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September 22, 2004

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**CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 22, 2004**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens, Florida, met in regular session on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, beginning at 7:10 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 1515 NW 167th Street, Miami Gardens, FL.

The following members of the City Council were present: Mayor Shirley Gibson, Vice Mayor Aaron Campbell, Jr., and Council members Audrey J. King, Barbara Watson, Melvin L. Bratton, Sharon Pritchett and Oscar Braynon, II.

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

2. INVOCATION:

Dr. Lester Brown delivered the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4A) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting of:

Regular Council Meeting - August 11, 2004.

Moved by Councilman Braynon, seconded by Councilwoman Watson to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections/additions/deletions; page 14, line 26 the insertion of Councilman Bratton's announcement of District Four's Town Hall meeting date and time; page 16, line 19, change the word reasoning to reading; page 9, line 25, change the tense of expound to expounded.

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

5. AGENDA/ORDER OF BUSINESS (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS):

Manager Crew requested that the official agenda be amended to add the following item as Item 10D) "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MARJORIE SPEICHER AS THE CITY'S ALTERNATE INFORMAL CITIZEN LIAISON TO CRIME WATCH OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, INC., PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

**Regular City Council Agenda
September 22, 2004**

It was moved by Councilman Braynon, seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell to approve the Official Agenda with the above referenced addition as Item 10D). This motion **passed and carried by a 7-0 vote.**

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S):

6A Carol City Neighborhood Resource Center Summit – Not present

7. ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING:

7A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE REZONING OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT NORTHWEST 199TH STREET AND NORTHWEST 37TH AVENUE IN THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FROM RU-3M, MINIMUM APARTMENT HOUSE DISTRICT, TO BU-1A, LIMITED BUSINESS DISTRICT, A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT “A”; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

Manager Crew explained that prior to the City taking over the Planning and Zoning function, all re-zoning matters handled by Miami-Dade County were done by resolution. The City of Miami Gardens’ Charter require that re-zoning matters be done by Ordinance. The first reading of this ordinance is taking place on the regular City Council meeting, with the second reading and adoption of the ordinance will take place at the City’s Planning and Zoning meeting scheduled for October 6, 2004.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Bratton to approve this item on first reading, with second reading and public hearing scheduled for October 6, 2004.

Councilman Braynon related that the recommendation from Miami-Dade County is for denial.

Manager Crew explained that this is the recommendation put forth by County staff. However, this first reading is a formality to allow for public input and discussion during the second reading.

Councilwoman Pritchett asked whether all applicable information would be provided at the second reading.

Manager Crew said that a full agenda packet will be provided with all pertinent documentation.

Councilman Braynon stated that he was voting to move this item forward in order to allow for the public hearing and public input.

There being no further discussion, the motion to approve on first reading passed and carried by a 7-0 vote.

Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Yes
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

7B) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN QUALIFYING SENIOR CITIZENS TO BE APPLIED TO TAXES LEVIED BY THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF A SWORN STATEMENT TO THE PROPERTY APPRAISER, ALONG WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR WAIVER OF EXEMPTION; PROVIDING FOR COMMENCEMENT OF EXEMPTION; PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE INCOME LIMITATION; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY MAYOR GIBSON)

Mayor Gibson shared that she'd attempted to pass this ordinance last fiscal year, however it was past the time for the City's residents to take advantage of it. As a municipality, the City of Miami Gardens has to adopt its own ordinance because residents are paying municipal taxes. She opined that it is only fair that residents of Miami Gardens have an opportunity to apply for the additional Homestead Exemption just as they did when this area was under Miami-Dade County. There are specific guidelines and qualifications that must be adhered to when applying for this extra Senior Citizens Exemption.

It was moved by Councilman Braynon, seconded by Councilwoman King to approve this item on first reading, with second reading and public hearing scheduled for October 13, 2004.

Councilman Bratton questioned whether those applying for this extra exemption would send the application to the City or to Miami-Dade County. He further asked if this would be an automatic renewal.

