Second Public Hearing

September 27, 2017
THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Children's Trust Board of Directors Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, commencing at 5:01 p.m., at 3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue, United Way-Ansin Building, Ryder Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Laurie Nuell, Chair.

OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Laurie W. Nuell, Chair, Member At-Large
Lileana de Moya, Vice Chair, Gubernatorial Appointee

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Magaly Abrahante, Superintendent of Schools Designee
Dr. Daniel Bagner, Florida International University
Dr. Miguel Balsera, Gubernatorial Appointee
Rodester Brandon, Member At-Large
Rep. Nicholas Duran, Miami-Dade County Delegation
Gilda Ferradaz, Florida Dept. Of Children & Families
Alvin L. Gainey, PTA/PTSA
Claudia Grillo, Board of the United Way of Miami-Dade County
Nelson Hincapie, Office of the Mayor, Dade County
Kenneth C. Hoffman, MCCJ
Pam Hollingsworth, Early Learning Coalition
Steve Hope, Member At-Large
Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn, Gubernatorial Appointee
Marissa Joy Leichter, Esq., Gubernatorial Appointee
Dr. Susan Neimand, Miami-Dade College
Hon. Isaac Salver, League of Cities, Miami-Dade County
Commissioner Xavier Suarez, Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
Mark Trowbridge, Coalition of the Local Chamber of Commerce
David Turino, Student Government Association
Karen Weller, Miami-Dade County Health Department
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Shanika Graves, Assistant County Attorney
Leigh Kobrinski, Assistant County Attorney

STAFF:

James Haj, President/Chief Executive Officer
Imran Ali, COO
Bevone Ritchie
Dalia Garcia
Donovan Lee-Sin
Elisa Agostino
Felix Becerra
Juana Leon
Yesenia Reyes
Lori Katherine Hanson
Muriel Jeanty, Clerk of the Board
Rachel Spector
Stephanie Sylvestre, Chief Programs & CIO
Tameeka Grant
Vivianne Bohorques
William Kirtland
Zafreen Jaffery

SPEAKERS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Raisa Bauza
Fiorella A. Christie
Rev. Charles Dinkins, Hosanna Community Foundation
MS. NUCELL: First of all, I want to thank those who got here early. But as you saw, there wasn't enough people here, so we're going to take the picture afterwards. And we'll take the picture quickly as we can and then head over to the other building for a little -- a little end-of-the-year party and Board-appreciation toast.

The matters before the Board this afternoon are: Setting the final millage and approval of the final budget.

The resolutions to come before the Board are as follows:

Resolution 2017-116: Resolution adopting the final millage rate for The Children’s Trust of Miami-Dade County Florida, to be levied for the 2017-2018 fiscal year; and declaring the percentage change in the property tax levy as defined under section 200.065, Florida Statutes.

State law mandates that the first item for discussion is Resolution 2017-116 setting the final millage rate necessary to fund the budget, as well as a discussion of the specific purpose for which ad valorem
tax revenues are being used. The CEO will further explain.

MR. HAJ: This will be the 15th budget year for The Children's Trust, the final millage rate to be levied in order to produce sufficient ad valorem taxation revenue which will be adequate to pay the appropriations in the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1st, 2017, and ending September 30, 2018, shall be 0.4673 mills.

The final operating millage rate of 0.4673 mills result in a property tax increase of zero percent, which is the same as a rollback rate of 0.4673 mills.

Last year's actual property tax levied for The Children's Trust was $124,635,951. This year's proposed ad valorem tax revenue is $121,938,094. Next year's budget has increased largely to a fund balance drawdown and alignment with best fiscal practices. We have reduced our management expenses and next year's budget by approximately 317,000 to an historic low of 7.5 percent of the total budget.

These factors will allow us to increase funding among the strategic investment party areas of the strategic plan. This year's budget ad valorem tax revenues are $121,938,094 as the rollback millage rate
is used. The rollback rate is the millage rate that
would generate approximately the same amount of property
tax revenues as approved for the prior year.

The budget of revenues combined with a
prudent drawdown to fund balance will enable the Trust
to expand services to children and families while at the
same time aligning them to the strategic plan. In order
to accomplish this, we recommend that the Board adopt a
millage rate of 0.4673 mills.

MS. NUELL: I'm sorry but I need to go back. I didn't notice that I needed to read the second resolution that we're also going to have to vote on today, which is Resolution 2017-117, which is: The resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

The public hearing is open on the final millage rate. We have two people from the audience who are going to present. So first is Riza Bauza. I may have mispronounced your name. I apologize.

