



*Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Inc.*

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 17, 2024**



***Welcome***



Richard Kuper, Esq.  
Executive Director

**O F F I C E R S**

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

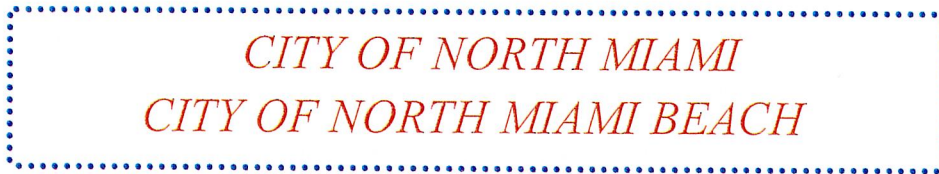
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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, Biscayne 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. Yioiset De La Cruz  
Mayor, Hialeah Gardens  
Hon. Steve Losner  
Mayor, Homestead  
Hon. Bernard Klepach  
Mayor, Indian Creek  
Hon. Jose I. Rasco  
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. Tanya 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 Stuyvesant  
Commissioner, Sunny Isles Beach  
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

# Board of Director's Meeting

**October 17, 2024**  
**Scott Galvin Community Center**  
**1600 NE 126th St,**  
**North Miami, FL 33181**

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



Immediate Past President

Hon. Rodney Harris  
Mayor, City of Miami Gardens

Past Presidents

Hon. Juan Carlos Bermudez  
Commissioner, Miami-Dade County  
Hon. Joseph Corradino  
Mayor, Village of Pinecrest  
Hon. Keon Hardemon  
Commissioner, Miami-Dade County  
Hon. Oliver Gilbert, III  
Chairman, Miami-Dade County  
Hon. Francis X. Suarez  
Mayor, Miami  
Hon. Isaac Salver  
Councilman, Town of Bay Harbor Islands  
Hon. Jay Chernoff  
Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach

## WELCOMING REMARKS

### 1. INVOCATION:

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

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

*Commander Rocio Torres,  
City of North Miami*

### 3. MINUTES: *September 12, 2024*

**4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Monthly Disbursement

**5. HOST CITY PRESENTATIONS:**

*Mayor **Alix Desulme**,  
City of North Miami*

*Mayor **Evan Piper**,  
City of North Miami Beach*

**6. BOARD MEMBERS OATH PRESENTATION:**

*President **Karyn Cunningham**,  
Mayor, Village of Palmetto Bay*

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

***Richard Kuper, Esq.***

**8. CITY OF OPA-LOCKA PRESENTATION REQUEST RE: FLORIDA MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY:**

*Board Member **John H. Taylor, Jr.**,  
Mayor, City of Opa-Locka*

***Dr. Willie Logan**  
President & CEO, Ten North Group*

**9. ASSOCIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

***Mr. Mac Alabre, Ph.D.**  
Founder & CEO,  
Lien Library*

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ❖ **Board of Directors Meeting:** *Thursday, November 7, 2024*  
Location: Coral Reef Yacht Club  
Time: 6:30 p.m. Reception / 7:30 p.m. Meeting
- ❖ **State & Local Ethics Training Course:** *Thursday, November 14, 2024*  
Location: City of Doral – City Hall  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Drive:** *November 2024*
- ❖ **Holiday Gathering:** *Thursday, December 12, 2024*  
Location: Thalatta Estate – Palmetto Bay
- ❖ **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Practices Conference:** *Monday, December 16, 2024*  
Location: Biltmore Hotel – Coral Gables  
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive:** *December 2024*  
Location: Jackson Holtz Children’s Hospital

## 11. ADJOURNMENT





#### 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  
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Mayor, West Miami

### Miami-Dade County League of Cities

2655 S Le Jeune Rd, Suite 1014  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
E-mail: [mdclc@bellsouth.net](mailto:mdclc@bellsouth.net)  
Telephone: 305-416-4155  
Fax: 305-416-4157

### Summarized Minutes

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron

**President Cunningham** called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She welcomed everyone in attendance and expressed her gratitude for being able to preside the meeting at the 70<sup>th</sup> President of the League.

**President Cunningham** introduced **Board Member and Chair Mari Tere Rojas**, Miami-Dade County School Board to conduct the invocation.

