came up in the two areas that we had down at the County was CRA funds, to improve the housing and to improve the infrastructure needs and using the CRA funds. Those are the two areas along 100 and...West Dixie and 119th that is adjacent. That is one area and the other area is up off 18th Avenue off West Dixie. 147th to 149th. So those two areas are a little...

Mr. Each: They're crummy.

Executive Director Ghany: Exactly. And they are adjacent to the City boundaries and there's little pockets of unincorporated. And what we are trying to do is to square off the boundaries. So those two applications just went forward and they moved forward at the committee level downtown.

Mr. Reynolds: I have a great idea. Why don't we give those two parcels of land to Biscayne Park and leave our adjourning...

Executive Director Ghany: Well that's the...the adjourning pieces, what the area of contention right now is the adjourning piece along the 16th Avenue corridor. And that application was deferred. But it's ironic that the committee brought up at the meeting of using CRA funds to...

Mr. Reynolds: Well obviously that we're going to use CRA funds...

Executive Director Ghany: To upgrade...exactly. To upgrade some of the housing stock in some of those areas. It was part of our application. It will

improve because we're already servicing for water and sewer as well. So the area right now that is really the area of conflict is the area along 16th, along the Biscayne Boulevard corridor. So again let me apologize but as Duke said, the Budget and I had a chance in actually talking to Jorge Fernandez down there. Who was actually presenting the County's Budget, the County side of the application for the annexation. He did say...he did look at our Budget. He did take a look at our Budget, our CRA Budget and he saw no issue so far. And he said, he has agreed with everything we have in the Budget. So tentatively, I'm not saying he has approved everything but he has already given us verbal approval on the Budget. Because I just spoke to him about less than an hour ago concerning our CRA Budget.

Mr. Reynolds: Well congratulations.

Mr. McDermid: Congratulations for sure.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: I just want to point out one more page with the Budget. It's this page that has the breakdown of the analysis of the CRA Reorganization. And basically this...it just again in our efforts to be fully transparent with everything that's going on. This is the list of all the stipends. In case are wondering where the stipends come from, this is the list of all of the stipends. And we have an annual comparison of the pre and post reorganization of the CRA. And you can see at the very bottom...the number in the very corner. We still are with everything that we're doing, we have a savings of \$147,692.00 for staff and any consultants that we're using in house now with how we're operating the CRA. The Executive Director was very aggressive in making the cuts and so we are still saving. And this doesn't even take into account the money we were spending the lease at the building and the utilities and everything else.

Executive Director Ghany: The rental. The utilities. The telephone.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: So we still are saving \$140...

Executive Director Ghany: So it's going to be well over \$150.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: That's being reprogrammed in this CRA Budget this year. So in moving forward...

Mr. Each: These are all the people that work on behalf of the...work through the CRA.

Mr. McDearmaid: I notice under the Proposed 14 – 15 on this page there's the \$26,000.00.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: That's the additional one that I was referring to.

Mr. McDearmaid: Right here on this page?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Yes that's the \$26,000.00. How that is proposed to be broken is and again it's Staff recommendations. It'll be on the Board to decide to make a difference or change it. But Terry, myself and Nakia, we work on the CRA. And it started, it was going to be a small project for a small amount of time. And of course, you all know what it moved into. So it will be to give Nakia an increase, Terry an increase and myself an increase.

Mr. McDearmaid: And with the work you guys put in there's no objection to that obviously. And this way I think we owe a lot of compliments to this...three gentlemen here. They've done a lot in moving.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Three gentleman and the lady. Don't forget about Nikki please.

Mr. McDearmaid: And Nikki.

Executive Director Ghany: She's the one who moves all the projects.

Mr. McDearmaid: Does anybody else have any comments on the Budget?

Mr. Reynolds: Yeah one this is, I notice is am I right, the net for revenue this year 14 – 15 is going to be almost up 100% from last year?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: This year is going to be a little over \$600,000.00. But yeah, it's almost 100% of it.