MS. BAUZA: It's perfect. Hello. My name is Riza Bauza. My son is Nicholas Bauza. He attends Early Beginnings Academy at United Community Options, and he's in first grade. This is his fourth year there and our family and Nicholas have been so
happy with the school, with the programs. He receives all of his therapies there, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, music therapy. And he's just -- it's incredible the change that he's made since he's been there. He couldn't sit still for much of when he first started. Now he does work at the board, he's starting to communicate a lot more. And just the staff, the teachers, the therapists, everyone have been more than amazing with all of the children there. And I'm really thrilled to be here to speak on their behalf.

Just to tell our story, Nicholas is autistic, but he was actually born with a medical condition called Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, which many of the children under that -- with that diagnosis fall under the autism spectrum at one point because of their developmental delay.

Nicholas does take medication for seizures. And just the care -- when I drop him off at school I -- it's the home away from home because I know that if there's anything, you know, that they see that he's having an off day, that he's just not himself, they automatically call me and give me an update.

They're just remarkable. Really. I wish their program would go further than second grade because
I'm already stressed looking for another school for the third grade, which he's in first grade, so we still have two years. But it goes by very fast.

And just, I wish there were more programs out there in this community that would provide the smaller classroom settings and the services that Early Beginnings Academy provides. They're wonderful. Thank you very much.

MS. NUELL: Thank you so much. And I'd like to invite Charles Dinkins to come forward, please.

REV. DINKINS: Good afternoon to all. My name is Charles Dinkins, Reverend Dinkins, founding pastor of Hosanna Community Baptist Church, Hosanna Community Foundation, program director for SAMHSA-funded Drug Free Community Coalition that operates within Liberty City/Brownsville community. If you know anything about Miami-Dade County and its communities, you know that's one of the greatest at-risk communities in Miami-Dade County.

Our agency's a benefactor of many programs for The Children's Trust. Quality Counts help us with our early learning, which has really been beneficial as an owner to be able to provide an atmosphere where children are excited running into the building and learning.
A lot of that is happening because the Quality Counts contributions, because if you know that community, very few parents can really afford quality -- pay the cost of quality child care. So that helps us as an owner to offset our costs.

We also benefit from Children's Trust funding in our after school programming. Since the Trust has been in inception, we've gotten funding in some way or another to fund our after school. Our children are doing tremendous and improving in their reading skills, social, and self-regulating kind of skills as a result of our activities.

One of the things I would ask that this Board will consider as you move forward is how we empower communities like Liberty City to become a village again for African heritage and Latino's communities. When our children produce at the top levels, it was when the community took care of the children.

Sometimes the model that we use is more of a business model. Outsiders come in and provide services and they're gone when the services end. So we would ask if you would consider activities that helps strengthen direct service, provide us within the boundaries of that identified community in ways that we
can meet the needs of children at every spectrum of their development.

So thank you again. We're really excited about what the Trust means to our community and we -- it is our prayer that you will be around a very long time.

MS. NUHELL: Thank you very much. And thank you for coming. Is there anyone from the public wishing to speak?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. NUHELL: The public hearing on the final millage rate is closed.

MR. HAJ: I request a motion to approve Resolution 2017-116 setting the final millage rate as explained in budget message and memorandum.

MR. GAINNEY: So moved; Gainey.

MR. Salver: I'll second --

MS. NUPELL: Is there any Board discussion on the final millage?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MR. HAJ: Bill, has there been any changes to the millage rate?

MR. KIRTLAND: I can confirm there's been no change to the final millage rate.

MR. HAJ: This is The Children's Trust.

There's a motion and a second for approval of final
millage rate of 0.4673 and there is a zero percent increase, which is the same as a rollback rate of 0.4673 mills. The proposed final millage rate to be levied by The Children's Trust is 0.4673 mills.

MS. NUHELL: We need a vote on the motion to adopt the resolution setting the final millage rate.

MS. GRILLO: The vote must be by individual roll call. The Judge may not vote on this motion.

Dr. Daniel Bagner.

DR. BAGNER: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Miguel Balsera.

DR. BALSERA: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Rodester Brandon.

MR. BRANDON: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Maggie Abrahante.

DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Lily de Moya.

MS. DE MOYA: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Representative Nicholas Duran.

REP. DURAN: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Antonia Eyssallenne.

