



**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

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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

1 Fiorella A. Christie

2 Rev. Charles Dinkins, Hosanna Community Foundation

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Recording of the meeting began at 5:01 p.m.)

MS. NUELLE: 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

1 tax revenues are being used. The CEO will further  
2 explain.

3 MR. HAJ: This will be the 15th budget  
4 year for The Children's Trust, the final millage rate to  
5 be levied in order to produce sufficient ad valorem  
6 taxation revenue which will be adequate to pay the  
7 appropriations in the budget for the fiscal year  
8 beginning October 1st, 2017, and ending September 30,  
9 2018, shall be 0.4673 mills.

10 The final operating millage rate of  
11 0.4673 mills result in a property tax increase of zero  
12 percent, which is the same as a rollback rate of 0.4673  
13 mills.

14 Last year's actual property tax levied  
15 for The Children's Trust was \$124,635,951. This year's  
16 proposed ad valorem tax revenue is \$121,938,094. Next  
17 year's budget has increased largely to a fund balance  
18 drawdown and alignment with best fiscal practices. We  
19 have reduced our management expenses and next year's  
20 budget by approximately 317,000 to an historic low of  
21 7.5 percent of the total budget.

22 These factors will allow us to increase  
23 funding among the strategic investment party areas of  
24 the strategic plan. This year's budget ad valorem tax  
25 revenues are \$121,938,094 as the rollback millage rate

1 is used. The rollback rate is the millage rate that  
2 would generate approximately the same amount of property  
3 tax revenues as approved for the prior year.

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

10 MS. NUELLE: I'm sorry but I need to go  
11 back. I didn't notice that I needed to read the second  
12 resolution that we're also going to have to vote on  
13 today, which is Resolution 2017-117, which is: The  
14 resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County,  
15 Florida, adopting the final budget for fiscal year  
16 2017-2018.

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

21 MS. BAUZA: It's perfect. Hello. My  
22 name is Riza Bauza. My son is Nicholas Bauza. He  
23 attends Early Beginnings Academy at United Community  
24 Options, and he's in first grade. This is his fourth  
25 year there and our family and Nicholas have been so

1 happy with the school, with the programs.

2                   He receives all of his therapies there,  
3 physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, music  
4 therapy. And he's just -- it's incredible the change  
5 that he's made since he's been there. He couldn't sit  
6 still for much of when he first started. Now he does  
7 work at the board, he's starting to communicate a lot  
8 more. And just the staff, the teachers, the therapists,  
9 everyone have been more than amazing with all of the  
10 children there. And I'm really thrilled to be here to  
11 speak on their behalf.

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

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

24                   They're just remarkable. Really. I wish  
25 their program would go further than second grade because



1 I'm already stressed looking for another school for the  
2 third grade, which he's in first grade, so we still have  
3 two years. But it goes by very fast.

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

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

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

20 Our agency's a benefactor of many  
21 programs for The Children's Trust. Quality Counts help  
22 us with our early learning, which has really been  
23 beneficial as an owner to be able to provide an  
24 atmosphere where children are excited running into the  
25 building and learning.

1                   A lot of that is happening because the  
2   Quality Counts contributions, because if you know that  
3   community, very few parents can really afford quality --  
4   pay the cost of quality child care. So that helps us as  
5   an owner to offset our costs.

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

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

20                  Sometimes the model that we use is more  
21   of a business model. Outsiders come in and provide  
22   services and they're gone when the services end. So we  
23   would ask if you would consider activities that helps  
24   strengthen direct service, provide us within the  
25   boundaries of that identified community in ways that we

1 can meet the needs of children at every spectrum of  
2 their development.

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

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

9 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

10 MS. NUELLE: The public hearing on the  
11 final millage rate is closed.

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

15 MR. GAINEY: So moved; Gainey.

16 MR. Salver: I'll second --

17 MS. NUELLE: Is there any Board discussion  
18 on the final millage?

19 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

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

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

24 MR. HAJ: This is The Children's Trust.  
25 There's a motion and a second for approval of final

1 millage rate of 0.4673 and there is a zero percent  
2 increase, which is the same as a rollback rate of 0.4673  
3 mills. The proposed final millage rate to be levied by  
4 The Children's Trust is 0.4673 mills.

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

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

10 Dr. Daniel Bagner.

11 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

12 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Miguel Balsera.

13 DR. BALSERA: Yes.

14 MS. GRILLO: Rodester Brandon.

15 MR. BRANDON: Yes.

16 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Maggie Abrahante.

17 DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

18 MS. GRILLO: Lily de Moya.

19 MS. DE MOYA: Yes.

20 MS. GRILLO: Representative Nicholas  
21 Duran.

22 REP. DURAN: Yes.

23 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Antonia Eyssallenne.