Mr. Reynolds: It's like its still moving. So I think we could...I'm just saying. If this is a trend, we're going to be a little bit more healthy.

Executive Director Ghany: Correct.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: And with the sale of the Biscayne Landing property, we're anticipating for next budget, next fiscal year if the CRA life is extended, well over \$300,000.00 additional money coming in...

Executive Director Ghany: So we're going to be close to a million dollars.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: At a minimum. We'll be at a million dollars.

Executive Director Ghany: The Tif revenues projected for next year is going to be close to a million dollars with the sale of Biscayne Landings.

Mr. Reynolds: And another thing I was looking at our programming for next year, I guess for this year. I was noticing that...am I right that we're going to have...is it for the beautification and for the rehabilitation that we have now folded in all the things that we took back. I guess I'm saying, where is it? The numbers that's allocated for this year which is \$200,000.00 but there's...it looks like money that has not been used \$300,000.00. Now is that money that's allocated for ongoing projects or is that money that's freed up? So the money that's really available is \$500,000.00.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: No. If it's \$300,000.00 that's listed, that's how much we have to spend is \$300,000.00. This doesn't take it for any...this takes it to anything in the proposed Budget is the amount that's going to be spent. The other money is already accounted for. Did I make myself clear on that one Clark, I'm sorry? Which line are you on?

Mr. Henley: He's talking about the carry over funds.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Oh the carry over funds for incoming projects. Basically what that is, no. It's not additional money. Captain Jim's which you had and Can e Sucre.

Executive Director Ghany: Can e Sucre.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Those were projects that were implemented for last Fiscal Year, for FY 13 – 14.

Mr. Reynolds: They weren't \$300,000.00.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: No they were \$211,000.00.

Executive Director Ghany: \$211...yeah.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: So those funds move over to this year.

Chief Each: So the \$25,000.00 has been incumbent for Arch Creek...

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Yes.

Executive Director Ghany: Yes, that was also incumbent.

Chief Each: I see that you mentioned before on street improvements. Does that include in the 371, 521 on the (inaudible)?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Yes. If you look...and almost everything that's on this page, on this page, you have a narrative that we actually had and you may not have the narrative with you but...

Executive Director Ghany: It's in the package.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: But that 371...

Executive Director Ghany: It's in the package.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: The 123rd Street street improvements in the amount of \$55,654.00...

Chief Each: Wait, go slower.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Well let me give you the page. I'll let you have my page here.

Mr. Reynolds: I did read it.

Executive Director Ghany: Yeah it's there. It's in the package.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: The complete online package has the narrative.

Executive Director Ghany: It has all the narratives.

Chief Each: I got it right here.

Mr. Reynolds: I got to tell you, it's more clear than I've ever seen. We know exactly...I mean I feel like I know exactly where the money is going. It's so new.

Executive Director Ghany: And definitely that's a comment we got back from the County too.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: But we will definitely...I know Rasha is not with us this evening but we will definitely have to give a lot of credit to Rasha also.

Executive Director Ghany: That's correct.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: For her helping us because Terry and I and the Manager...and the Executive Director, we're all new to CRA's. So having her with us, she helps us out to make sure that we are in compliance with everything with the County. So that's a big help to us as well.

Chief Each: On northeast...I don't quite understand the bottom on here. New landscaping, sidewalk replacements, all repairs along N.E. 125th Street to N.E. 219th Street on N.E. 16th Avenue to the train tracks. What exactly is that? I'm kind of foggy there.

Executive Director Ghany: That area that we have there, this money was allocated since Councilman Blynn's allocation. Was every district got \$200,000.00 for CRA improvements. We did some sidewalks. We never completed all of it. There's a remainder of the...it actually was \$72,000.00 of the \$200,000.00 of allocation.

Chief Each: I remember that.

Executive Director Ghany: The streets improvements, you know planting some oak trees, sidewalk improvement. We did some driveways. When I say driveways, the area between the sidewalk and the driveway. Some property owners had no driveway approaches. So that money was used to improve those areas. And that area is basically, if you're familiar where the Parks Operation

Center is from 14th Avenue all the way up. That's the whole area from 125th to 119th up to 8th Avenue. That's the area that we did the work in.