Mayor Gibson said that the application for this extra Senior Citizens Exemption is to be sent to the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's office. In addition, the senior would have to re-apply each year, however a re-application notice would be sent in the mail.

Councilwoman Pritchett stated that currently there are other exemptions (e.g. disabled, widow, and widower) and asked if the City would be adopting similar legislation to ensure that Miami Gardens' residents can take advantage of those other exemptions.

Mayor Gibson shared that the City did not have jurisdiction over those other exemptions. An individual would have to apply directly to the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office.

There being no further discussion, the motion to approve this item on first reading, with second reading and public hearing scheduled for October 13, 2004, passed and carried by a 7-0 vote.

Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Yes
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

7C) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2004-08 CONCERNING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAXES, TO PROVIDE A RENEWAL CREDIT TO BUSINESSES, PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN CODE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

Manager Crew related that two weeks prior, there were some small business owners who came before the City Council to complain about the impact of their occupational license. The City is addressing their concerns, with the understanding that the City's Occupational License Fee Schedule is different than Miami-Dade County's. He explained that this ordinance provides

that on the renewal application for next year, each applicant would get a \$25.00 renewal credit.

It was moved by Councilman Braynon, seconded by Mayor Gibson to approve this item on first reading, with second reading and public hearing scheduled for October 13, 2004.

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

Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Yes
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

8. ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING (PUBLIC HEARINGS):

None

9. PUBLIC COMMENT – 10 MINUTES

Mr. Leonard Cole, residing at 2010 NW 191st Terrace, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to voice concern with not having the entire agenda packet on the internet.

Clerk Taylor shared that anyone wishing to obtain a complete agenda packet can request that information from the City Clerk's office.

Manager Crew related that the City Clerk at present is running a one person shop. The individual that does the scanning also has a full time job and conveyed that the City does not have sufficient staff at this particular time to scan the entire agenda onto the website. He conveyed anticipation that when the Clerk's office has staff (after October) the entire agenda packet, as well as minutes, resolutions and ordinances would be placed on the webpage.

Mr. Cole further stated that he'd almost missed tonight's meeting because when he went to the internet to see if a meeting was scheduled there was no information showing, ten minutes later the information was there. He questioned whether this information was only posted today.

Mr. Horace McHugh, Assistant City Manager appeared before the City Council in response to Mr. Cole's question. He shared that a three month scheduled of meetings, which is

prepared by the City Clerk is also posted on the website, therefore, if you can not find the information in one place, it does appear in another area on the webpage. In addition, an abbreviated version of the agenda is posted on the website, with the understanding that if someone wants a particular item all they would have to do is request a copy from the Clerk's office.

Attorney Knighton further shared that a complete agenda packet is provided for public review in the lobby area.

Mayor Gibson related that until that additional staff is on board, Reverend Cole can call the City Clerk, who in turn will provide him or any other interested parties with a complete agenda packet.

Mr. Cole also expressed concern with residents being given an opportunity for employment with the City of Miami Gardens. He referenced the Emergency Debris firm hired out of Alabama to clean up after Hurricane Frances. He stressed the importance of turning the dollar around within the community.

Mayor Gibson related that Weed-A-Way, a local black firm also has a contract with the City and took part in the emergency clean up after Hurricane Frances. She communicated that when request for proposals are made there are criteria that must be followed to ensure that the vendor meet all the federal and state guidelines. In addition, the City must take the lowest qualified bidder. She placed emphasis on the fact that the City can't commit to every job within the City of Miami Gardens going to a city resident. The City Manager is aware and mindful about hiring residents, and every citizen applying for a job, gets careful consideration.

Councilwoman Watson expressed appreciation for Mr. Cole's comments regarding economic growth. She related that this is the essence of legislation she's sponsored previously, to turn that dollar around within the community by patronizing businesses within this community. She further asked the City Manager if there was a breakdown of how much money has been awarded to companies within the City and asked if opportunities are given to people who may not always get those opportunities.

