

**CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2012**

(A) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The City Council for the City of Miami Gardens, Florida, met in regular session, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, beginning at 7:09 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 1515 NW 167th Street, Building 5, Suite 200, Miami Gardens, Florida.

The following members of the City Council were present: Mayor Oliver Gilbert, Vice Mayor Lisa C. Davis and Council members Lillie Q. Odom, Rodney Harris, Felicia Robinson, David Williams Jr., and Erhabor Ighodaro.

Also in attendance were: City Manager Dr. Danny O. Crew, City Attorney Sonja K. Dickens and City Clerk Ronetta Taylor.

(B) INVOCATION

Mayor Gilbert delivered the Invocation.

(C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

(D) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular City Council Minutes - October 10, 2012

Motion offered by Councilman Williams, seconded by Vice Mayor Davis to approve minutes, with necessary corrections, if any. This motion passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Regular City Council Minutes – October 24 2012

Motion offered by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Odom to approve minutes, with necessary corrections, if any. This motion passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Regular City Council Minutes – November 14, 2012

Motion offered by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Odom to approve minutes, with necessary corrections, if any. This motion passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

(E) ORDER OF BUSINESS (Items to be pulled from Consent Agenda at this time)

The official agenda was amended to add the following items: F-5) Presentation – Certificate of Appreciation; F-6) Employee Recognition; and F-7) State Representative Barbara Watson and Cynthia Stafford.

Mayor Gilbert asked that Items L-1 and L-2 be moved forward on the agenda to be heard prior to the second reading of the ordinance.

Councilman Ighodaro deferred Item L-2 to the January 9, 2013, City Council Meeting.

Councilman Williams pulled Items K-2; K-8; and K-9 from the Consent Agenda.

Motion offered by Vice Mayor Davis, seconded by Councilman Williams to approve the official agenda with the necessary additions/deletions. This motion passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

(F) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (5 minutes each)

F-1) Vice Mayor Lisa C. Davis – Miami Charmettes, Inc.

Representatives from Miami Charmettes, Inc., appeared before the City Council to present Vice Mayor Davis with a plaque for her outstanding community service.

F-2) Elderly Affairs Quarterly Report

Ms. Flora Johnson, Chair of the Elderly Affairs appeared before the City Council to provide a quarterly report and to thank everyone who supported the Elderly Affairs Intergenerational Fashion Show.

F-3) Presentation – Office of the City Clerk

The City Clerk presented Councilwoman Odom with a Certificate of Completion from the International Institute for Elected Officials.

F-4) City Hall Complex Update

Skanska representative appeared before the City Council to provide a report for the month of November 2012. One of the highlights for the month was Safety Week 2012, which included a Miami Carol City High School site visit. Skanska also participated in the Scott Lake Elementary School Botanical Garden project.

F-5) Presentation – Certificate of Appreciation

Councilman David Williams Jr., presented Certificates of Special Recognition to the Coleman sisters. This group of relatives has been instrumental in providing back to school supplies to the students at Scott Lake Elementary School. He also presented Certificates of Special Recognition to Michael Collie and Mariana Pitiriciu for given up their week-ends to assist with the planting of the Botanical Garden at Scott Lake Elementary School.

F-6) Employee Recognition

Manager Crew recognized employees from the Parks and Recreation Department.

F-7) State Representative Barbara Watson and Cynthia Stafford

State Representatives Watson and Stafford appeared before the City Council to provide a brief report on the upcoming Legislative Session and the committees they both have been selected to serve on in Tallahassee.

(G) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ray Paul, appeared before the City Council to introduce a youth program provided by his organization. This organization partners with local businesses to provide a learning environment for the students. The program creates a network with the businesses within the community.

Sharon Frazier Stephens, 145 NE 193rd Street, Miami, Florida, appeared before the City Council to express the importance of the citizens and representatives from the Miami Gardens Police Department creating an amicable dialogue.

Denise White, 1210 NW 179th Terrace, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to congratulate the recently elected and appointed Council members. She further asked the Council to host a Town Hall meeting to invite Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to get clarity on the 826 project, which is now in progress.

Mayor Gilbert shared that he has been in discussions with FDOT for a couple of months, now. This project not only affects the residents, it also affects the business people. A Town Hall meeting is being worked on.