**President Cunningham** introduced Miami-Dade County **Clerk of the Courts, Juan Fernandez-Barquin** and Village of Palmetto Bay **Clerk, Missy Arocha** whom lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

As we are approaching the end of the year, President Cunningham welcomed **MDCLC Board Member, Vice Mayor Seth Salver**, of the accounting firm of Salver & Salver, Bal Harbour Village to present the MDCLC 2024-2025 proposed budget. He reviewed the line-item budget with the members. President Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the budget. The motion passed by unanimous voters.

**President Cunningham** thanked everyone who attended and sponsored the League's 70th Annual Gala Celebration. She then welcomed the following Board members, who were officially installed via Zoom on May 23, 2024, to present them with their Oath certificates, signed by **State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle**.

- Chair Mari Tere Rojas – Miami-Dade County School Board
- Commissioner Jay Chernoff – City of North Miami Beach
- Vice Mayor Tina Paul – Town of Surfside
- Mayor Jose “Pepe” Diaz – City of Sweetwater
- Councilman Richard Block – Village of Virginia Gardens

**Executive Director Richard Kuper** introduced **Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Court Juan Fernandez-Barquin**, who presented a proclamation on behalf of the Clerk’s office to President Cunningham. **Mr. Fernandez-Barquin** expressed his gratitude to **President Cunningham** for her dedication to the Village of Palmetto Bay, the League, and the community recognized her 35 years of service to the school system. He then announced that September 12th would be recognized as “Karyn Cunningham Day”. **President Cunningham** thanked **Mr. Fernandez-Barquin** for the honor and acknowledged him for all his work.

At each meeting, the League spotlights an Associate Member for their support and commitment to the organization. **President Cunningham** introduced **CEO Albert Sotero**, Emergency Sandbag Response (ESR), as the featured Associate Member for this meeting. **Mr. Sotero** spoke about the growing threat of flooding in our community. In response, ESR has developed a faster and more efficient method for filling sandbags to combat floods. Their system, which eliminates the need for strenuous labor and shovels, can fill a sandbag in just three seconds. Additionally, the system is mobile, allowing multiple units to be deployed simultaneously across different locations. While traditional methods may seem effective, ESR's solution is especially advantageous in the face of short-notice storms. They have already partnered with municipalities such as the City of West Miami, City of Miami Gardens, and City of North Miami. **Mr. Sotero** encouraged attendees to contact him if their city is interested in implementing this innovative approach.

**President Cunningham** introduced **Louis Fonseca**, Louis Fonseca Productions, inviting him to speak about the 3rd Annual Pig Roast Bowl Series – Benefiting the Love Fund. **Mr. Fonseca** began by expressing his gratitude to the League and **President Cunningham** for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He extended a personal invitation to all attendees to join this year’s Pig Roast Bowl Series, scheduled for November 16, 2024 from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The event, to be held at Miami-Dade County's Tropical Park, will honor fallen law enforcement officers, show appreciation to their families, and celebrate the contributions of first responders, law enforcement, and firefighters. With more than 100 teams and over 500 participants expected, the day promises to unite the community in a meaningful way. **Mr. Fonseca** also highlighted available sponsorship opportunities and welcomed attendees to bring their families to the event.

**President Cunningham** welcomed Executive Director, **Richard Kuper** to present his report. **Mr. Kuper** thanked everyone in attendance for being here tonight and introduced the following members:

**Re-elected without opposition:**

Mayor Omarr Nickerson, Village of El Portal

**Executive Board Members:**

President Karyn Cunningham, Village of Palmetto Bay

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

Treasurer Walter Thompson, Commissioner, City of Florida City

**Past Presidents:**

Past President Jay Chernoff

**Board Members:**

Vice Mayor Seth Salver – Bal Harbor Village

Vice Mayor Sharon Butler, Florida City

Chair Mari Tere Rojas – MDCPS

Commissioner Rachel Streitfeld – North Bay Village

Commissioner Jay Chernoff – North Miami Beach

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant - Sunny Isles Beach

Vice Mayor Tina Paul – Surfside

Mayor Jose “Pepe” Diaz – Sweetwater

Councilman Richard Block – Virginia Gardens

**Alternate:**

Commissioner Luciano Suarez – West Miami

**Clerks:**

Roseann Prado – Indian Creek Village

Missy Arocha – Village of Palmetto Bay

Annery Gonzalez – City of West Miami

**Managers:**

Zerry Ihekwaba – City of Homestead

Mario Diaz – City of North Miami Beach

Nick Marano – Village of Palmetto Bay

**Miami-Dade County:**

Clerk of the Courts Juan Fernandez-Barquin

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools:**

Chair Mari Tere Rojas

**New Associate Member:**

Evelyn Rodriguez - EAC Consulting

**Associate Members:**

Jose Miranda – C.A.P Government

Pedro Martinez – C.A.P Government



Monica De Castro – C.A.P Government  
Monique Casanova – C.A.P Government  
Thomas Cuesta - C.A.P Government  
Paola Fajardo – Dade County Federal Credit Union  
Evelyn Valdes – Dade County Federal Credit Union  
Albert Sotero – ESR, LLC  
Yolanda Aguilar – ESR, LLC  
Estefania Nunez Brady – ESR, LLC  
Claudia Uribe – Miami-Dade Fair & Expo  
Elisa Robles – First Bank  
Frank Lanza – First Bank  
Armando Fernandez - FPL  
Addys Kuryla – FPL  
Vivian Casals-Muñoz – Hialeah Park  
Mac Alabre – Lien Library, Inc.  
Gabriel Osceola - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians  
Shira Goldstein - Nicklaus Children’s Hospital  
Raphael Garcia - Ocean Bank  
Evan Ross - Public Communicators Group  
Christian Infante - SFM Services  
Jason Neal - Waste Management  
Ethel Neal - Waste Management

**Mr. Kuper** informed our attendees that the sponsorships for the League’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Practices Conference has shown lots of interest. This year the exhibition space will also be limited so he encouraged everyone who was interested in an exhibition space to stay in contact with the Leagues office. **Mr. Kuper** then ended the meeting by reminding the attendees of the League’s upcoming events:

- **MDCLC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2024**  
Time: 6:30 p.m. Reception / 7:30 p.m. Dinner meeting  
Location: Joe Celestin Center  
1525 NW 135th St.,  
Miami, FL 33167
- **MDCLC Board of Directors: Thursday, November 7, 2024**  
Time: 6:30 p.m. Reception / 7:30 p.m. Dinner meeting  
Location: Coral Reef Yacht Club  
2484 S Bayshore Dr.,  
Miami, FL 33133
- **State & Local Ethics Training Course: November 14, 2024**  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Location: City of Doral – Community Conference Room  
8401 NW 53 rd Terr  
Doral, FL 33166

- **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Drive: November 2024**
- **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive: December 2024**
- **December 12, 2024 - Holiday gathering in Palmetto Bay**
- **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Practices Conference: Monday, December 16, 2024**  
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Biltmore Hotel – Coral Gables  
Sponsorship Opportunities Enclosed

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

*Summarized minutes*





Alix Desulme, Ed.D.  
Mayor

Dear Members of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities,

On behalf of the City of North Miami, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome as the co-host of this month's board meeting alongside our neighbor City of North Miami Beach. Together, we stand as pillars of progress, resilience, and community in Miami-Dade County, working to uplift the lives of our residents through innovative governance and a shared vision for a brighter future. As one of the fastest-growing cities in our region, North Miami is committed to leading with purpose in several key areas, each aims at improving the quality of life for our residents and strengthening the bonds that unite us as a community.

In 2023, we made substantial advancements in public safety. Under the leadership of Police Chief Cherise Giordani Gause, the North Miami Police Department achieved a 16% reduction in violent crime while securing accreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Programs like the Guardian Program, which focuses on Missing Persons Tracking and Recovery, have further solidified our commitment to 21st-century policing, ensuring transparency and community engagement. We have also expanded the capabilities of our Neighborhood Services Department, with initiatives such as the illegal dumping "Dream Team", which has significantly reduced incidents of illegal dumping in our community. This effort has not only beautified our city but has led to considerable fiscal savings.