Manager Crew shared that the City's Auditing firm is based out of North Miami Beach, however the individual actually conducting the audit is a City of Miami Gardens' resident, an African American, and a Florida State University graduate. Therefore, even though the firm might be located elsewhere, their employees can live in local areas. This is a metropolitan area and almost impossible to restrict those employed with the City to this particular location. He opined that most of the people in this City who work, probably work outside of Miami Gardens, with other municipalities. In addition, as it relates to the bid process, the City can not by law hire a firm based upon whether that firm is a minority or not. The City tries hard to solicit bids from minority firms. He related that he has recommended bid awards to minority firms in the amount of approximately \$3 Million dollars, and non-minority firms of approximately

\$750,000.

Manager Crew shared that bids were solicited for a sidewalk repair. Out of those bids, the local firm in Miami Gardens came in approximately \$4,000.00 higher than the low bid, with entire repair job costing approximately \$8,000.00. Legally, the bid could not be awarded to the local firm because of the difference in the bid amount. He emphasized that the City tries to attract local firms to submit bids.

Manager Crew related that the City is at present looking for a building official. This is an almost impossible task because of the stringent guidelines imposed by Miami-Dade County. He conveyed that he is going to hire the most qualified individual for the job, which the City deserves. Individuals have a right to be selected upon merits.

Mr. Wendell James, residing at 18820 NW 29th Place, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to express his views about not following after other cities. He opined that the City of Miami Gardens needs its own identity. He further expressed concern with the increased in the Occupational License fees.

Manager Crew shared that the laws provides that municipalities can adopt the Occupational License fees of near by cities. Staff decided to fashion its Occupational License Fees after the City of Miramar. The inventory based system is the most commonly known Occupational License Fee Schedule, which is allowed by State Law.

Mr. Christopher Steers, Assistant to the City Manager for Business Services, appeared before the City Council to further expound on the Occupational License Fee Schedule. He related that several individuals have come forward to discuss their fees. The City is in the process of reevaluating those fees.

Councilman Braynon shared that he's received similar complaints and have referred those individuals to Mr. Steers for reevaluation. He placed emphasis on the importance of those business owners, not understanding the process to contact Mr. Steers.

Mr. James made referenced to physician offices and insurance companies and asked how the inventory process would apply to those Occupational License Fees. He expressed his confusion with this process.

Mayor Gibson asked that Mr. James meet with Mr. Steers to get a clear understanding of this process, so that when he is approached by those business owners with concerns, he can better explain the process to them, or if nothing else, have those individuals contact Mr. Steers.

Mr. Thomas Spaulding, residing at 18805 NW 32nd Place, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to suggest that the City establish a policy and or guidelines that vendors doing business with the City of Miami Gardens must make every effort to hire the

City's residents, within the applicable guidelines of the law.

Mayor Gibson asked Attorney Knighton to expound on the legal ramifications of establishing such a policy and or guidelines.

Attorney Knighton said that the City can implement a small/local business preference. It becomes more difficult when you specify a preference to hiring a certain race/ethnic orientation. The City Manager has been discussing bringing forward in the near future a small business preference ordinance.

Mr. Phil Covenant, residing at 2750 NW 172nd Terrace, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to showcase his newspaper "Urban American Newspaper". He conveyed his support of the City Council, City of Miami Gardens and the future of this City.

10. RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-103-154

- 10A) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT CONGRESS REINSTATE THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN THAT EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2004; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY MAYOR GIBSON).**

It was moved by Councilwoman King, seconded by Councilwoman Watson to approve this item.

Councilwoman Pritchett, for clarification purposed stated that the press release that was issued indicated that the police officer was shot near the City of Miami Gardens, however the resolution indicates that the police officer was shot in the City of Miami Gardens; she asked which was correct.

Mayor Gibson stated that the police officer was shot near the City of Miami Gardens.