Crespe aka Broadway, 2550 NW 205th Street, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to share that he would be traveling to Washington, D.C. to speak with President Obama.

Marilyn Scott appeared before the City Council to provide a report of the Job Fair held, November 19th, in conjunction with the local church and Councilman Ighodaro. There were over 200 job seekers, with approximately 70% of those being hired. Brandsmart interviewed ten job seekers and hired eight of those. Another job fair is scheduled for March 2013.

Councilman Ighodaro shared that he attended this job fair and from his perspective, when it comes to crime prevention, this job fair is the type of activity we should be focusing on.

Josie Cardino, of Hialeah, Florida, appeared before the City Council and shared that she is a partner of a recycling company within the corporate boundaries of the City of Miami Gardens. She said her company would be willing to partner with faith based organizations as well as schools, as it related to recycling.

Patricia Lightfoot, 2750 NW 172nd Terrace, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to thank the Council. She further stated that the City of Miami Gardens has the best staff in the State of Florida. She further stated there are new Council members who might stumble, just be mindful that the foundation is there for you.

(H) ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING:

None

(I) ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-15-288

- I-1) AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY'S BUDGET FOR THE 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL READING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY'S CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER) (1st and 2nd Reading – November 14, 2012)

Mayor Gilbert opened the floor for this public hearing. After there were no interested parties to speak on this item, the public hearing closed.

Motion offered by Vice Mayor Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Odom to adopt this item.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a 7-0 vote.

Councilman Ighodaro:	Yes
Councilwoman Odom:	Yes
Councilwoman Robinson:	Yes
Councilman Williams:	Yes
Vice Mayor Davis:	Yes
Councilman Harris:	Yes
Mayor Gilbert:	Yes

(J) RESOLUTION(S)/PUBLIC HEARING(S)

None

(K) CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-191-1786

- K-1) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, REJECTING ALL BIDS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO ITB NO. 12-13-005 FOR RETROFITTING OF POLICE VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-192-1787

- K-3) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST RESPECTIVELY, THAT CERTAIN LOBBYIST UNDERTAKING AGREEMENT WITH YOLANDA CASH JACKSON OF BECKER & POLIAKOFF, P.A., IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$60,000.00) A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A"; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY MAYOR OLIVER GILBERT)

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-193-1788

- K-4) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ANY AND ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE USE OF THE BETTY T. FERGUSON RECREATIONAL CENTER AS A FREE TAX PREPARATION SITE; AUTHORIZING A CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO RECRUIT VOLUNTARY TAX PREPARERS, AND AUTHORIZING THE PROMOTION OF THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY MAYOR OLIVER GILBERT)

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-194-1789

- K-5) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT TEXTING WHILE DRIVING; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY VICE MAYOR LISA C. DAVIS)

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-195-1790

- K-6) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, CANCELLING THE JANUARY 2, 2013 ZONING MEETING; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-196-1791

- K-7) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF

MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, RATIFYING THE ELECTION RESULTS OF THE RUN-OFF ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A COUNCIL MEMBER FOR RESIDENTIAL SEAT 3; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY CLERK)

Motion offered by Councilwoman Odom, seconded by Councilman Williams to adopt the Consent Agenda.

There being no discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

(L) RESOLUTION(S):

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-196-1791

K-2) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, CREATING A MEMORIAL TREE AND BENCH PROGRAM IN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

Councilman Williams stated this is a great program and applauded staff for bringing forth this item. He asked about the \$250.00 fee for the tree.

Tom Ruiz, Public Works Director appeared before the City Council in response to Councilman Williams' inquiry. He said the \$250.00 fee is what would be charged for the specs of trees listed.

Councilman Williams asked if this would be the standard price.

Mr. Ruiz said the price of the tree goes up; the city would have to change the fee.

Councilman Williams asked about the bench fee.

Mr. Ruiz said the fee is based on the standard cost at present.

Motion offered by Councilman Williams, seconded by Vice Mayor Davis to adopt this item.

There being no discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the Council members.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-198-1793

- K-8) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$51,600.00) TO GL DISTRIBUTORS, INC., IN RELIANCE UPON THAT CERTAIN STATE OF FLORIDA CONTRACT 680-850-11-1 FOR THE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT BODY ARMOR; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)**

Councilman Williams asked whether there was a lifespan involved with the body armor.