Moreover, we recognize that infrastructure is the backbone of any thriving city. Our Development Services Department spearheaded significant projects, including the approval of a 30-story residential tower at Sole Mia and numerous other development initiatives that are reshaping our urban landscape. Moreover, our Public Works Department successfully upgraded over 3 miles of water and sewer pipes and secured federal grants to implement Vision Zero, a plan that aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by creating safer streets. Also, the introduction of the Freebee electric vehicle transportation system has further enhanced mobility within North Miami, offering residents a sustainable, on-demand solution for getting around our city.

North Miami has also taken bold steps toward economic growth. Our Economic Development Division's NoMi Tech initiative is opening doors for underrepresented communities to thrive in the tech industry, and programs such as the Smart Biz E-Commerce Grant have empowered local businesses to succeed in the digital

**Office of the Mayor and Council**

776 NE 125 Street | North Miami | Florida | 33161

Office: 305.895.9815 Fax: 305.892.9899

E-mail: [adesulme@northmiamifl.gov](mailto:adesulme@northmiamifl.gov) Web: [www.northmiamifl.gov](http://www.northmiamifl.gov)



Alix Desulme, Ed.D.  
Mayor

marketplace. Financial stewardship remains a priority, with North Miami's Finance Department receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This underscores our commitment to fiscal transparency and accountability.

We continue to strengthen our social fabric through a range of services that prioritize the well-being of all residents. From youth programs like Leaders in Training and the Youth Opportunity Board Summer Internships to our Home Rehabilitation Program, which helped revitalize nearly 30 homes, our focus on fostering opportunity and empowerment is unwavering. In 2023, our Parks and Recreation Department enhanced community spaces, upgrading facilities like Claude Pepper Park and hosting over 42 special events that brought our residents together in celebration and unity.

Looking ahead, North Miami's vision is clear: to be a city where everyone can thrive. We are committed to sustainable urban development, innovative public services, and creating an inclusive environment that reflects the diversity of our city. Our Tree City status, which we have proudly held for over 30 years, symbolizes our ongoing dedication to environmental stewardship. We look forward to closing 2024 with many more accolades to report about our dynamic city!

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your partnership and collaboration. The strength of our region lies in our collective ability to share knowledge, resources, and ideas. Together, we will continue to build cities that are vibrant, prosperous, and welcoming to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alix Desulme".

Alix Desulme, Ed.D.  
Mayor

**Office of the Mayor and Council**

776 NE 125 Street | North Miami | Florida | 33161

Office: 305.895.9815 Fax: 305.892.9899

E-mail: [adesulme@northmiamifl.gov](mailto:adesulme@northmiamifl.gov) Web: [www.northmiamifl.gov](http://www.northmiamifl.gov)





## ***City of North Miami Beach, Florida***

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### **Mayor & Commission Office**

Dear Members of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities,

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the City of North Miami Beach as we co-host this month's board meeting alongside our neighbor, North Miami. As we approach North Miami Beach's centennial in 2026, we are proud to share the initiatives that are transforming our city and laying the foundation for the next century.

Leading our efforts is the Capital Improvement Program, designed to deliver long-lasting benefits that will enhance the quality of life for our entire community. We are revitalizing Washington Park Community Center and other beloved public spaces, enhancing recreational opportunities for our residents. These improvements are part of a broader strategy to modernize our city's infrastructure and make it more resilient to future challenges. Our stormwater management initiatives and sewer system upgrades ensure that we are prepared to handle the demands of a growing population while safeguarding our environment.

North Miami Beach is also taking bold steps in economic development, with a focus on fostering growth and supporting local businesses. Through our partnership with Florida International University, we are building an economic strategy rooted in data and tailored to the needs of our community. This effort is part of a larger vision to diversify our local economy and attract sustainable industries to the area.

Equally important is our commitment to fostering a strong and supportive community in North Miami Beach. We have expanded our youth programming, which provide young residents with valuable skills and leadership experiences. Meanwhile, our Home Rehabilitation Program has helped dozens of homeowners improve their properties, enhancing the overall vitality of our neighborhoods and strengthening community bonds.

