

Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

November 7, 2024



Welcome



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

NOVEMBER 7TH, 2024

6:30 p.m. Reception - 7:30 p.m. Meeting

CORAL REEF YACHT CLUB

2484 S. Bay Shore Drive, Miami, FL 33133

MEETING SPONSORED BY





WELCOMING REMARKS

President Karyn Cunningham, Mayor, Village of Palmetto Bay

1. INVOCATION

Second Vice President Fortuna Smukler, Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach

2. PLEDGE OF **ALLEGIANCE**

Board Member **Miguel Angel Gabela**, Commissioner, City of Miami

3. MINUTES

October 17, 2024

4. CONSENT **AGENDA**

Monthly Disbursement

5. CROWN **CASTLE SPONSOR PRESENTATION**

Ms. Jessica Fernandez-Ibarra, Sr. External Affairs Manager, South Area-Florida & Puerto Rico

6. BOARD **MEMBERS OATH PRESENTATION**

President Karyn Cunningham, Mayor, Village of Palmetto Bay

7. SA0 **PRESENTATION**

Legislative priorities The Honorable Katherine Fernandez-Rundle State Attorney, 11th Judicial Circuit



8. AERONAUTICS **PRESENTATION**

Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez, Miami-Dade County, District 11

9. PRESIDENT'S **PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION**

Immediate Past President Rodney Harris, Mayor, City of Miami Gardens Monty Trainer, President, Coconut Grove Arts Festival

10. EXECUTIVE **DIRECTORS** REPORT

Richard Kuper, Esq.

11. ASSOCIATE **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Mr. Kevin S. Crowder, CEcD, EDP Founder, BusinessFlare, LLC

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- State & Local Ethics Training Course:
 - Thursday, November 14, 2024
 - Location: City of Doral City Hall
 - Time: 8:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
- 18th Annual Turkey Drive:
 - Tuesday, November 19, 2024
- Holiday Gathering:
 - o Thursday, December 12, 2024
 - Location: Thalatta Estate Palmetto Bay
- 12th Annual Best Practices Conference:
 - Monday, December 16, 2024
 - Location: Biltmore Hotel Coral Gables
 - o Time: 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
- **18th Annual Toy Drive:**
 - December 2024
 - Location: Jackson Holtz Children's Hospital



Miami-Dade County League of Cities

2655 S Le Jeune Rd, Suite 1014 Coral Gables, Florida 33134 E-mail: mdclc@bellsouth.net Telephone: 305-416-4155

Fax: 305-416-4157

Summarized Minutes

October 17, 2024 Scott Galvin Community Center

President Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m., expressing her gratitude to everyone for attending this meeting after it was rescheduled. She thanked those who contributed supplies for communities on the West and East coasts, acknowledging the hardships they are facing after Hurricane Milton. She shared that our thoughts are with them and assured that the League will continue to support these communities as much as possible through this challenging time.

One of **President Cunningham's** objectives is to make sure that county stakeholders know the role of Miami-Dade County League of Cities. As municipalities, she believes it is important that organizations and the members of the County Commissions know the importance of municipalities.

She also thanked **Mayor Levine Cava**, and her administration for their leadership in asking the League and the Managers Association to assist in coordinating the virtual meetings with the County's EOC, ensuring we all stay informed and collaborate effectively during the hurricane season.

President Cunningham then introduced **Mayor Piper**, City of North Miami Beach to conduct the invocation.

President Cunningham introduced **Commander Rocio**, City of North Miami to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OFFICERS

President
Hon. Karyn Cunningham
Mayor, Village of Palmetto Bay
First Vice President
Hon. Omarr C. Nickerson, Ph. D
Mayor, Village of El Portal
Second Vice President
Hon. Fortuna Smukler
Commissioner,
City of North Miami Beach
Secretary
Hon. Joseph Corradino
Mayor, Village of Pinecrest
Treasurer
Hon, Walter Thompson
Commissioner, City of Florida City.