Manager Crew in response to Councilman Williams' inquiry said studies have found that other countries used the body armor longer than five years. However, the five year period is the recommended timeframe to have them replaced.

Councilman Williams asked if the lifespan is five years, why is the city no replacing them at 4 or 4.5 years.

Motion offered by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Odom, and Councilman Harris to adopt this item.

There being no discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the Council members.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-199-1794

- K-9) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY'S REVENUE MANUAL TO ESTABLISH ANNUAL FEES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF LIVE REMOTE BROADCAST PERMITS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)**

Councilman Williams said he had pulled the item because of the backup documentation provided.

Staff determined that the backup documentation referred to by Councilman Williams was inadvertently placed with this item, and had no relevance.

There being no discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the Council members.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-190-1785

- L-1) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CO-DESIGNATE NW 175TH STREET FROM NW 27TH AVENUE TO NW 12TH AVENUE, REVEREND G. DAVID HORTON BOULEVARD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY COUNCILWOMAN LILLIE Q. ODOM)**

Joyce Jones, 670 NW 199th Street, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to request approve of the above reference resolution. She spoke about all of the positive things Reverend G. David Horton has done in the community. Reverend Dr. Horton has been the spiritual leader of Greater New Bethel Missionary Church for the past 33 years. Dr. Horton is a man of honor.

Vice Mayor Davis said that she respects Reverend Horton however she expressed concern that if this is done for one pastor, would the same be done for other pastors. She shared that she too has an excellent pastor and spiritual leader.

Ms. Jones in response to Vice Mayor Davis' concern said that she would ask that the Council look at the qualifications of each applicant and how positively that pastor has impacted that community.

Vice Mayor Davis said what she did not want to see the Council gets inundated with co-designation request from churches.

Mayor Gilbert reiterated the Council will not be entertaining everyone who requests that their pastor has a street co-designated. He further shared this vote is like no other vote the Council takes because it has to be unanimous.

Eloise Jackson, 20881 NW 22nd Court, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council and expressed that she strongly support this request because Reverend Dr. G. David Horton has labored and kept the Word and doctrine for our Lord and Savior. He has contributed much to the church and community, and is deserving. She shared that Reverend Dr. G. David Horton was instrumental in the growth of the North Dade Federal Credit Union when it first organized by allowing it to be housed at Greater New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. She urged the Council to consider this co-designation request.

Elbert Waters, 8264 NW 196th Terrace, Miami, Florida, appeared before the City Council and shared with the Council a letter that received from His House, in support of this co-designation request.

Mayor Gilbert stated that he was supporting this item. He shared he has known Reverend Dr. G. David Horton all of his life and has first-hand knowledge of how he impacted this community.

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Ronnie Wallace, 1411 NW 46th Avenue, Lauderdale, Florida, appeared before the City Council and shared that she grew up and was married in the old Greater New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, but as a resident she disagreed with having streets named after people.

Janice Coakley, 19681 NW 33rd Avenue, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council in opposition to this request. She suggested giving a Key to the City or a plaque instead. She further shared that she volunteers in the community by giving her time and money to worthwhile causes, and considers herself an Icon. She opined as a taxpayer we could find better things to be concerned about such as increasing the economic tax base and lowering property taxes instead of raising them. She said she has nothing against Reverend G. David Horton.

Ulysses Harvard, 15800 NW 17th Place, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council and opined the City does not have criteria for naming a street after an individual. He said that he can see the flood gates opening.

Motion offered by Councilwoman Odom, seconded by Councilman Harris to adopt this item.

Councilman Williams referenced the Street Naming/Co-designation Provision in the City's Code and shared that the co-designation should not exceed five (5) blocks.

Attorney Dickens in response to Councilman Williams' inquiry said this item was brought to the City under Miami-Dade County's ordinance. Miami-Dade County is simply asking the City if it will agree. She reiterated this is not re-designating a city street.

Mayor Gilbert, expounded by sharing Miami-Dade County has rules for county owned roads. What the city is saying to Miami-Dade County is that it is okay with the request.

Councilman Williams inquired about cost to the city.