Public safety is at the core of our vision for the future. With the recent grant from the Department of Justice's COPS Hiring Program, we are expanding the North Miami Beach Police Department's presence across the city. This allows us to place more officers on the streets, focusing on community policing, crime prevention, and traffic enforcement—critical efforts that will build trust and ensure the safety of all residents. Additionally, as part of our Vision Zero plan, we are committed to eliminating traffic-related fatalities and injuries by creating safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. As North Miami Beach continues to grow, the NMBPD remains dedicated to modernizing operations and fostering a safer, more connected community.

As we look toward our centennial in 2026, North Miami Beach remains focused on building a sustainable, inclusive, and innovative future. With every infrastructure upgrade, business support initiative, and community program, we are shaping a city that will thrive for the next 100 years.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Together, we are building a Miami-Dade County where every city and every resident can flourish.

Sincerely,



Evan Piper

Mayor





# Florida Museum of Black History

in Downtown Opa-locka

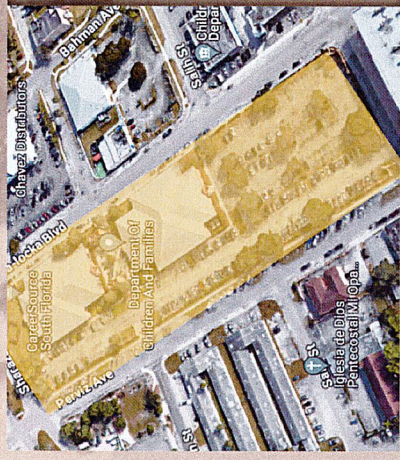
A strategic choice that puts Black history at the epicenter of South Florida, Opa-locka, one of America's most storied and uniquely designed cities, is on the horizon to become a world-class cultural destination.



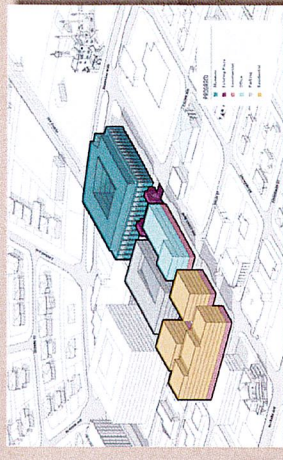
Conceptual 3-D rendering of the Florida Museum of Black History in downtown Opa-locka on the existing state-managed property

## About the City of Opa-locka

- Established on May 14, 1926, Miami-Dade's oldest municipality, a Florida Main Street community, and a transportation-oriented development (TOD)
- 4.2 square miles in size, population of 16,500+, connected to all major transportation systems, with a passenger station located directly in the heart of the city, with a direct connection to Miami
- Became the first city in northern Dade to racially integrate beginning in the 1960s, with today's population comprised majority Black and Latino residents and businesses
- Experiencing a transformative revitalization, with new housing developments and cultural experiences, such as the Opa-locka Heritage Trail, walking tours, and the annual event 'Art of Transformation'
- The first-ever Beautification & Maintenance Division established in 2023 to bolster aggressive landscaping and beautification initiatives



Existing state complex at the center of the city



Aerial schematic showing possible development outcomes

## Proposed Site & Surrounding

- Proposed location is a state-managed site located at 151 Perviz Avenue, across from the historic Opa-locka Historic City Hall, and at the center of the downtown district
- Existing structure built in the early 2000s boasts 46,770 square feet of space split between large structures and with a central connecting outdoor courtyard of striking Moorish design
- Downtown Opa-locka is within a short distance to several higher-education institutions, transportation hubs, and industrial complexes with large work forces, such as Amazon
- Select lots surrounding the site will be redeveloped to increase density and provide mixed-income, multi-family apartments, as well as new commercial spaces