Commissioner, City of Florida City BOARD OF DIRECTORS Hon, Rachel S. Friedland Commissioner Aventura Hon. Seth E. Salver Vice Mayor, Bal Harbour Village Hon. Robert Yaffe Councilman Bay Harbor Islands Hon, Jonathan Groth Mayor, Biscavne Park Hon. Vince Lago Mayor, Coral Gables Hon. Tim Meerbott Mayor, Cutler Bay Hon. Christi Fraga Mayor, Doral Hon. Luis Pirela Vice Mayor, El Portal Hon. Sharon Butler Vice Mayor, Florida City Hon. Bernard Einstein Vice Mayor, Golden Beach Hon. Esteban Bovo, Jr. Mayor, Hialeah Hon. Yioset De La Cruz Mayor, Hialeah Gardens Hon. Steve Losner Mayor, Homestead Hon. Bernard Klepach Mayor, Indian Creek Mayor, Key Biscayne Hon. Ivan Pacheco Councilman, Medley Hon. Miguel Angel Gabela Commissioner, Miami Hon. Oliver G. Gilbert, III Chairman, Miami-Dade County Hon. Maria Teresa Rojas Chair, Miami-Dade County School Board Hon. Tanva Bhatt Commissioner, Miami Beach Hon. Robert Stephens, III Councilman, Miami Gardens Hon. Ray Garcia Councilman, Miami Lakes Hon. George Burch Mayor, Miami Shores Hon. Jorge Santin Vice Mayor, Miami Springs Hon. Rachel Streitfeld Commissioner, North Bay Village Hon. Pierre Frantz Charles Councilman, North Miami Hon. Jay Chernoff Commissioner, North Miami Beach Hon. John H. Taylor, Jr.

Mayor, Opa-Locka

Hon. Leanne Tellam Vice Mayor, Palmetto Bay Hon. Shannon Del Prado Vice Mayor, Pinecrest Hon. Javier Fernandez

Mayor, South Miami Hon, Fabiola Stuvvesant

Hon. Tina Paul Vice Mayor, Surfside Hon. Jose "Pepe" Diaz Mayor, Sweetwater Hon. Richard Block Councilman, Virginia Gardens Hon. Eric Diaz-Padron Mayor, West Miami

ioner, Sunny Isles Beach

President Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the minutes and consent the agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

On behalf of the League, **President Cunningham** expressed gratitude to the City of North Miami and the City of North Miami Beach for hosting the League's meeting this evening. She then welcomed **Mayor Alix Desulme**, City of North Miami and **Mayor Evan Piper**, City of North Miami Beach.

Mayor Alix Desulme welcomed everyone to the City of North Miami and thanked the League for the opportunity to host the League's Board of Directors meeting. He also thanked Mr. Kuper and the League for making this possible and acknowledged the elected officials and staff from both North Miami and North Miami Beach for their support and dedication to collaboration. As one of the fastest-growing cities in South Florida, North Miami is embracing innovation at every turn. The city is wrapping up 2024 with new residential developments reshaping the skyline and boosting the local economy. Mayor Desulme highlighted the city's remarkable 60% decrease in violent crime over the past year, a testament to the dedication of North Miami's police chief and command staff. The city recently launched the Freebee electric vehicle system, providing residents with free, sustainable travel throughout the area. Additionally, North Miami introduced the Logitech initiative, supporting e-commerce and empowering local businesses within the city. Mayor Desulme concluded by thanking everyone for their presence and support at the meeting.

Mayor Piper mentioned how excited he was to be co-hosting tonight's Board of Directors meeting alongside their friends and neighbors from North Miami. He highlighted North Miami Beach as a city rich in history, scenic waterfronts, and vibrant culture. It is a city that stands out for its constant progress, whether through development, enhanced services, or collaborations with nearby communities like Sunny Isles Beach, North Miami, and Miami Gardens. Mayor Piper informed those present about Commissioner and MDCLC Second Vice President Fortuna Smukler, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting because she suffered a fall and subsequently had surgery on her leg. The City continues to keep her in their thoughts and prays for her to have a speedy recovery. He then extended his gratitude to the elected officials and staff members from North Miami Beach, as well as the Executive Board of the League, for visiting the City of North Miami.

President Cunningham introduced the following Board Members who attended the Zoom installation to provide them with their Oath certificate signed by State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle:

- Councilman Robert Yaffe Bay Harbor Islands
- Mayor Jonathan Groth Biscayne Park
- Mayor Vince Lago Coral Gables
- Vice Mayor Sharon Butler Florida City
- Commissioner Tanya Bhatt Miami Beach
- Councilman Robert Stephens, Miami Gardens
- Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant Sunny Isles Beach

President Cunningham then thanked all the current sponsors for the League's upcoming 12th Annual Best Practices Conference:

- <u>Title Co-Sponsors:</u> Dade County Federal Credit Union and Florida International University
- Breakfast Co-Sponsors: The Children's Trust and the Village of Palmetto Bay
- <u>Luncheon Sponsor:</u> Village of Key Biscayne
- Reception Co-Sponsors: The Corradino Group and Miami Realtors
- Parking Sponsor: Miami Parking Authority
- Coffee Sponsor: Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman

She informed attendees that this year's keynote speaker will be Kenneth Griffin, CEO of Citadel, and highlighted additional sponsorship opportunities available. She encouraged everyone to join this year's Best Practices Conference. **President Cunningham** then welcomed Executive Director Richard Kuper to present his report.

