



June BOD Highlights



On Thursday, June 6, 2019 the MDCLC held its monthly Board Meeting in the City of Coral Gables La Jolla Ballroom. This month's board meeting was President Cubillos' first meeting as President. Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier Suarez gave the invocation and Coral Gables City Manager Peter Iglesias recited the Pledge of Allegiance. City of Coral Gables Vice Mayor Vince Lago made the host city presentation welcomed everyone to 'The City Beautiful'. He hoped that everyone was enjoying the venue and jokingly asked by a show of hands who would like to have the board meetings held more frequently in the city. Vice Mayor Lago spoke of all wonderful projects and amenities Coral Gables has to offer the residents, business community, and visitors. Vice Mayor Lago spoke about HB1159. He explained that it will prohibit local governments from requiring a notice, application, approval, permit, or fee, for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on residential property if the property owner obtains documentation from a certified arborist or a Florida licensed landscape architect that the tree presents a danger to persons or property. He asked that everyone adopt a resolution urging Governor DeSantis to veto HB1159. President Cubillos asked for a motion from the Board to approve MDCLC Resolution 2019-1 urging Governor DeSantis to veto this HB. The motion passed by unanimous vote. He thanked everyone for attending this evenings meeting and encouraged all to visit the municipality more often.

Associate Member Ms. Gabrielle Benigni of Disaster Program and Operations spoke of Disaster/Hurricane Preparedness. She stated that municipalities must plan for the worst which will result in positive results at the end of a disaster. She touched important disaster preparedness topics such as, business continuity, being audit ready, leverage state wide mutual aid and mutual aids contracts, ID potential hazard mitigation projects and being proactive with State, FDEM and FEMA's new process. Ms. Benigni mentioned that Disaster Program and Operation can assist with all of the above to be successfully prepared for the upcoming hurricane season.

Miami Deputy City Attorney John Greco asked the MDCLC for support in filing an amicus brief in a case against the City that will effect how municipalities will be able to defend themselves in tort claims. Upon recommendation of the MDCLC's City Attorney's Advisory Committee, President Cubillos asked the MDCLC Board for a motion to approve filing an amicus brief. The motion passed by unanimous vote.



MDCLC President Claudia Cubillos, Mayor of the Village of El Portal



Coral Gables Vice Mayor Vince Lago



Gabrielle Benigni, Disaster Program & Operation



Miami Deputy City Attorney John Greco

MDCLC Executive Director Richard Kuper provided a brief report on County Commissioner Sally Heyman's proposed Whistleblowers ordinance, which will mandate that all municipalities must have a whistleblowers ordinance in effect. The Executive Board and himself have scheduled a meeting with Commissioner Heyman and look forward to working with her on alternative language on this ordinance. President Cubillos or Executive Director Kuper will keep the members informed on this issue.

We were pleased to host FLC Legislative Director Scott Dudley who traveled to our board meeting to recognize local elected officials who worked closely with the League's advocacy team and showed strong and consistent support of municipal home rule during this legislative session. Mr. Dudley then presented Home Rule Hero awards to Immediate Past President Jordan W. Leonard, Councilman, Town of Bay Harbor Islands, Naomi Levi-Garcia, of the City of Coral Gables Intergovernmental Affairs, Councilmember James McDonald of the Village of Pinecrest, and Mayor Yioset de la Cruz of the City of Hialeah Gardens (former State Representative Eddy Gonzalez accepted the certificate on his behalf.

After the presentations Scott Dudley along with Jose Diaz of Robert M. Levy & Associates provided an update on the recent Legislative session which was very informative. They reminded everyone that the Legislative session will begin in January 2020 and therefore, everyone must begin reaching out to their legislators since committee meetings will begin in September.

Ms. Susan Torriente spoke about Resilient 305. Ms. Torriente mentioned that Resilient 305 is working closely with the County and municipalities on making people, places and pathways more resilient in our cities. Ms. Torriente asked that other municipalities join the 14 Mayors committed to making our Cities more resilient.