Chief Each: With regards to that 20th Avenue that Mr. Blynn did at the time. Some of that was supposed to go to 125th Terrace. Right in between one and two, District one...

Executive Director Ghany: District one and district two.

Chief Each: It should have been done. I mean it's just absolutely horrible. But one of the things that you did do, not you personally. But between 123rd to 125th Terrace on N.E. 15th Avenue across from the three horizons, let me just...we put in a swale area all grass. It's on the east side of the avenue, 15th Avenue is a short avenue. And then we erect no parking signs. Absolutely preposterous. If we're going to do that we should have finished the landscaping, put the grass in. Landscape and put a curb and gutter up. Yet people park in there continuously. And all we're doing is we're just wasting money. I've been meaning to bring this up. This was a CRA project I believe.

Executive Director Ghany: We planted some new oak trees there as well.

Chief Each: No there's nothing there. I just came that way, there's absolutely nothing there.

Executive Director Ghany: Along 15th Avenue...

Chief Each: 15th between 123 and 125 Terrace. And 124th Street goes into it better there. There's nothing there. It's across from the three horizons. We're just wasting dough.

Executive Director Ghany: Okay on the west side of the street on 15th Avenue there's...

Chief Each: It's on the east side of 15th Avenue.

Executive Director Ghany: Okay the east side of 15th is actually Miami-Dade County. That's the reason why we didn't plant anything on the east side.

Chief Each: That's 15th Avenue or 16th Avenue?

Executive Director Ghany: 15th Avenue. There's a right of way...I know exactly where you're talking about. There's a right of way there that is open with a guard rail.

Chief Each: Right.

Executive Director Ghany: Some of the sidewalks went in and those sidewalks we put it in. Those I would say they went in error because that section is a section that is unincorporated. That right of way, there's a canal that goes under the apartment building. It's called a little arch creek canal, I'm very familiar with it.

Chief Each: Yeah, yeah it was all closed in.

Executive Director Ghany: It was part of what the City has with Miami-Dade County interlocal agreement. That area you're talking about is Miami-Dade County. That's why nothing is done with CRA funds.

Chief Each: (Inaudible) and something, it looks horrible. And we spent money on it and it's just...

Executive Director Ghany: People complained about walking to the apartment building and this is one of the reasons why the sidewalks went in. That's why on the west side of that street we planted oak trees right next or adjacent to the three horizons. That's correct. But on the east side you saw no improvements except the sidewalks.

Chief Each: I don't even remember the sidewalks.

Executive Director Ghany: Yeah there are sidewalks there. And that's the reason why we didn't do anything on the east side.

Chief Each: Are we going to get the County to put...

Executive Director Ghany: I'll approach the County to see what we can do out there. That's the only reason why CRA funds was not spent over there.

Chief Each: And 125 Terrace is something we should really look at very hard.

Executive Director Ghany: I'll make a note of it, 125 Terrace.

Chief Each: I mean you got it between district one...and I had understood originally when we allocated it at \$200,000.00 that some of it was going to go to that and it never did.

Executive Director Ghany: Well let's see how much money we have remaining and if I can...

Chief Each: From 16th...you know what I'm talking about between 16th and 15th Avenue.

Executive Director Ghany: I know exactly where it is.

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay, any other comments on the Budget? Although we can't take an official vote, we can certainly take a consensus. So any of you...

Chief Each: I concur that we should take a consensus. And I can (inaudible) concurrence is consented.

Mr. Reynolds: I concur too that it should move forward at the Board moving forward on this.

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay Mary?

Ms. Estime-Irvin: I agree.

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay. All right sir.