Mr. Kuper expressed his gratitude to everyone in attendance, noting how fortunate the League is to have members dedicated to its mission. He extended special thanks to this year's Executive Board for their hard work in securing sponsors for the upcoming Best Practices Conference and recognized all current sponsors for their support. **Mr. Kuper** shared that this year's conference will be more of a learning opportunity, featuring insights from keynote speaker Kenneth Griffin. He invited anyone with questions or interest in the BPC to reach out to him. He then introduced the following attendees:

Executive Board Members:

President Karyn Cunningham Treasurer Walter Thompson Immediate Past President Rodney Harris

Past Presidents:

Past President – Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez Past President – Jay Chernoff

Board Members:

Councilman Robert Yaffe – Bay Harbor Islands
Commissioner Luciano Suarez – West Miami
Commissioner Tanya Bhatt – Miami Beach
Councilman Robert Stephens, III – Miami Gardens
Mayor George Burch – Miami Shores
Commissioner Jay Chernoff – North Miami Beach
Mayor John Taylor – Opa-Locka
Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant – Sunny Isles Beach
Vice Mayor Tina Paul – Surfside
Mayor-Elect Rachel Streitfeld – North Bay Village
Vice Mayor Sharon Butler – Florida City

Clerks:

Roseann Prado – Indian Creek Vanessa Joseph – North Miami Andrise Bernard – North Miami Beach

Managers:

Mario Diaz – North Miami Beach Stan Morris – Sunny Isles Beach Asst. City Manager Kemarr Brown, Homestead Deputy Manager Scott David, North Miami Beach Deputy Manager Susan Simpson – Sunny Isles Beach

Judge:

Stephanie Silver – County Court

Police Chief:

Cherise Gause - North Miami

Miami-Dade County:

Melonie Burke – Mayor's office

Miami-Dade County Public Schools:

State Representative Fabian Basabe

New Associate Member:

Victoria Mendez, Esq.

Associate Members:

Kevin Crowder - Business Flare Lina Duque – Business Flare Carlos Penin – C.A.P Government, Inc. Jose Miranda- C.A.P Government, Inc. Carlos Del Pino- C.A.P Government, Inc. Paola Fajardo - Dade County Federal Credit Union Evelyn Valdes - Dade County Federal Credit Union Rosie Sotero – ESR, LLC Yolanda Aguilar – ESR, LLC Vivian Casals-Muñoz - Hialeah Park Bobby Williams - Hialeah Park Mac Alabre - Lien Library, Inc. Alex Auguste - Marcum LLP Evan Ross - Public Communicators Group Jason Neal - Waste Management Ethel Neal - Waste Management

For the next item on the agenda, **President Cunningham** introduced **MDCLC Board Member** and **Mayor John Taylor**, **Jr**., City of Opa-Locka and **Dr**. **Willie Logan** President & CEO, Ten North Group to come to the podium and provide us with information on the Florida Museum of Black History.