Mayor Gilbert in response to Councilman Williams' inquiry said there is no cost to the city for this item. He shared there are federal, state, county, and city owned roads. If the city re-names a city road, it will have to pay. There is an item on the agenda co-designating a city-owned road therefore there is a cost associated with that request.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if the city is not in agreement would Miami-Dade County still process the request.

Mayor Gilbert in response to Councilwoman Robinson's inquiry said if the City did not agree, Miami-Dade County would not honor the request. That is their policy; they could decide to do it, because it is a county road.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a 7-0 vote.

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Vice Mayor Davis:	Yes
Councilman Harris:	Yes
Councilman Ighodaro:	Yes
Councilwoman Odom:	Yes
Councilwoman Robinson:	Yes
Councilman Williams:	Yes
Mayor Gilbert:	Yes

- L-2) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, CO-DESIGNATING 7TH AVENUE NORTH FROM 199TH STREET TO THE 826/PALMETTO AS MARCUS AND AMY GARVEY BLVD.; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN ERHABOR IGHODARO)**

Councilman Ighodaro pulled this item to the January 9, 2013 City Council Meeting.

- L-3) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF FLORIDA CO-DESIGNATE 441 FROM NW 215TH STREET TO THE 826/PALMETTO AS BARACK AND MICHELLE OBAMA BLVD.; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE COUNCILMAN ERHABOR IGHODARO)**

Councilman Ighodaro shared in doing his research he discovered this is not a novice idea. There are cities all across Florida and the United States co-designating streets after President Barack Obama. There is no street named after the President and First Lady anywhere in the United States. He asked for the Council's support.

Motion offered by Councilman Ighodaro, seconded by Mayor Gilbert to adopt this item.

Councilman Williams asked how many designations are associated with 441 now.

Manager Crew in response to Councilman Williams' inquiry said there is NW 2nd Avenue, SR 7 and 441.

Councilman Williams commented this road would now have four designations, if the city passed this item.

Mayor Gilbert clarified this is just a recommendation to the Florida Legislatures.

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At the conclusion of this discussion, a motion was offered by Councilman Ighodaro, seconded by Mayor Gilbert to adopt this item.

At the end of this discussion, the motion to adopt this item **failed** by a 5-2 vote.

Councilman Harris:	No
Councilman Ighodaro:	Yes
Councilwoman Odom:	Yes
Councilwoman Robinson:	Yes
Councilman Williams:	No
Vice Mayor Davis:	Yes
Mayor Gilbert:	Yes

Mayor Gilbert stated that he did not want the Miami Herald to print that Miami Gardens refused to name a road after President Barack Obama.

Councilman Williams stated that he did not have a problem with the name but did not want a street that already has three designations.

Councilman Harris stated that this is the reason why he too voted no for the item.

Councilman Ighodaro said he was not set on a particular street. He asked whether the item could be brought back with an acceptable alternative.

Councilman Williams said if the item is brought back with a street that does not already have three designations; he will not have a problem.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-200-1795

- L-4) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND THE CITY ATTORNEY TO TAKE ANY AND ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO TERMINATE THE DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT WITH RUDD-THE COMMONS, LLC AND TO PROCEED WITH FORECLOSURE ON THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF N.W. 27TH AVENUE, JUST NORTH OF 207TH STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)**

Daniel Rosemond, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director appeared before the City Council and recounted, the council approved awarding funds to this particular developer to construct senior housing. There was a developer's agreement with several benchmarks and timelines. Those timelines have not been met. At this time, staff has asked that

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those funds be returned to the City. The developer has not complied with the city's request.

Motion offered by Councilman Williams, seconded by Vice Mayor Davis to adopt this item.

Mayor Gilbert stated NSP3 dollars were used; there is a timeline on spending those funds. This is not one of those things that can be delayed and negotiated for a long period of time.

Mr. Rosemond said the expenditure deadline has already been met. The issue is the delivery of the actual project. At this late date there is no way they will meet the delivery deadline.

Mayor Gilbert asked how much money was involved.

Mr. Rosemond in response to Mayor Gilbert's inquiry said 1.15 Million.

Mayor Gilbert clarified that the funds will have to be spent in this particular geographical area, and not all over the city.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the Council members.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-201-1796

L-5) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN ERHABOR IGHODARO)

Motion offered by Mayor Gilbert, seconded by Vice Mayor Davis to adopt this item.