Agenda Item #2 – Engagement Letter of Auditor HCT

Mr. McDearmaid: Moving on now to HCT which is here to talk about the audit.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: This second agenda is the engagement letter of HCT to move forward with the audit services for FY 13 – 14. HCT has done

our last two audits and they'll be here again for this year. Right now we're requesting to just move forward at a fee of \$13,000.00 for the audit, that's with the engagement letter. It's important to note, we've made a lot of changes in the CRA. In the last nine months...

Executive Director Ghany: Nine months, last nine months.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: We made a lot of changes in the last nine months. The majority of this audit is going to be auditing the previous administration. And I just want to say that because in case doesn't come back too favorably we've only had a hand on it for the last two months of the fiscal year. So the fee should be a lot less moving forward. Everything has been incorporated into the City's system now, so we do have a better way of tracking everything and a clearer model in doing so. In the last we met with HCT maybe three weeks ago.

Executive Director Ghany: But he came back and he met with us again.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: So we've met with them. We've already started compiling everything. I think we're almost done with compiling everything for the last fiscal year. We're going through and we're pulling all the records our staff...my staff is actually doing it. And we're very comfortable. We hope we have everything done and we'll have our stuff completed in time for the date. If there is any questions on...did you want to do a brief description or if you guys have any questions?

Executive Director Ghany: Just for the record.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Mr. Executive Director before he makes his presentation Mr. Chairman if I might. In the past...you can go ahead. I just have a question for staff. I recall that we have in addition to the engagement letter, we have our own separate auditor's agreement to set forth the parameters. Does Harvey Covington do the City's audit as well?

Executive Director Ghany: Yes they do.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Do you just sign the engagement letter or does the City Attorney provide a separate agreement?

Executive Director Ghany: No I just signed the engagement letter. But in this case if you said its standard practice, I would definitely like...

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Let me look back. I think we may have done one with HCT in the past and it basically attaches their engagement letter...

Executive Director Ghany: That's fine. So if you have an agreement, a standard agreement for the CRA let's move...you know in that direction.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: I presume...I'm sorry if I forget your name. I presume you don't have any objection to that. I mean that was our past procedure.

Unidentified Male Voice: Yeah it's just procedural. I'm just here.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Okay, thank you that's all I had.

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay, does anybody have any questions?
(Inaudible – simultaneous discussion).

Executive Director Ghany: Well this is just the engagement letter.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: One of the important things. The last two months of the year we began following the recommendations of HCT with the recommendations from the previous year. Currently now we're following the recommendations, we're reconciling with the City. Well we are the City, which makes it easier that we're reconciling. So we know the books are right now and what we're spending money on. That wasn't the case previously you know. It was one account that the City spent this much and we owe the City this much. Now everybody's in house and we're all on top of it now. And we have the Finance Department working with us as well.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: How long do we think it'll take to complete the audit?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Well I'm not sure. I think we're done with the information that we need to provide. I think we're 95% done. When they came in, we immediately started working on it. We have our intern pulling

documents and we put together folders for each month of the year with every transaction that was made in the CRA for the last year.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Do you think the report will be done before the end of the month? You don't know?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Honestly I don't believe it's going to be done by the end of the month.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Because we have to send it to the State.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: We might be done by probably by mid-April. I don't think we're going to be done by the end of the month to make it for our annual report. I don't think so.

Mr. McDearmaid: So we're still...some kind of grace period or something?

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Well there's no penalty in the statutes for submitting the report late, it's just late. The statutes says you're supposed to submit everything by March 31st.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: And I'll definitely reach out and we'll work and try our best to make sure it's done in time. And if we can't get it done in time our Finance Department is still going through their reorganization. And by far I'm not going to say that I'm the king of audits. I just know what they needed so we're helping put it together to speed up the process. But it will be really on our Finance Department but we're still going through a transition period as well.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: You know next year we might want to consider in a special district of the City we could have our audit done in connection with the City's audit as well.