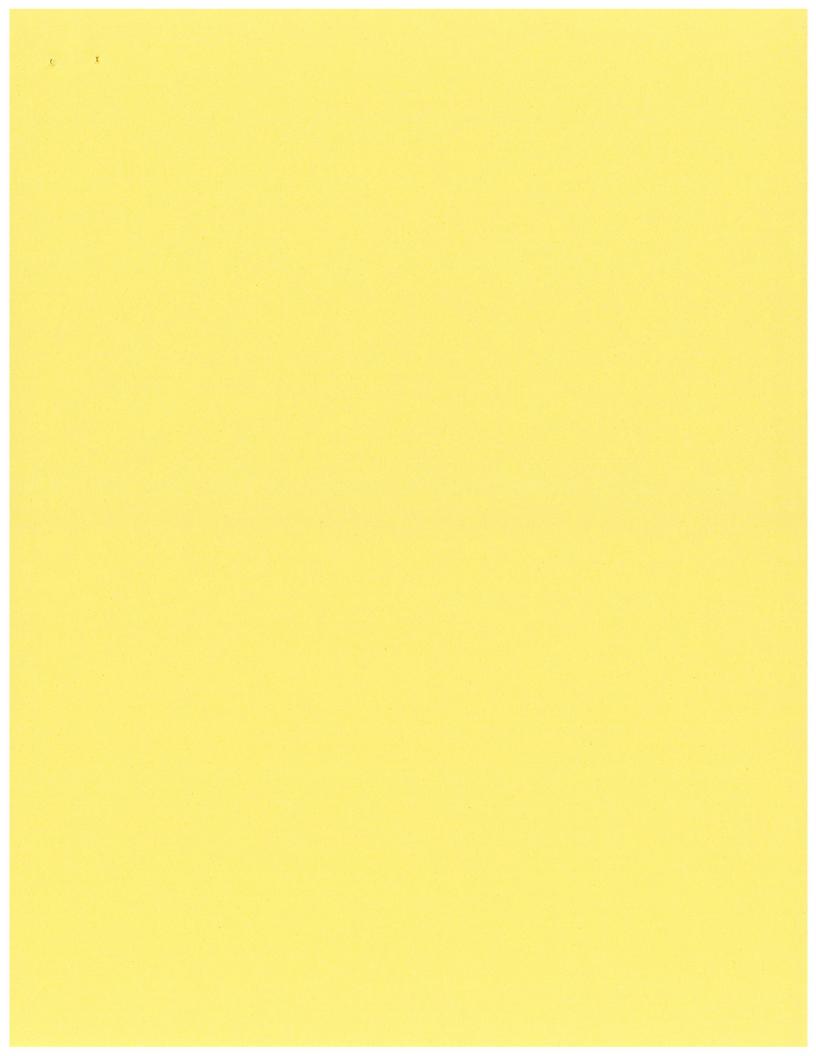
Mayor Taylor shared the City of Opa-Locka's enthusiasm on being the top three finalists being considered as the site for the Florida Museum of Black History and encouraged all elected officials to reach out to their legislators to support bringing this museum to Miami-Dade

County. He then acknowledged James Nickson of the Ten North Group, who has been working alongside him to make this vision a reality. Mr. Nickson thanked the League for the opportunity to present the idea at tonight's Board of Directors meeting. He then shared that the process, which began last year, is now moving closer to a decision and provided a visual presentation of the proposed museum location in Opa-Locka. The next steps in their process involve reaching out to legislators, provide letters of support, and rallying community support, as the museum would benefit not only Opa-Locka but also the South Florida at large. Mr. Nickson then thanked everyone for their attention.

This meeting's Associate Member Spotlight is Lien Library. **Mr. Mac Alabre**, CEO and Founder of Lien Library, was invited to the podium to present. He highlighted how Lien Library launched the first online platform in Miami-Dade County, simplifying the process for staff to submit property information like utility bills and permit details. Drawing from his own experience with the challenges of requesting documentation for property closings, **Mr. Alabre** was motivated, with the encouragement of his former boss, to develop Lien Library. Currently, the platform is in use by the City of Miami Gardens and the City of Hialeah Gardens and **Mr. Alabre** plans to expand to additional cities and universities in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Summarized minutes



Rapid Connect

FASTER, EASIER & WITH LESS DISRUPTION



Fast and reliable connectivity is not a privilege but a necessity in today's digital world. With a landmark \$65 billion federal investment in broadband, communities are increasingly expecting seamless, universal online access. However, the infrastructure projects necessary to facilitate this service can be time consuming and inconvenient – until now. Crown Castle's proprietary and patented Rapid Connect technology is a faster, more efficient way to build out our nation's networks and bring every community the connectivity it needs to succeed.

What Is Rapid Connect?

Rapid Connect is a better way to deploy fiber. Developed in partnership with **Corning** and **The D.S. Brown Company**, Rapid Connect is a new process of network expansion that uses a small moving crew and safety vehicles to simultaneously cut, place, and seal underground fiber. Specifically, Rapid Connect:

MEETS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF SAFETY USES A
SIMPLIFIED PROCESS

MINIMIZES DISRUPTION

BLENDS INTO THE EXISTING STREETSCAPE

Why Is Rapid Connect The Solution For Your Community

Rapid Connect Will...

Help Close the Digital Divide

Rapid Connect's quick and easy deployment allows the seamless expansion of network capabilities and makes universal connectivity a reality in less time, with less disruption to pedestrian and vehicle traffic, business operations, and more.

Meet Increasing Mobile Data Usage Demand

As connectivity demands surge, Rapid Connect is the faster and more effective solution to build networks that can keep pace with each community's growing needs.

Improve Safety

Underserved or unserved zones in neighborhoods, parks, and public transportation services create unsafe situations both for residents in need of public safety services and for first responders.

Improve Infrastructure Resiliency

Provide a fast and simple way to lay fiber underground, creating diverse and easily repairable paths compared to the traditional trenching processes

Rapid Connect Will Not...