Attorney Knighton said that she would make that correction.

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

Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Yes
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes

Vice Mayor Campbell: Yes
Mayor Gibson: Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-104-155

10B) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SALVANT & ASSOCIATES, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$8,800.00), WITH SAID AGREEMENT BEING FIRST APPROVED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY; AUTHORIZING A WAIVER OF THE COMPETITIVE BID REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF ORDINANCE 2004-17, THE CITY'S PURCHASING ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

Manager Crew explained that the City is preparing to hook up all the new computers to operate the Planning and Zoning and Building Departments in the next building. The individual currently involved with the City's computer system has been doing an excellent job. He opined that it is not prudent at this point, to go out and have a stranger to come in to work on the internal system of the City's computers.

It was moved by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell to approve this item.

Councilman Braynon inquired about the length of this contract.

Mr. McHugh, Assistant City Manager appeared before the City Council and shared that the contract for the installation is basically contingent on the next agenda item being approved. The target date is October 1, 2004.

Mayor Gibson asked Mr. Salvant whether he or any of his staff lived within the City of Miami Gardens.

Mr. Carl Salvant, residing at 13704 NW 13th Avenue, Pembroke Pines, Florida, appeared before the City Council and stated that he has staff members who reside within the Cities of Miami and North Miami.

There being no further discussion, this motion **passed and carried by a 6-0 vote.**

Councilwoman Watson: Yes
Councilman Bratton: Yes
Councilman Braynon: Yes

Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Out of room
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-105-156

10C) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER PURCHASE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FROM DELL SYSTEMS, THROUGH SALVANT & ASSOCIATES INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$62,000); AUTHORIZING A WAIVER OF THE COMPETITIVE BID REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF ORDINANCE 2004-17, THE CITY'S PURCHASING; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

Manager Crew explained that staff was asking for a wavier on this particular item because the competitive bid process would take a long time. He emphasized the importance of getting this project underway as soon as possible. He shared that a suggestion was made that perhaps the City could negotiate a lower price by going directly to the company. He said that if the City Council recommends going directly to the company, that they authorize staff to negotiate with Mr. Salvant and or Dell directly, in an amount not to exceed the \$62,000.00, and recommended modifying page 2, Section 2, of this resolution accordingly.

Attorney Knighton recommended amending the title of the resolution as well as the body. The amended title should read "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FROM DELL SYSTEMS, THROUGH SALVANT AND ASSOCIATES, INC, OR DIRECTLY THROUGH DELL SYSTEMS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$62,000..." Section 2, line 25 of the resolution should have the same language.

It was moved by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell to amend the resolution as prescribed by Attorney Knighton.

There being no further discussion on the amendment, the **motion passed and carried by a 6-0 vote.**

Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes

Councilwoman Pritchett: Out of room
Mayor Gibson: Yes

It was moved by Vice Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Watson to approve this item.

Councilman Bratton inquired about the warranty on the equipment.

Mr. McHugh indicated that there was a two year warranty on the equipment.

Councilman Bratton inquired as to whether there would be an additional charge for upgrades.

Mr. McHugh stated that there was insurance that would be paid for by the City to provide for upgrades, but that is an option the City can decide to take or not, depending on an evaluation and the associated cost.

Councilman Bratton inquired about the time line for the installation.

Mr. McHugh indicated that the installation would take place within the next two weeks.

Councilwoman King questioned whether Mr. Salvant had gotten the quotes from Dell and the other two companies.

Mr. Salvant replied that his company had secured the quotes.

Councilwoman King shared that she's received information that these prices were too high and conveyed her anticipation of dealing directly with Dell to get a better price.

Mr. McHugh shared that Councilwoman King had brought this information to staff's attention and as a result, the City did receive a direct quote from Dell, at approximately 7:00 p.m. this evening. He related that this is why the resolution states "Not to exceed \$62,000. He conveyed staff's commitment in getting the best price possible for the City.

