



Barbara J. Jordan

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

Commissioners collect 20 tons of food, distribute meals in Haiti

What began as a call for help for an ailing nation ended as a sobering experience for Commissioner Jordan. The commissioner, along with colleagues Commissioners Audrey M. Edmonson and Dennis C. Moss, traveled to Haiti on August 4 to distribute food to its starving peoples.



Commissioner Jordan tours Cité Soleil, one of the world's most impoverished communities, with FFP's Sabine Valles.

The trip was the result of legislation authored by Commissioner Jordan, and co-sponsored by Commissioner Edmonson, organizing a two-week food drive to benefit Haiti. Last April, riots broke out in Haiti due to the rising cost of food. With much of the island population living on less than a dollar a day, Haitians unable to purchase staple goods were reduced to eating cookies made of mud to survive. Miami-

Dade residents, County departments, and local organizations donated almost 20 tons of non-perishable food and \$15,000 to aid Haiti. The food was shipped to the island via Food For The Poor (FFP), one of the largest international aid agencies in the U.S. dedicated to helping the poor.



Commissioners Audrey Edmonson and Barbara Jordan serve rice to Haitians at Food For The Poor's Port-au-Prince facility. (Photo Courtesy of Hugh Graf/FFP)

The commissioners traveled to FFP's Port-au-Prince facility and distributed rice, soup, canned goods, and other items to droves of Haitians who lined up for servings. "When you have collected food for a cause such as this, rarely do you get the opportunity to see the food put to use," said Commissioner Jordan. "I just wish we could do it every day."

FFP's Executive Director Angel Aloma also guided the commissioners on a tour of the island, including one of the most destitute communities – Cité Soleil. The slum, where running water and electricity are non-existent, is ravaged by extreme poverty and violence.

"I am embarrassed that our country has not done more. I understand even more why people are leaving Haiti," said Commissioner Jordan.

Upon their arrival, the commissioners vowed to do more to help the island in the future, including asking Congress for more support to aid the Haitian crisis.

"We hope the Haitian community here in Miami-Dade County can embrace and guide us on what we can do to best help the island," said Commissioner Jordan.



A typical housing slum in Cité Soleil.



Starting February 17, 2009, all broadcast stations providing free over-the-air programming will convert from analog to digital television (DTV) as mandated by Congress. Televisions that are analog compatible and do not have a digital cable hookup will have to either purchase a television with an internal digital tuner or an Analog-to-Digital Converter Box. Converter boxes can be purchased at local electronics dealers for \$50 to \$70. However, all households are eligible to

receive two coupons worth \$40 each for a converter box, provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. To apply for a coupon, visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). For more information on how you can prepare for the DTV transition, visit www.dtv.gov or the Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department website at www.miamidade.gov/csd.



Commissioner's Message

Thank you to the residents of District One for re-electing me for a second term as your County Commissioner. I am honored to serve you and will continue to fight for your interests during these next four years. As always, my doors are open to you for any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have. My gratitude goes out to all who took the time to cast their votes in the August 26 Primary Election.

However, your work is still not done. This November, we are embarking on one of the most significant presidential races in our nation's history. Now more than ever, your voice needs to be heard. No matter which candidate you support, I urge you to vote in the upcoming general election on Tuesday, November 4. Exercise your right to elect a representative who will make a difference in our county, and our country, as you see fit.

It's time for all of us to become Election Ready! Learn how you can prepare for the upcoming General Election on November 4 by visiting the Miami-Dade County Elections Department online at www.miamidade.gov/elections or calling 305-499-VOTE. There are many opportunities to cast your ballot:

- Early Voting from October 20 to November 2
- Obtaining an absentee ballot
- Voting at your assigned polling place on Election Day

This is your chance to speak out about taxes, health care, social security, energy use, the environment, and other important issues affecting you and your family. Vote and help shape history in the 2008 election.

Barbara J. Jordan
Vice Chairwoman,
Miami-Dade County Commission
District One

New development deal to bring economic growth to Opa-locka and surrounding communities

On July 17, the County Commission unanimously approved a lease agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Carrie Meek Foundation to develop more than 120 acres of property at the Opa-locka Executive Airport. The non-profit organization, named after the former congresswoman, plans to invest \$110 million over nine years to develop new businesses and generate revenue on the currently unused property.