Disrupt Traffic

Unlike traditional methods of network trenching, there is no need to plan for road, lane, or sidewalk closures during a rapid deployment.

Interfere With Utilities

Rapid Connect is deployed in the ground at shallow depths, which eliminates any risk of accidental utility strike.

Damage Streets

Immediate restoration means streets remain unchanged, avoiding the lengthy restoration times associated with traditional trenching.

Be Noisy

With a less invasive and disruptive installation process, Rapid Connect minimizes noise pollution during deployment.

Contribute to Environmental Waste

All waste produced in this process is fully recyclable.



Rapid Connect Deployment Case Study: Greece, New York



"Traditionally, network infrastructure projects are accompanied by disruptions, but our experience with Rapid Connect has transformed that narrative in this community, and significantly improved our town's connectivity. Notably, my office received zero complaints from residents during deployment, and our town streets were left completely unscathed. Crown Castle's exceptional coordination with our office, along with their innovative connectivity deployment process, led to an overwhelmingly positive successful project here in Greece."

Kirk A. Morris, Town of Greece Department of Public Works (DPW) Commissioner,
 Greece, New York

Greece Project Overview:



Deployment Details:

The Rapid Connect installation covered an extensive network, spanning 26 roads in the Town of Greece, with a total linear footage of 20,269 - representing 3.839 miles of installed infrastructure. This comprehensive coverage effectively addresses the connectivity needs of the community.



Deployment Process Length of Time:

The process commenced on July 11th of this year and was successfully completed in its entirety on September 14th. The speed and efficiency of the installation process have been key factors in the success of the project.



Minimal Disruption:

Commissioner Morris
highlighted a pivotal
factor in approving
Rapid deployment: the
commitment to minimal
disruption. True to this
promise, disruption during
the deployment was kept
to a minimum, ensuring
that traffic flowed
normally throughout the
process. This commitment
translated into a smooth
experience for both
residents and commuters.

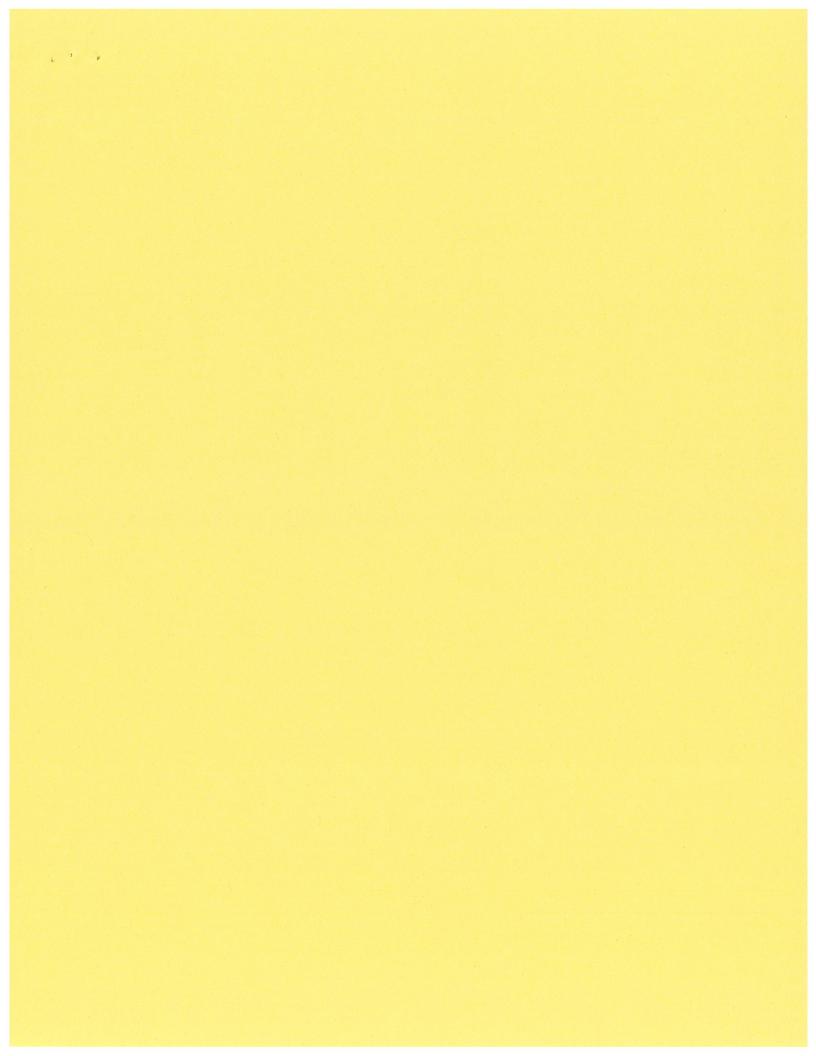


Crown Castles Partnership with Town of Greece:

Coordination between Crown Castle and municipal workers in Greece, New York, earned high praise from Commissioner Morris. An excellent example of this collaboration occurred when the project faced a unique challenge on a road undergoing repaving. Precise timing for Rapid deployment was essential, and it was seamlessly executed through consistent coordination between Crown Castle and the municipality's construction schedule.