Executive Director Ghany: Well actually it is being done in connection with the City's audit. The City's CAFR is being done right now. Harvey has an engagement letter that we...that I signed about two weeks ago. But the City's audit, we're looking at to be submitted by June. In the initial meeting that we had when the CRA was mentioned, it was clearly stated that our deadline was around March 31st. But he said he was going to try to meet that deadline for us. But if it's late, it's going to be just a few days maybe a week. But we'll talk to

him again. Staff will make sure they reach out to him tomorrow and we'll get a definite day. Before the Board meeting next week, we definitely will get a date on when the audit will be submitted to us.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: All right thank you Mr. Executive Director.

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay consensus time. Does everybody feel comfortable with the engagement letter and the scope of services? Holly? Kenny?

Chief Each: You're supposed to read the letter? I haven't seen it.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Through the Chair, I mean it's their standard form engagement letter. HCT has been our auditor probably for the last four or five years.

Executive Director Ghany: Four years, they're on the fifth year. So I'll put it back out for bidding.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: I feel comfortable with their letter with our agreement. And I'm attaching the letter to it. Thank you.

Mr. McDearmaid: All right, so we have a consensus on that.

V. CRA ATTORNEY REPORTS

Mr. McDearmaid: So moving on we have the CRA Attorney Reports.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: I have nothing to report.

VI. CRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Mr. McDearmaid: Executive Director anything?

Executive Director Ghany: I don't know if you brought up the \$1,000.00....

CRA Coordinator Sorey: That's what I was just to. Terry just made copies.

Executive Director Ghany: Okay...I think we just passed it out so we can...

CRA Coordinator Sorey: We just...actually received an email for...

Executive Director Ghany: We got a request today...

CRA Coordinator Sorey: Actually it was the 23rd we got a request from the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce to be a sponsor at a business luncheon they're having. A symposium and business luncheon. It would be...I know we're going to start needing to reach out and build some relationships with the CRA. I was thinking maybe if we did and Mr. Attorney, is this something that the CRA can do to sponsor a table for one of the events for \$1,000.00 for the luncheon.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Through the Chair. You know CRA's are permitted under statutes to expend money on marketing and the like in the furtherance of their statutory mission. I will say it's a slippery slope though. You pay for one table at one event and I remember in the past we would be getting numerous requests from numerous people. I mean this is obviously the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce. You know if we want to sort of limit ourselves to events like that rather than special interest groups that may come before us.

Chief Each: I mean why do we want to do this? What are we going to get out of it?

Mr. Reynolds: I'd ask Sally first.

Chief Each: Do we want to really do this?

CRA Coordinator Sorey: It was a request that came in. I just said we would bring it to the Board. I mean if you guys don't feel comfortable, we won't move forward.

Chief Each: What I see now is we're getting ourselves straightened out from all of the frills and all of the...you know like our training is important. That's a thousand bucks that could be in our training. But we...if we're still going in that direction then we're kind of like...

Mr. Reynolds: I think it's too early to...

Chief Each: When we get more money, when we're reestablished, we get (inaudible – simultaneous discussion).

Executive Director Ghany: And that's the reason why I brought it before the Board. And if it's the recommendation as Duke mentioned it to me today, I say let's put it...bring it as part of my report as well. So I really like the direction and I'm glad to hear this from this Board.

Mr. McDearmaid: Well here's the thing. We're doing so well now. Everything is clicking. The last thing we want to do is have somebody say...

Executive Director Ghany: To raise a red flag.

Mr. McDearmaid: ...here they go again. I just...

Mr. Reynolds: I do think like if an individual or two to attend it from Staff that I would have no objection to it. I don't know if you could buy individual tickets.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Yes you can.

Executive Director Ghany: Yes you can.

Mr. Reynolds: Because a few tickets as representative to see if this is something we want to...

Mr. McDearmaid: Why don't we do this? Why don't we...I think two people going would be sufficient.

Executive Director Ghany: Okay, that's fine.

Mr. McDearmaid: So my recommendation is to authorize two tickets.

Executive Director Ghany: Just to get two tickets rather than a table?

Mr. McDearmaid: Exactly. And it's going to make much more sense to have Staff go I think.