Commissioner Jordan has long been an advocate of developing the property since becoming District One's commissioner in 2004. "This is a promise kept," said Commissioner Jordan. "For more than twenty years the people in the communities surrounding the Opa-locka Airport have been waiting for the commercial development, jobs and business opportunities that they were promised. I am happy to see that this project is now in the hands of a community-based organization that is committed to the development of this area."

According to the agreement, the Carrie Meek Foundation will receive 121 acres around the airport to

build hangers, warehouses, office space, and restaurants. The move will immediately bring revenue to the Miami-Dade Aviation Department; over time, the department will also collect escalation rent annually, starting at \$26,630 for 2008.

Opa-locka and other surrounding communities stand to benefit directly from the development's success. The city where the airport is located will receive 10 percent of the foundation's profits to be spent on job training and business skills development. Another 20 percent of the foundation's profits will go to job creation, job training, and business development.

"I'm pleased that we have seen this very important project through the obstacles," she said. "I am excited for the promise of great things to come for the City of Opa-locka, District One, and the County."

The Carrie Meek Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for South Florida residents by providing housing, education, economic and health solutions.

After-school Programs



School is in full swing and that means finding extracurricular activities to keep kids healthy and active after school. From August 18, 2008 to June 4, 2009, Miami-Dade Park and Recreation will be offering various after-school programs at parks throughout the county for children ages 6 to 14. Children can get homework help, and participate in games, sports, arts and crafts, and eco-adventures. Camps are held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and full-day programs are available for teacher work days and holidays during the school year. Registration is open for all after-school programs and there is no deadline to register. Parents must register directly with the individual park. For a list of after-school program sites, please visit the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation website at www.miamidade.gov/parks or call 305-755-7800.

Students learn job skills and life lessons at Summer Youth Internship Initiative

Obtaining relevant experience can be a daunting task for students soon to enter the job market. Commissioner Jordan reached out to high school and college students, offering them the chance to work with some of the most prominent businesses in District One for the 4th Annual Summer Youth Internship Initiative.

For the past four years, the commissioner has provided students from her district with internships so they can gain valuable



Commissioner Jordan, business partners, and interns of the 2008 Summer Youth Internship Initiative.

knowledge and skills for their future career endeavors. This summer, 25 students were selected to complete the ten-week program. The students interned at participating businesses, including Calder Race Course, Dolphin Stadium, Lehman Toyota, Warren Henry, Walgreens, Comcast, Norland Medical Center, Dade County Federal Credit Union, EAC Consulting, and North Dade Community FCU.

"The students' experiences this summer reassures that they will be outstanding assets in the business world and exceptional leaders in our community," said Commissioner Jordan. "Their participation will be instrumental in helping them apply

for colleges and build their resumes to enter the job market after graduation."

The program kicked off with an orientation focused on teaching the interns business etiquette, resume preparation, and other skills necessary to thrive in a business environment. In addition to working with various local businesses, the students were also given an important lesson on giving back to the community, participating in a road clean up on NW 22 Avenue and NW 167 Street in Miami Gardens. They also learned teamwork through a team building activity at Country Village Park.

"While being successful in your career is important, I also wanted to instill a sense of duty and willingness to create a better community in these interns," said Commissioner Jordan.

At the end of the internship, the students were treated to a closing ceremony luncheon at Dolphin Stadium on August 6. Each student was given a certificate of appreciation for completing his or her internship, and heartfelt congratulations from the commissioner and participating business leaders.



Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan (center) congratulates Darrell Gaitor (right) and Diamond Ragin for completing their internships at the 4th Annual Summer Youth Internship Initiative's closing ceremony at Dolphin Stadium on Wednesday, August 6, 2008.

New regional park dedicated in District One utilizes land-use conversion

District One got a little greener thanks to the efforts of Commissioner Jordan and Miami-Dade Park and Recreation (MDPR). The commissioner dedicated the first phase of development for Ives Estates Park, a new regional park, on June 23. The park will be located at 20901 NE 16 Avenue.

"I'm excited to see this park completed," said Commissioner Jordan. "There has been a lack of parks and green spaces in northeast Miami-Dade for years. Ives Estates Park will be a great place for families to enjoy and bring a sense of community to the surrounding neighborhoods."

Ives Estates Park will be built on land acquired by MDPR in 1995. Almost 20 years ago, the department identified the shortage in northeast Miami-Dade's number of parks and obtained 148 acres of property from the City of Miami. The area was previously used as a landfill. Fifty-four acres

were sold to Miami-Dade County public schools, while the rest was reserved for the creation of a district park. MDPR teamed up with the Department of Environmental Resource Management (DERM) and Solid Waste Department to begin clean up and restoration of the property.