CONNECT WITH CROWN CASTLE:

As a pioneer in middle-mile fiber deployment for over 25 years, Rapid Connect exemplifies Crown Castle's industry expertise and commitment to innovation. Beyond laying cables, Crown Castle forges the data highways that underpin entire networks, providing communities with high-speed, reliable connectivity access tailored to meet their unique needs.





Prosecution Staffing Crisis 2024-2025 Legislative Session

In recent years, the Florida Legislature and Governor took substantial steps to compensate for their predecessors' decades of neglect. I am sincerely grateful for their efforts, but our community remains at a "tipping" point and its safety is at risk. From 2021-2023, we lost 156 prosecutors. By the 2023/2024 fiscal year, we were up to 206 resignations. This averages out to a loss of 70 prosecutors per year. The legislature appropriates a starting salary of \$65,000 for Assistant State Attorneys. We simply cannot compete.

I. Threat to Public Safety and the Community

- a. Our inability to recruit, hire, and retain attorneys and staff threatens public safety. Because of attrition, regrettably many prosecutors are handling case volumes far in excess of their capabilities. Many of the prosecutors handling high-level cases, like attempted murder, rape, kidnapping, and armed robbery, have less than three years' experience and some of them have participated in only a handful of jury trials.
- b. Sadly, as a result, victims and their families must deal with a constant rotation of lawyers on their cases, forced to relive the trauma and victimization they endured each time, often giving up, and causing cases to be dropped and criminals freed.

II. Miami is One of the Most Expensive Cities in the United States

- a. Nearly 75% of law students graduate in debt and the average graduate owes \$160,000 in student loan debt. The median rent in Miami for a one-bedroom apartment was nearly \$3,000 in September 2024, 75% above the national average.
- b. Miami's affordable housing market is woefully inadequate and remains one of, if not the most expensive housing market in the country. Since FY 2020-2021 Miami's cost-of-living grew by 21%, but the living adjustments appropriated by the Legislature during that same time period amounted to only a 16% increase, a difference of 4.22%.
- c. From June 2023 to June 2024, the consumer price index (CPI) again rose 3.5% in the Miami, Fort-Lauderdale, West Palm Beach region, iv double the 1.8% increase in the Tampa region during approximately the same time.

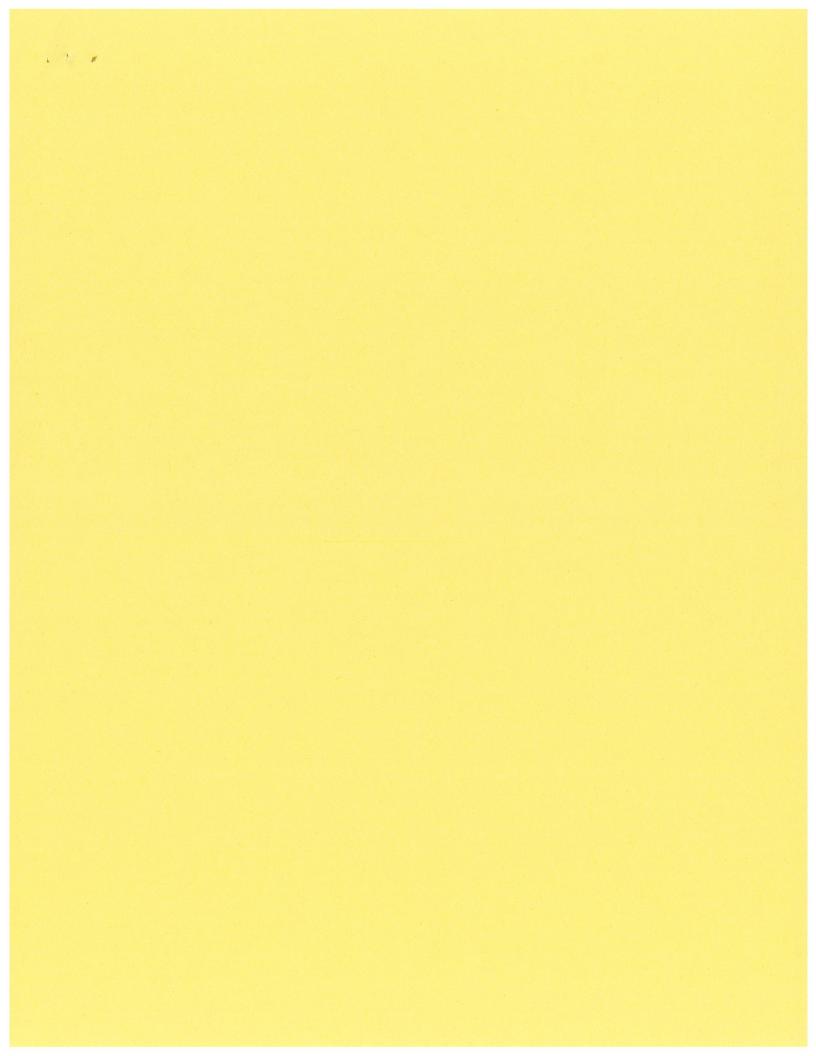
III. Salaries for Florida Prosecutors are Not Competitive in Miami-Dade County

