

## THE INSIDER

**CONVENTION HOTEL DELAY:** The next meetings of the panel assessing a Miami Beach Convention Center hotel have been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts and the city commission's summer break. Meetings scheduled for Aug. 1 and Aug. 15 have been canceled, according to an email from city officials. The committee is to meet next at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 29 in the city commission chambers at Miami Beach City Hall, 1700 Convention Center Drive. On the agenda would be results of a survey of Miami Beach residents on whether they favor or oppose building a hotel adjacent to the convention center. The panel hopes answers would help identify why a March ballot on the hotel failed, with only 54% voting in favor. A supermajority of 60% was needed to proceed.

**RIVERFRONT PLAT OK'D:** A resolution accepting the final plat of RIVERLANDING, along the southwest side of Northwest North River Drive at Northwest 13th Terrace, has won Miami City Commission approval. The plat was presented by River Landing Development LLC, executed by **Andrew B. Hellingner**. The Plat and Street Committee determined the plat conforms to subdivision regulations and Miami 21 zoning. The intent of the plat is to close the right of way of Northwest 15th Avenue within the platted area to create one contiguous tract to build a multi-use development. The platted 2,377 acres are only part of the total development. River Landing Shops and Residences is an 8.14-acre project at 1480 NW North River Drive on the Miami River. It's to include about 430,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, 475 market-rate apartments in two towers, and parking for 2,200 vehicles. It will also include a new riverfront park.

**KEEP REGALADO ON HOMELESS TRUST:** The county's Economic Prosperity Committee unanimously voted to reappoint City of Miami Mayor **Tomás Regalado** to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Board by waiving term limits. Two-thirds of the full commission must vote for his reappointment before approval is final. The resolution to reappoint him, sponsored by committee Chairman **Xavier Suarez**, states as the mayor of the City of Miami his dedication, service and government experience have significantly contributed to Miami-Dade County. Mr. Regalado has served with distinction as a member of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust since 2004, it says, and on the executive committee for 10 years. "Data shows that a large concentration of homelessness in Miami-Dade County is within City of Miami limits and Tomás Regalado's continued service ensures the representation of the City of Miami [on the board] and the effective operation of homeless programs within the city."

**SMALL CLAIMS COURT CLINIC:** The Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Office of Consumer Protection, will host a free Small Claims Court clinic at noon Aug. 4 in the John D. Campbell Agricultural Center auditorium, 18710 SW 288th St. in Homestead. The clinic will provide hands-on instruction, including a Q&A session, on how to file a claim in the county's Small Claims Court. Small Claims Court is used for addressing disputes involving \$5,000 or less without having to hire an attorney. The clinic will be led by Consumer Advocate **Holly Beth Billington**. Details: (786) 469-2333.

**TEXT TO 911 TECHNOLOGY:** Tragedies like the mass shooting at a nightclub in Orlando led Miami Commissioner **Frank Carollo** to call for a study of creating text-to-911 technology for City of Miami public safety answering points. On July 14, the city commission unanimously directed the City Manager's Office to investigate creation of a function to allow 911 emergency dispatchers to receive text messages from those in emergencies if a voice call to 911 might be dangerous or impossible. The resolution says recent tragedies have led to the need for alternative methods of emergency communication. Since May 2014, the four largest wireless carriers — AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon — have adopted measures to make texting to 911 possible where 911 call centers have been prepared to receive texts, the legislation says.

**LINK AT DOUGLAS GETS GREEN LIGHT:** County commissioners approved a 30-year ground lease last week with Adler 13th Floor Douglas Station LP for construction of a mixed-use, transit-oriented project at the Douglas Road Metrorail Station. The joint venture between 13th Floor Investments and Adler Group, called Link at Douglas Station, will include about 970 residential units with a workforce housing piece, 70,000 square feet of retail, a hotel and a public plaza. County officials estimated Link will bring \$464 million over the 30 years to the Department of Transportation and Public Works. The project, to rise in four phases, will be on seven acres bordered by US 1, Southwest 27th and 38th avenues and Peacock Avenue. The site now houses the Metrorail station, the county Water & Sewer Department, surface parking and green space. Under the lease, the developers must spend \$15 million on station improvements. They will also donate \$600,000 to The Underline, the 10-mile linear park below the Metrorail.

**ZIP FOR MIAMI LAKES?:** A proposed act in Congress dealing with postal reform would create a separate postal ZIP Code for the Town of Miami Lakes by September 2017. **Manny Cid**, a Miami Lakes councilman who has worked with US Rep. **Mario Diaz-Balart** to get the special code, says "an independent Miami Lakes ZIP Code will help reduce our residents' auto insurance premiums, and assist with the economic development and branding" of the town. The US has about 43,000 ZIP Codes, a number that fluctuates monthly as changes are made. The postal codes have been used by the US Postal Service since 1963.