24 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

25 MS. GRILLO: Gilda Ferradaz.

1 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

2 MS. GRILLO: Alvin Gainey.

3 MR. GAINNEY: 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.

1 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Susan Neimand.

2 DR. NEIMAND: Yes.

3 MS. GRILLO: Laurie Weiss Nuell.

4 MS. NUELL: Yes.

5 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Marta Pérez.

6 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

7 MS. GRILLO: The Honorable Isaac Salver.

8 THE HON. SALVER: Yes.

9 MS. GRILLO: Commissioner Xavier Suarez.

10 COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Yes. I vote with  
11 my representative, Duran.

12 MS. GRILLO: Mark Trowbridge.

13 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.

14 MS. GRILLO: David Turino.

15 MR. TURINO: Yes.

16 MS. GRILLO: Karen Weller.

17 MS. WELLER: Yes.

18 MS. GRILLO: And, then, Judge Prescott  
19 must abstain.

20 MS. NUELL: The motion passes with 22  
21 votes.

22 MS. GRILLO: I agree.

23 MS. NUELL: And the time is 5:14. It is  
24 a unanimous vote. The next resolution to be taken up by  
25 the Board is Resolution 2017-117. Do I have to read it

1 again? I'm sorry. The paperwork is not quite in order.

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

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

8 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

9 MS. NUELLE: The public hearing is closed  
10 on the final budget.

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

13 MR. GAINEY: So moved; Gainey.

14 MR. HOPE: Second; Steve Hope.

15 MS. NUELLE: Is there any Board discussion  
16 on the final budget?

17 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

18 MS. NUELLE: We need a vote on the motion  
19 for the resolution adopting the final budget.

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

23 Dr. Daniel Bagner.

24 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

25 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Miguel Balsera.

1 DR. BALSERA: Yes.

2 MS. GRILLO: Rodester Brandon.

3 MR. BRANDON: Yes.

4 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Maggie Abrahante.

5 DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

6 MS. GRILLO: Lily de Moya.

7 MS. DE MOYA: Yes.

8 MS. GRILLO: Representative Nicholas  
9 Duran.

10 REP. DURAN: Yes.

11 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Antonia Eyssallenne.  
12 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

13 MS. GRILLO: Gilda Ferradaz.

14 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

15 MS. GRILLO: Alvin Gainey.

16 MR. GAINNEY: Yes.

17 MS. GRILLO: Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez.  
18 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

19 MS. GRILLO: Claudia Grillo.  
20 Yes.

21 Mindy Grimes-Festge.  
22 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

23 MS. GRILLO: Nelson Hincapie.

24 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.

25 MS. GRILLO: Kenneth C. Hoffman.



1 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

2 MS. GRILLO: Pamela Hollingsworth.

3 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

4 MS. GRILLO: Steve Hope.

5 MR. HOPE: Yes.

6 MS. GRILLO: Esther Jacobo.

7 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

8 MS. GRILLO: Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn.

9 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Yes.

10 MS. GRILLO: Marissa Leichter.

11 MS. LEICHTER: Yes.

12 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Susan Neimand.

13 DR. NEIMAND: Yes.

14 MS. GRILLO: Laurie Weiss Nuell.

15 MS. NUELL: Yes.

16 MS. GRILLO: Dr. Marta Pérez.

17 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

18 MS. GRILLO: Judge Orlando Prescott.

19 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

20 MS. GRILLO: The Honorable Isaac Salver.

21 THE HON. SALVER: Yes.

22 MS. GRILLO: Commissioner Xavier L.

23 Suarez.

24 COMMISSIONER SUAREZ: Yes.

25 MS. GRILLO: Mark Trowbridge.

1 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.

2 MS. GRILLO: David Turino.

3 MR. TURINO: Yes.

4 MS. GRILLO: Karen Weller.

5 MS. WELLER: Yes.

6 MS. GRILLO: Madam Chair, that is again  
7 22 votes.

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

12 MS. GRILLO: Yes.

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

15 Time of the final budget hearing was  
16 adjourned at 5:17 p.m. Thank you very much.  
17 Congratulations to the staff and certainly to Bill and  
18 the finance team for not only, I think, preparing  
19 excellent work and budget and information to us to make  
20 good, strong decisions; but, also, I think, you know,  
21 just the helping the Board. We really appreciate it and  
22 look forward to the coming year.

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

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

<b>A</b>				
<b>able</b> 8:23	10:25	<b>Bill</b> 10:20 17:17	<b>child</b> 9:4	6:23 8:5,13,14
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