- a. While I used vacancy money to raise our Legislatively funded starting salary, it remains in the bottom 25% paid to entry level attorneys in Miami. vi
- b. We pay significantly less than local agencies in Miami. The *lowest* paid attorney in our local County Attorney's Office earns nearly \$171,000 and the lowest paid attorney in the Office of Inspector General's Office earns \$123,000. Recently, a new ASA, *with just 6 months in our office*, resigned to go to Miami Beach City Attorney's Office for a \$20,000 increase.
- c. At the end of FY 2023-2024, 113 of our prosecution positions were unfilled (over 32%), making it nearly impossible to properly staff critical divisions like our Gun Violence, Public Corruption, Human Trafficking, Gang, Organized Crime, and Narcotics units.

Our community and its victims, our office, and our attorneys deserve better.

Solutionsvii: [Only in the Criminal Division]

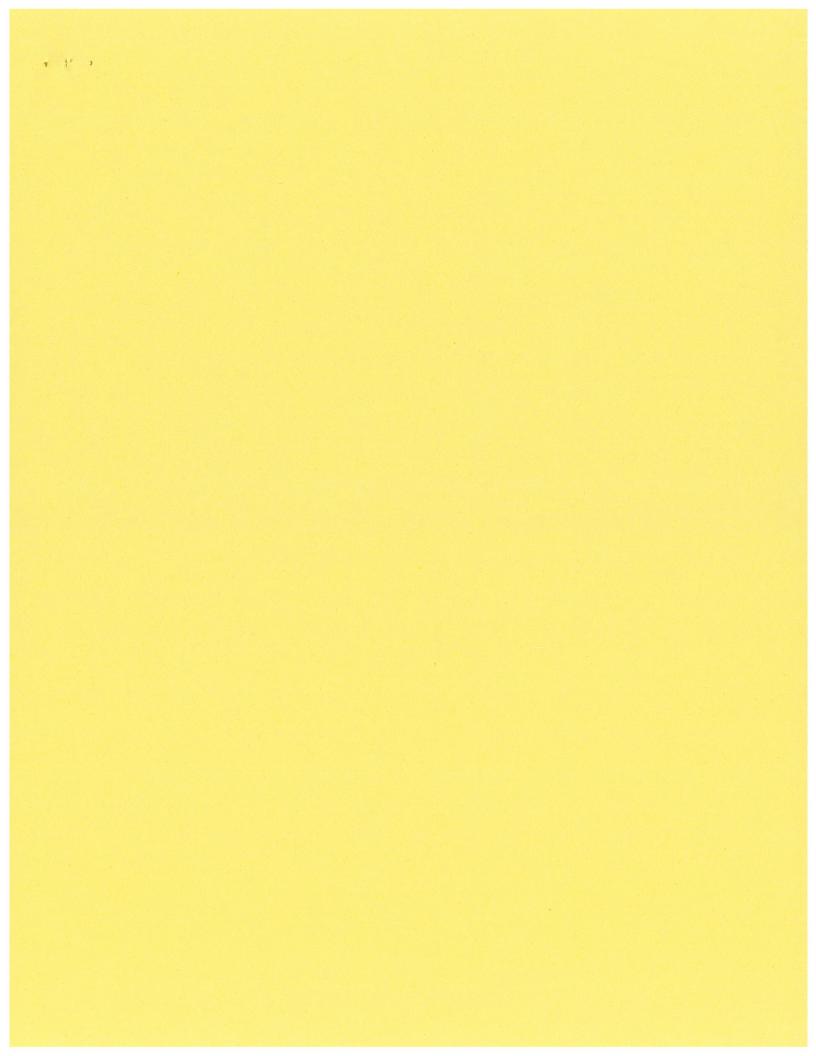
- a. Pursuant to the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) Cost Area Differential (CAD) table, law enforcement officers and legal assistances in other agencies receive CADs of \$5,000 and \$1,248, respectively, in Miami-Dade County. We request that the prosecutors and staff receive the same CADs as their counterparts in other law enforcement agencies. Total: SAO Dade \$3.3M
- b. We are requesting funds to raise the starting salaries of ASAs to \$85,000 and increase their pay floors to enhance hiring and retention. Total: SAO Dade \$7.3M