Councilman Ighodaro shared that in 2013, the City will celebrate a decade as an all American city. He opined the 2013 theme for Black History Month is at a crossroads for freedom and equality.

Councilwoman Odom shared that Black History Month celebration has been occurring in the City of Miami Gardens since its incorporation. She shared that as a part of the City's 10th Year Anniversary events, a Black History Month event is included.

Councilman Ighodaro said he would like to yield to the 10th Anniversary Planning Committee and partner with them. The only concern is the essay component.

Councilwoman Odom shared information from the 10th Anniversary Planning Committee

will be brought back to the Council as well as the community in January.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the Council members.

(M) REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY/CITY CLERK

Manager Crew announced the Topping Off Ceremony for the New City Hall Complex will take place, Friday, December 14th at 11:30 a.m.

(N) REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Williams said he was not having a good day because the first thing he saw this morning was a bad police report. He expressed frustration with the television stations/news media report incidents occurring in the wrong city. He said there has to be something the City can do to educate the media with regard to the various jurisdictions, and to make sure they get it right when they report a crime.

Councilwoman Robinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Odom shared that a meeting was held regarding the city's 10th Year Anniversary where discussion took place regarding inviting the business community and wanted to make sure citizens are aware that the city will be having this celebration.

Vice Mayor Davis further expounded and shared that all civic, homeowner associations and crime watch groups will be contacted as well.

Councilman Harris wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He further commended Councilmen Ighodaro and Williams for sponsoring two very successful events this past week.

Councilman Ighodaro shared that the 100 Women of Virtue Group will have mentors and will be reaching out to our youth. He broached the subject of the crimes and the senseless acts of taking someone's life in this community. He shared that he was looking to sponsor a resolution that would send a message that taking someone's life would not be tolerated in this community. He stated that he was very serious about this and would be initiating a taskforce. He said by the end of March, a recommendation from the taskforce should be forthcoming. He further wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Gilbert shared there is a taskforce comprised of law enforcement officers from the City of Miami Gardens, Opa-locka and North Miami Beach. A lot of the things that are being done are not necessarily for Council action.

Councilwoman Robinson asked for clarification purposes if Councilman Ighodaro was referring to a committee of the Council.

Mayor Gilbert clarified, the Mayor appoints Committees of the Council. Councilman

Ighodaro was referring to something else.

Councilman Ighodaro clarified that he was not asking for the creation of a new committee.

Vice Mayor Davis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She further thanked the Council for their commitment to the residents. She announced that she will be hosting a Toy-Give-Away “Gifts of Love Project”, Saturday, December 15, 2012, starting at 10:45 a.m., at Cloverleaf Park, 303 NW 191st Street. The toys will be given out on first come first serve basis.

N-1) Pro bono Arts Project

Mayor Gilbert shared that he was been meeting with Commissioner Jordan about establishing a Miami Gardens Caribbean Afro Museum. The proposal involved trying to secure the building that was the original Miami-Dade police station. A firm has volunteered to do the lobbying and negotiating at Pro Bono. The Council needs to agree to actually allow this firm to represent the City.

Attorney Dickens shared that the attorney involved has been an attorney for a long time and is actually very involved with the arts. She encouraged the Council to move forward with the acceptance of this pro bono service.

Motion offered by Mayor Gilbert, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson to accept the pro bono services. There being no discussion, the motion passed and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

N-2) Friends of Miami Gardens

Mayor Gilbert recounted the Council authorized staff to form the Friends of Miami Gardens, which is a 501(c)3 corporation. This is the fundraising entity for the City of Miami Gardens. He stated that it is imperative to make appointments to this Board.

Mayor Gilbert asked for a consensus on the Strategic Planning dates for either Thursday and Friday, or Friday and Saturday. By a majority consensus, Friday and Saturday were selected as the best days for the Strategic Planning Session.

Mayor Gilbert wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza and a very safe and Happy New Year.

(O) WRITTEN REQUESTS, PETITIONS & OTHER WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

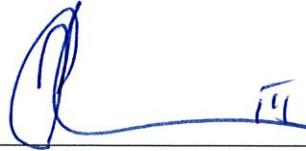
None

(P) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this Body, and upon a motion be duly made, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Attest:



Oliver Gilbert, Mayor



Ronetta Taylor, MMC, City Clerk