Executive Director Ghany: I think for us to see really what is happening and to be part of what Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce is important.

Mr. McDearmaid: I mean I'd like to go and I'll buy my own ticket. But for Staff you know...

Executive Director Ghany: The other thing too I wanted as part of my report is the...I'm trying to see if I could get some training. I don't know if Duke brought it up before I came in. But to get some training for the new members of the Council on CRAs. Florida Leagues has sort of like a training manual for newly elected officials and also Board members who are interested in getting training.

Mr. McDearmaid: And when is that?

Executive Director Ghany: I haven't scheduled anything as yet. This is one of the things that I'm trying to do. To get like a CRA one on one and what CRA funds can do. What can it be used for? As a newly elected, there are certain things in certain areas, as the attorney was saying, there's a slippery slope in some of the areas that we're trying to...

Mr. McDearmaid: Our CRA Attorney was a presenter at an event. I think it was (name indistinct) one on one, wasn't it?

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: ABC's of CRAs.

Executive Director Ghany: ABC's right or something like that.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: Yeah I've made the presentations to past administration so I can update it. I mean it's a PowerPoint. I can always just hand it out to the people.

Executive Director Ghany: That's fine.

CRA Attorney Zelkowitz: So they can have it or if you'd like me to take the time in the meeting and run through it for about half an hour, I'm happy to do it.

Mr. McDearmaid: I think it would be really nice to have so that the people who are interested can be there and ask questions and that kind of thing. You can't with a PowerPoint.

Executive Director Ghany: Right and the only reason why I'm bringing that up its base is because of the several homeowner meetings that I've attended. And a lot of times people are saying, what is this CRA and what is it all about. I've attended two meetings at the Griffing Community Center recently. And the residents have come out and wanted to know where is this money coming from, what can it be used. And they were asking for...

Mr. McDearmaid: As I've mentioned at one point, you know we had such positive feedback when we actually...as they say a picture says a thousand words. And I think when we got everybody on a bus, we had people from the CRA who were there. We rode up, we took a look at what actually happened. We talked to an Executive Director and Staff of another CRA. It was very informative and it was very interesting because you actually saw what they did and they stood there and said, this is what we did to build this. And this is how we used the money and that kind of thing. I think that would be an invaluable asset to not only the Board members because it's always good as a refresher to talk to people after you haven't talked to them for four or five years. To find out what they're doing now and how things have changed. But also the interested citizens like some of the people you encountered at the other two meetings. Who were saying, gee whiz what is a CRA and what is it doing exactly. So I would suggest that...

Executive Director Ghany: And the only reason why I brought it up is because of those meetings. And what we could do is to probably do it at a CRA Executive Board meeting and invite some of the property owners or some of the interested residents and we can do it here. Right here in the Council chambers. So everybody could...

Mr. McDearmaid: But nothing says it like actually going and seeing it.

Executive Director Ghany: Understood but if they want to know where the funding and what it is all about, I think it's a good start.

Mr. McDearmaid: We can do it at the same time. That's what we did last time. As we were in the bus going up they told us how the money was spent,

how it came and that kind of thing. So then you had an understanding of what it was and then you actually saw it in person.

Executive Director Ghany: So those are the two things that over the last month or the last two to three weeks I have. And of course the Budget, I just said. I spoke to the County and everything seem to be moving in the right direction. So far I have no other...but those are the three things I wanted to bring up as part of my report.

Mr. McDearmaid: All right. Do we have a consensus on two tickets for Staff to go to this and do a follow up? Okay.

CRA Coordinator Sorey: That was all of the New Business for the CRA. Again thank you guys. I think we're on the right track. Welcome Holly. We should have some other new members that should be joining us soon in the next couple of minutes. So by summer time we'll be a full moving machine.

Mr. McDearmaid: Okay, very good. Any questions, comments, concerns?

Ms. Estime-Irvin: Consensus.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McDearmaid: Do I hear a motion? We can't motion to adjourn. Is there a consensus that we're all done?