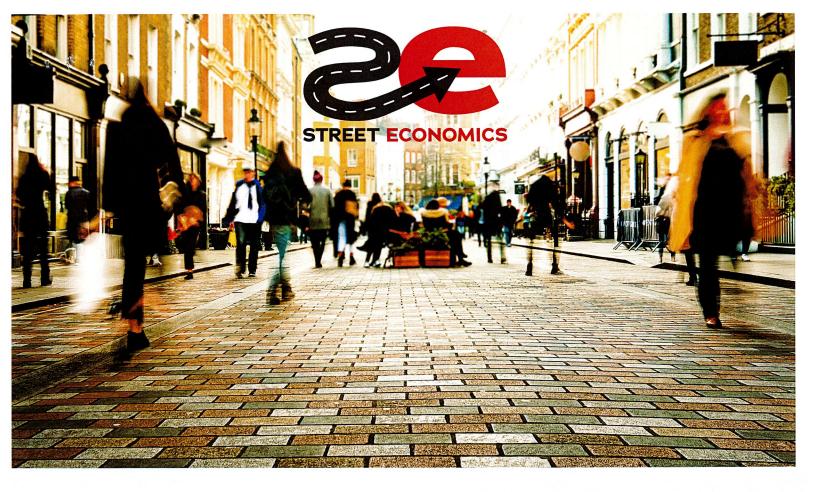












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We seamlessly integrate economic and market data in clear insights that demonstrate how these elements influence and affect your community.

Focused market and economic information that you need, when you need it. Let our experts walk you through the data and deliver valuable insights for your city.

An affordable, meaningful solutions that respects the limited resources of local governments, downtown organizations, and business improvement districts.





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Foot Traffic Insights

Workforce and Jobs

Market Potential

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We Design Economic Spaces for Everyone.

BusinessFlare® is an awesome collaborative enterprise that approaches economic design and redevelopment in a way that envisions each community's potential through a refreshing and unique experience based on authenticity, place brand, and feasibility.

At BusinessFlare® we have a full range of economic development and design services. Choose from one or more of our primary service areas, and don't hesitate to ask for anything custom. Every project and client is unique and receives tailor-made services.



Local Economic Development

Community Redevelopment



Market and Feasibility Analysis

Downtown Revitalization



Urban Design

Retail Reality Check



Real Estate Services

Economic and Fiscal Impact



Publishing Group

Live Music, Craft Beer, Markets



Aerial Photography





A Conversation With: C. GRIFFIN FOUNDER & CEO, CITADEL FOUNDER, CITADEL SECURITIES FOUNDER, GRIFFIN CATALYST Kenneth C. Griffin is the Founder and CEO of Citadel, one of the world's leading alternative investment firms, and the Founder and Non-Executive Chairman of Citadel Securities, one of the world's preeminent market makers.

In 1990, Ken founded Citadel on the belief that extraordinary individuals, equipped with advanced quantitative analytics and powerful software, could unlock opportunities in the world's capital markets. A commitment to continuous learning, problem-solving, and meritocracy defines the firm's culture.

In 2002, Ken and his partners established Citadel Securities as a market maker in the U.S. capital markets. Today, Citadel Securities is one of the world's largest liquidity providers, and is routinely recognized among the best places to work and is renowned for advancing the careers of its team members.

A passionate philanthropist, Ken has donated more than \$2 billion to advance education, opportunity, and health sciences initiatives that significantly transform people's lives. In 2023, he launched Griffin Catalyst to encompass his personal philanthropy and community impact efforts.

Miami Dade County League of Cities





REGISTER FOR THE **12TH ANNUAL BEST PRACTICES** CONFERENCE

December 16, 2024 - 8:00AM-5:00PM

THE BILTMORE HOTEL 1200 Anastasia Ave. Coral Gables, FL 33134

SCAN HERE



FOR MORE INFORMATION