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. GRILLO: Gilda Ferradaz.
1    MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.
2    MS. GRILLO: Alvin Gainey.
3    MR. GAINEY: Yes, Madam Secretary.
4    MS. GRILLO: Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez.
5    (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)
6    MS. GRILLO: Claudia Grillo.
7    Yes.
8    Mindy Grimes-Festge.
9    (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)
10   MS. GRILLO: Nelson Hincapie.
11   MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.
12   MS. GRILLO: Kenneth C. Hoffman.
13   MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.
14   MS. GRILLO: Pamela Hollingsworth.
15   MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.
16   MS. GRILLO: Steve Hope.
17   MR. HOPE: Yes.
18   MS. GRILLO: Esther Jacobo.
19   (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)
20   MS. GRILLO: Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn.
21   MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Yes.
22   MS. GRILLO: Melissa Leichter.
23   MS. LEICHTER: Marissa; yes.
24   MS. GRILLO: I'm so sorry.
25   MS. LEICHTER: That's okay.
MS. GRILLO: Dr. Susan Neimand.
DR. NEIMAND: Yes.
MS. GRILLO: Laurie Weiss Nuell.
MS. NUELL: Yes.
MS. GRILLO: Dr. Marta Pérez.
(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)
MS. GRILLO: The Honorable Isaac Salver.
THE HON. SALVER: Yes.
MS. GRILLO: Commissioner Xavier Suarez.
COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Yes. I vote with my representative, Duran.
MS. GRILLO: Mark Trowbridge.
MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.
MS. GRILLO: David Turino.
MR. TURINO: Yes.
MS. GRILLO: Karen Weller.
MS. WELLER: Yes.
MS. GRILLO: And, then, Judge Prescott must abstain.
MS. NUELL: The motion passes with 22 votes.
MS. GRILLO: I agree.
MS. NUELL: And the time is 5:14. It is a unanimous vote. The next resolution to be taken up by the Board is Resolution 2017-117. Do I have to read it
again? I'm sorry. The paperwork is not quite in order.

Resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

The public hearing is open on the final budget. Is there anyone from the public wishing to speak?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. NUELL: The public hearing is closed on the final budget.

MR. HAJ: I request a motion to approve Resolution 2017-117 adopting the final budget.

MR. GAINEY: So moved; Gainey.

MR. HOPE: Second; Steve Hope.

MS. NUELL: Is there any Board discussion on the final budget?

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. NUELL: We need a vote on the motion for the resolution adopting the final budget.

MS. GRILLO: The vote must be by individual roll call. The Judge can vote on the final budget.

Dr. Daniel Bagner.

DR. BAGNER: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Miguel Balsera.
DR. BALSERA: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Rodester Brandon.

MR. BRANDON: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Maggie Abrahante.

DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Lily de Moya.

MS. DE MOYA: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Representative Nicholas Duran.

REP. DURAN: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Antonia Eyssallenne.

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. GRILLO: Gilda Ferradaz.

MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Alvin Gainey.

MR. GAINEY: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez.

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. GRILLO: Claudia Grillo.

Yes.

Mindy Grimes-Festge.

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. GRILLO: Nelson Hincapie.

MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Kenneth C. Hoffman.
MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Pamela Hollingsworth.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Steve Hope.

MR. HOPE: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Esther Jacobo.

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. GRILLO: Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn.

MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Marissa Leichter.

MS. LEICHTER: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Susan Neimand.

DR. NEIMAND: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Laurie Weiss Nuell.

MS. NUCELL: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Dr. Marta Pérez.

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. GRILLO: Judge Orlando Prescott.

(NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

MS. GRILLO: The Honorable Isaac Salver.

THE HON. SALVER: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez.

COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Mark Trowbridge.
MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: David Turino.

MR. TURINO: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Karen Weller.

MS. WELLER: Yes.

MS. GRILLO: Madam Chair, that is again 22 votes.

MS. NUELL: Okay. Because I -- all of a sudden my numbers weren't right. So the motion -- I'm like, "Oh?" Either I was wrong the last time -- did you count 22, as well?

MS. GRILLO: Yes.

MS. NUELL: So the motion passes with 22 votes, unanimous vote. And the time is 5:17 p.m.

Time of the final budget hearing was adjourned at 5:17 p.m. Thank you very much.

Congratulations to the staff and certainly to Bill and the finance team for not only, I think, preparing excellent work and budget and information to us to make good, strong decisions; but, also, I think, you know, just the helping the Board. We really appreciate it and look forward to the coming year.

(Whereupon, at 5:17 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA )
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE )

I, Daisy L. Amador, Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify, that I was authorized to and did report said meeting; and that the foregoing pages, numbered from 1 to 17, inclusive, are a true and complete transcription of my notes of said hearing.

I further certify that said meeting was taken at the time and place hereinabove set forth and that the taking of said hearing was commenced and completed as hereinabove set out.

I further certify that I am not an attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or direction of the certifying reporter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 13th day of October, 2017.

Daisy L. Amador
Notary Public for the State of Florida
Commission No. FF062576
Expires: 10/17/2017
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