This is the first large-scale landfill conversion for MDPR. The new park will include a youth sports complex with a 3,036 square-foot field center and meeting room, park manager's office, restroom facilities, snack bar, athletic equipment and maintenance storage rooms, two lighted baseball fields, one lighted soccer field, playground, walkways, and a 137-space lighted parking lot and access road. The total project cost (minus land clearing and restoration) for the first phase of development is \$4,768,000, funded by the Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond (SNP) and Impact Fees.



Fifth-grade students from District One elementary schools showed off their knowledge of African American history and culture, competing for a grand prize of \$2,000 in Commissioner Jordan's Brain Blast. The final round of Commissioner Jordan's Brain Blast in June pitted a team from Crestview Elementary against the team from Skyway Elementary. Skyway's team edged out Crestview, winning a trophy for the team, a music and DVD player for each member, and \$2,000 for their school. The Crestview team received \$1,000 for their school. Students on both teams enjoyed a pizza party thrown by Commissioner Jordan and received certificates of participation. Commissioner Jordan (pictured) presents a trophy to Heibel Medina, captain of the Skyway Elementary team.

Commissioner Jordan, elected officials from the City of Opa-locka, and District One residents participate in the ground breaking for the Curtis Drive Infrastructure Improvement Project in the City. The Commissioner spearheaded the allocation of \$950,000 of General Obligation Bonds to the City for these much needed improvements.



Commissioner Jordan receives a plaque from Vice Mayor Dottie Johnson, Mayor Joseph Kelly and Commissioner Gail Miller for her continued support of the great City of Opa-locka.



How you can help

There are always opportunities for private citizens to serve on committees that make important decisions that affect residents, neighborhoods, projects and programs all across Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Jordan is looking for District One residents to sit on the following committees:

- Biscayne Bay Shoreline Development Review Committee
- Construction Trades Qualifying Board of County Commissioners
- Enterprise Advisory Council
- Industrial Development Authority
- International Trade Consortium
- Manatee Protection Plan Review Committee
- Parks and Recreation Citizens Oversight Committee
- Safe Neighborhood Parks Citizens Oversight Committee
- Urban Economic Revitalization Task Force

For more information, or to be considered to sit on any of these committees, please call the District One downtown office at 305-375-5694.

Legislative Matters Important to You

Commissioner Barbara Jordan is committed to serving the residents of District One by sponsoring legislation that is in their best interest. Here are some of the items sponsored by Commissioner Jordan that are being considered or have been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners:

- **ADOPTED:** Resolution directing the Mayor to organize a Caribbean Hurricane Relief Drive to aid countries affected by devastating storms this hurricane season. Non-perishable foods and other supplies will be shipped to Haiti, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Cuba (should Cuba's federal government accept the County's humanitarian aid).
- **ADOPTED:** Resolution donating two 2001 Bluebird buses and one 2001 Dodge pick-up surplus vehicles to the City of Opa-locka.
- **ADOPTED:** Resolution directing the Mayor to develop a plan that utilizes federal government grants and other applicable funding sources to buy and refurbish foreclosed homes in the county to stabilize neighborhoods with vacant lots and fulfill affordable housing needs.
- **ADOPTED:** Resolution encouraging local bar associations to request of their members that they provide pro bono legal assistance to persons facing foreclosure or who are in foreclosure and do not have financial means to attain legal defense.

Upcoming BCC Events and Meetings

October

- 7 Board of County Commissioners, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 14 Governmental Operations and Environment Committee, 9:30 a.m.
Budget and Finance Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 15 Economic Development and Human Services Committee, 9:30 a.m.
Transit Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 16 Health and Public Safety Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 21 Board of County Commissioners, 9:30 a.m.
- 23 Board of County Commissioners and Zoning, 9:30 a.m.
Metropolitan Planning Organization, 2:00 p.m.

November

- 6 Board of County Commissioners and Zoning, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Governmental Operations and Environment Committee, 9:30 a.m.
Budget and Finance Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 12 Economic Development and Human Services Committee, 9:30 a.m.
Transit Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 13 Airport and Tourism Committee, 9:30 a.m.
Health and Public Safety Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 20 Board of County Commissioners and Zoning, 9:30 a.m.

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