Councilman Braynon referenced the other two companies and opined that perhaps they too would be willing to give the City a better price quote.

Mr. McHugh conveyed his appreciation for Councilman Braynon's comments. He stated that it is better to have an integrated system rather than one that is comprised of different software and technology.

There being no further discussion, this motion **passed and carried by a 6-0 vote.**

Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Out of room
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-106-157

10D) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MARJORIE SPEICHER AS THE CITY'S ALTERNATE INFORMAL CITIZEN LIAISON TO CRIME WATCH OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, INC., PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY COUNCILWOMAN PRITCHETT)

Councilwoman Pritchett explained that this item is an outgrowth from the last City Council meeting where she's suggested the appointment of Ms. Speicher as an alternate information citizen liaison, to Mr. Clausell and to the Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County, Inc.

It was moved by Councilwoman Pritchett, seconded by Councilman Braynon to approve this item.

Councilwoman Pritchett verified that Ms. Speicher is willing to serve in this capacity.

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

Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Yes
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

11. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

No report.

12. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER

No report.

13. REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilwoman King emphasized the importance of voting during this election season.

Councilwoman Watson concurred with Councilwoman King's comments. She encouraged her colleagues to take a proactive role as a City and identify a Civic organization that has contact with individuals in Haiti. She shared her understanding that Haiti was the first black independent country in the hemisphere. She said that Miami Gardens needs to reach out to Haiti. She encouraged the City of Miami Gardens to identify and adopt a city in Haiti, and provide the necessary resources to put that city back on its feet.

Councilman Braynon shared that the North Dade Library is a drop spot for donations. Also the Holy Family Church is collecting items to send to Haiti.

Councilwoman Watson commended those organizations for their efforts and opined that as a City, Miami Gardens needed to do this as well. She suggested encouraging other predominately African American cities to do the same.

Manager Crew suggested contacting Sister Cities International to assist with this endeavor. He said that he would contact this organization to gather further information.

Councilman Bratton thanked the citizens for participating in the Town Hall Meetings for Seats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Councilwoman Pritchett asked Ms. Odom, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor and City Council to come forward and provide a brief report of the MLK Steering Committee meeting.

Ms. Lillie Odom appeared before the City Council to highlight some of the preliminary planning discussed during this first meeting. She commended the group for their commitment in this endeavor and stated that all the members were very enthusiastic about working on this upcoming event. Major Rifkin has also volunteered his service to this committee.

Councilwoman Pritchett asked Attorney Knighton if the resolution appointing the members to the committee needed to be amended in order to add Major Rifkin.

Attorney Knighton advised that the resolution did not have to be amended, that Major Rifkin can be added as a staff member.

13A) GENERAL REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

14. REQUESTS, PETITIONS & OTHER COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

14A) PUBLIC COMMENTS – 20 MINUTES

Mr. Wendell James appeared before the City Council to express his views about the selection of the Dell Computer System and the fact that the City can deal directly with the company. He further suggested forming a committee to assist Mr. Clausell with his Crime Watch efforts.

Mr. Leonard Cole appeared before the City Council to express his views about the waiver of the competitive bid process, and not being able to hire exclusively from within the City of Miami Gardens. He stated that this sound a bit confusing to him because a waiver is provided for one purpose because it is in the best interest for the City, but it would seem that economic development is in the best interest of the City as well. He further commended Councilwoman Watson for her initiative in the Haiti crisis. He emphasized the importance of addressing this situation in an expeditious manner.

Mr. Marc Henderson appeared before the City Council and suggested that the City Manager office contact some of the Haitian churches for assistance in identifying a City in Haiti to adopt.

Dr. Lester Brown appeared before the City Council to express his views about the importance of voter registration and exercising the right to vote.

15. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

None

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Upon being duly motion by Councilman Braynon and seconded by Councilman Bratton, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Shirley Gibson, Mayor

Attest:



Ronetta Taylor, CMC, City Clerk