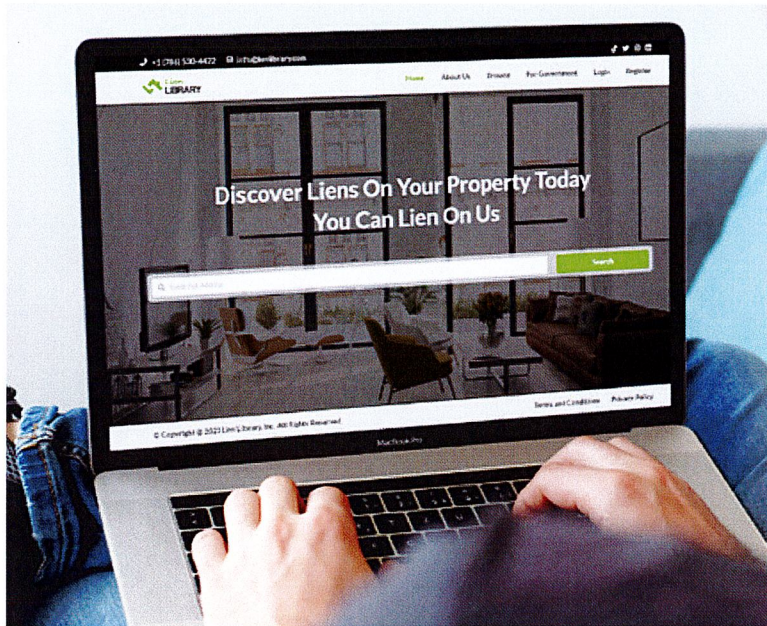


# Lien Library Inc.

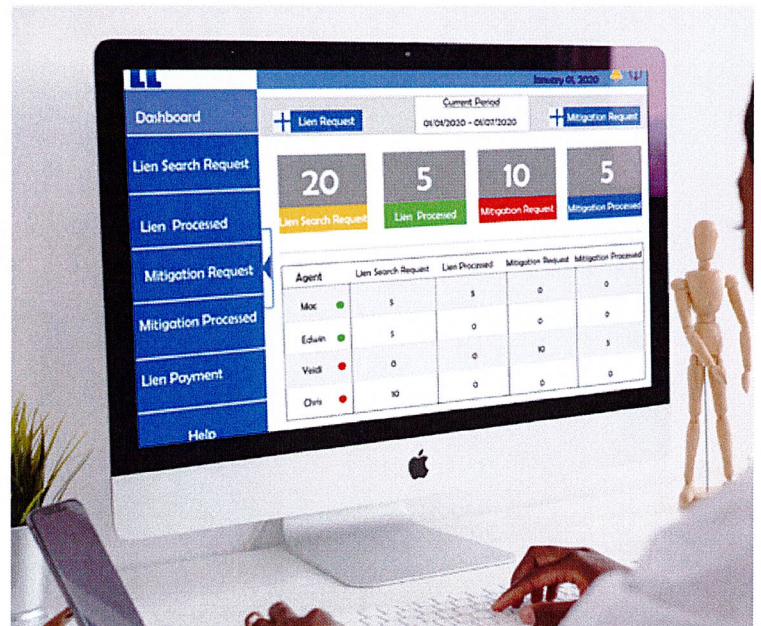
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## Streamlining Lien Request and Settlements in Miami Dade

A one-stop shop platform for homeowners and title companies to **request and settle property lien** (utility, code violation, permit) with the cities in Miami Dade County.



*User-friendly interface for homeowners*



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- Reduce Staff Workload
- Revenue Sharing Potential

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12TH ANNUAL  
*Best Practices Conference*  
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# 12TH ANNUAL BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE

## **SESSION SPONSORS:**

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## **EXHIBITORS TABLES:**

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ASPIRE FINANCIAL SERVICES  
C.A.P GOVERNMENT, INC  
CHEN MOORE AND ASSOCIATES  
CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS  
DADE COUNTY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
FIU  
FREEBEE  
JENOPTIK  
LIEN LIBRARY  
MIAMI ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS  
MIAMI PARKING AUTHORITY  
NICKLAUS CHILDRENS HOSPITAL  
SFM SERVICES  
THE CHILDREN'S TRUST  
THE CORRADINO GROUP  
VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY  
VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**



(305) 416-4155



[mdclc@bellsouth.net](mailto:mdclc@bellsouth.net)

12TH ANNUAL



**ADDITIONAL  
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
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\$3,000.00

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**Wi-Fi Sponsor**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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mdclc@bellsouth.net



# SCAN HERE

TO REGISTER FOR THE  
12TH ANNUAL  
BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE



THE BILTMORE HOTEL

1200 Anastasia Ave.  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M

**December 16, 2024**

FOR MORE INFORMATION



(305) 416-4155



mdclc@bellsouth.net