**COLOMBIANS HUNT MIAMI HOMES:** Colombians have led residents of all nations abroad every month for the past six months in searching for South Florida real estate, according to the Miami Association of Realtors. Colombians ended up buying the third-most Miami real estate among foreign countries last year, 10% of the total purchased from abroad, the association said, with a \$516,000 average purchase price last year.

# Building vital South Florida talent

## Turning \$46 million investment into \$1.3 billion in salaries

By CAMILA CEPERO

At last week's One Community One Goal Annual Report to the Community, CareerSource South Florida proved to be a shining example of work being accomplished by the community-wide initiative led by the Beacon Council.

"Our job is to build talent... our role here is [to] build talent to meet the needs of this community... to enhance the services in this community [for] veterans, ex-offenders, disadvantaged youth," said CareerSource South Florida Executive Director **Rick Beasley**.

CareerSource South Florida is a public-private partnership that established federal and state funded workforce development and training policies for the Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. "For every dollar we spend, we want to make sure that we get a good return on investment," Mr. Beasley said.

"In the South Florida workforce region, the unemployment rate was 5.2% in May 2016," said the organization's annual report, which was projected on a screen behind Mr. Beasley at the University of Miami's Donna Shalala Student Center.

"Out of a labor force of 1,358,611 there were 71,110 unemployed residents in the region," the report said. "Total nonagricultural employment was 1,143,500 — an increase of 20,100 jobs, or 1.8% over the year."

"Workforce development is an economic development engine," Mr. Beasley said. "It is not social security — it is economic development."

According to the organization, key industries with job growth in January included:

- Mining, Logging, and Construction — 6,800 jobs
- Financial Activities — 3,300 jobs
- Professional & Business Services — 2,900 jobs
- Leisure & Hospitality — 2,900 jobs
- Trade, Transportation & Utilities — 2,600
- Education & Health Services — 2,300 jobs
- Other Services — 900 jobs

"We invested \$46 million in this community," Mr. Beasley said. "We're going to generate \$1.3 billion worth of salaries back into our community by getting people back to work."

More specifically, between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, the organization saw a net economic impact of \$1,330,827,473 — a 15.3% increase over the previous year's \$1,154,068,051. By the end of the fourth quarter, 64,006 job seekers had been placed into employment — a 12.2% increase over the previous year's 57,061.

In 2012-2013, the cost per placement was \$811, with 2014-2015 at \$596 being the first year to hit below the \$627 target, and 2015-2016 coming in at \$382 per placement.

For every \$1 spent, the region received \$54.42 return on in-



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

CareerSource plays role in One Community One Goal: Rick Beasley.

vestment, an increase of \$19.91 compared to the previous year's, the report said. This year's average hourly wage for placed job seekers was \$10.18.

"To enhance talent development for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties," the report said, "the South Florida Workforce Investment Board launched:"

- TechHire Initiative
- Employ Miami-Dade
- Ready To Work
- National Flight Academy
- Take Stock in Children

"This workforce board invested \$250,000 in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters to launch TechHire," Mr. Beasley said, speaking about the communitywide effort that he will co-chair with Arnie Girnun, with leadership from Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

On March 9, the White House designated Miami-Dade County as a TechHire community after an application submission by CareerSource South Florida. According to CareerSource, the TechHire initiative has the goal of empowering Americans with the skills they need by rapidly training workers for well-paying jobs, often in just a few months.

On December 15, 2014, Employ Miami-Dade was launched in partnership with Mayor Gimenez, with the intent to strengthen the economic development of the community by educating and providing employment to unemployed residents. Moreover, the project focuses on the targeted industry sectors of the One Community One Goal strategic plan.

"We started off in construction but now we're going into every aspect of the targeted industries," Mr. Beasley said.

The Ready To Work employment initiative provides funds to support employment and training for adults ages 18-24. The program is designed to provide them with work experience through subsidized employment opportunities and work readiness skills training.

"It focuses on the population of youth who have not gone to college. That may not be the direction for them, so we launched Ready To Work to get them the work experience to meet the needs of employers so that they're not left out of these opportunities growing here in Miami-Dade County," Mr. Beasley said.

The National Flight Academy introduces students from Mi-

ami-Dade and Monroe counties to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) occupations through aviation.

"The National Flight Academy aligns everything in terms of aviation... We're using aviation to help grow the community by building a pipeline so our talent supply can grow companies and also attract companies to our community," Mr. Beasley said.

The Take Stock in Children scholarship program works with economically disadvantaged youth and their families. Upon selection, students and parents sign contracts agreeing to fulfill specific performance standards and meet with their mentors once a week. The program's main mission is to keep youth in school and offer college (or vocational) scholarships to youth who successfully complete the program and graduate from high school.

"Our board has approved a \$1 million investment to buy 2+2 scholarships for the youth in our community to go to college. Two years in college, two years in university — their education is taken care of," Mr. Beasley said.

"If you're not excited about what's going on here in Dade County, I believe you might as well go to New York or California," he said. "But Miami-Dade County has the roadmap, under One Community One Goal, to build this community so that it is a place to grow, it is a place to have fun, live, and grow a family."



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