



One District

District One

One Community

Barbara J. Jordan

Downtown Office: 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 220 • Miami, Florida 33128 • Tel: (305) 375-5694 • bjordan@miamidade.gov
 District Office: 2780 NW 167th Street • Miami, Florida 33056 • Tel: (305) 474-3011

Commissioner Jordan talks projects and district development with residents

District One residents filled the auditorium at Robert B. Ingram Elementary School in January to get updates on several district related projects, such as the North Corridor Metrorail Project and the Opa-locka Rehabilitation and Beautification programs. Commissioner Jordan assembled a contingent of County personnel from various departments to provide progress reports on several plans that affect communities in north Miami-Dade.

The North Corridor Metrorail Project – which will take Metrorail service north along N.W. 27th Avenue, from N.W. 72nd Street to the Miami-Dade County/Broward County line – has met some challenges since its initial proposal. \$700 million in funding for the project was recently jeopardized by a Medium-Low New Starts rating from the Federal Transportation Administration. The County, backed by state representatives such as U.S. Congressman Kendrick Meek, has been taking steps to secure the funding and get the project back on track. Over the next several months, the County will be following a step-by-step plan laid out by the FTA to improve its rating.

“I remain very committed to seeing this railway line completed,” said Commissioner Jordan. “We need to pass legislation to generate funds and show fiscal viability and to follow the steps necessary to secure the federal funding.”

In addition to the resulting improvement in public transportation for the area, the long-anticipated project has the potential to bring jobs and an economic boost to the north Miami-Dade community.



Commissioner Jordan speaks to residents during her January town hall meeting and at a recent press conference with Rep. Kendrick Meek and fellow Miami-Dade County Commissioners Audrey M. Edmonson and Dorrin D. Rolle.



Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan talks with John Lester during a visit to the Beacon Hill School in February. Lester, the school's music teacher, is sitting on a new motorized scooter he received from the commissioner.

School teacher receives the gift of mobility

John Lester loves music and doesn't let his physical difficulties get in the way of sharing his love with students at the Beacon Hill School where he teaches music. It is his way with music and with the children he teaches that got the attention, and help, of Commissioner Jordan.

“I was at Beacon Hill School for an event and heard Mr. Lester's students perform and they were beautiful,” said the commissioner. “I had to meet him and when I heard his story I was compelled to help.”

Due to his weight, Lester's legs cannot support his walking long distances. Since he is also above the maximum allowable weight for Miami-Dade Transit's Special Transportation Service (STS), the north Miami-Dade resident saw his transportation options narrowing.

Unlike many others who choose to lock themselves away in despair, Lester chose to live his life as fully as he could. He acquired a mobile scooter to use for the short distance from home to work and back.

Last summer, Lester was hit by a car as he traveled to work on his scooter. The vehicle was severely damaged. After hearing about his plight, Commissioner Jordan bought and had a new mobile scooter delivered to Lester's home to replace the old one.

“Mr. Lester is such an inspiration,” said Commissioner Jordan. “He is choosing not to be held back by his impairment. He is making a great contribution to his community and the children he teaches and I am happy to honor that.”

Commissioner's Message



The Children's Trust serves thousands of Miami-Dade's children every day. Many of them or their parents have never heard of the organization. However, since its approval by voters in September 2002, the Children's Trust has remained committed to taking care of the county's children, particularly those who are at most risk due to financial, social or physical limitations.

Now six years after Miami-Dade voters supported the initiative that established the trust, a sunset provision is putting it to the voters again on August 26. If it is approved, the Children's Trust will become a permanent funding source to address the needs of children.

I urge you to turn out to the polls and vote to maintain the good work of the Children's Trust. Every one of us has been touched in some way by the work and outreach of the Children's Trust. Your baby's nursery may have received a grant from the Children's Trust to pay for a music movement program proven to improve learning. Your toddler's daycare may be participating in the Children's Trust voluntary rating system and quality improvement program to ensure that they are providing superior childcare. Your grandson may have participated in a science summer camp that was partly funded by the Children's Trust. Your family may have gone to see a children's theater performance

that was made possible by the Children's Trust. In every corner of the county, children and families are benefiting in very tangible ways from the services of the Children's Trust.

The Children's Trust's initiatives cover every concern of childhood and parenting – quality childcare, health care, social services – and resources are made available through a simple call to 2-1-1. Parents, caregivers, and even teenagers use the helpline to get answers for a variety of questions: Where can I find an affordable summer camp for my children? Where can my family get counseling? How can I get my child screened for a learning disability? The programs funded in whole or in part by the Children's Trust represent an investment in improving Miami-Dade Country through its children. They are selected by their proven and potential positive impact on child abuse, illiteracy, teen pregnancy, inadequate education, and illness.

The Trust deserves our support, because they have been supporting our children effectively and faithfully for the past six years.

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

Miami-Dade County honors high school basketball champions Norland Vikings

Members of the championship high school basketball team, the Miami Norland Senior High Vikings were in Miami-Dade County commission chambers on April 24 to receive certificates of appreciation from Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan for their stellar performance in the 2008 FHSAA Class 6A Boys Basketball Championship. The sixth-ranked team won their second boys basketball title in three years in a major upset against nationally-ranked Lauderdale Lakes Boyd Anderson.

"I am so proud of these young men, who have represented Norland Senior High, District One and Miami-Dade County so well," said Commissioner Jordan during the presentation. "They have made all of us proud by excelling at basketball, for displaying good sportsmanship on and off the court, and for refusing to be counted out."

At the end of the season, the team had an impressive 26-6 record and had quieted nay-sayers who had them pegged as underdogs going in. The Vikings had beat Hialeah-Miami Lakes, Miami, South Miami and top-ranked Winter Park to earn the right to travel to Lakeland, Florida to meet their Broward neighbors in the finals.

Miami Norland Senior High School principal Dr. Mark Soffian thinks the Vikings win holds a universal lesson. "This team started with a group of average players, who with a great coach and through hard work have brought back pride to Norland Senior High and put our school on the map. It is proof that commitment, perseverance and belief in self can overcome any adversity."

In the final game, coach Lawton Williams III steered the Vikings past the Boyd Anderson Cobra's early 14-point lead to beat the favorites 59-54. Team member Amir Celestine earned tournament MVP with an excellent showing of 18 points in the game.



Miami-Dade Commission Vice Chairwoman Barbara J. Jordan with members of the high school basketball championship team the Miami Norland Senior High School Vikings. Commissioner Jordan presented the team, the coach, the school's athletic director and the school principal with a proclamation and certificates of appreciation for their outstanding performance in the 2008 FHSAA Class 6A Boys Basketball Championship. Also pictured are Miami-Dade District 2 Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle (far left), team coach Lawton Williams III (second row, third from right), assistant coach Cleveland Roberts (second row, second from right), Miami-Dade Commission Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro (second row, far right), Miami Norland Senior High athletic director Ira Fluitt, and Miami Norland Senior High School principal Dr. Mark Soffian.



Commissioner Jordan gives college scholarships to Role Model participants

Commissioner Jordan with students and mentors from the 5000 Role Models of Excellence program after a scholarship presentation in April. Role Models Dwayne Clarke (second from left) and Brian Johnson (third from left) each received \$500 dollars to help with expenses when they start college in the fall. Clarke, Johnson and Role Model Peter DeSouza – whose scholarship check was accepted by Role Model mentor George Bellamy (fifth from left) – are part of the successful mentoring program that seeks to help young men find personal and professional success by pairing them with male mentors. Also pictured are (from left to right) Role Model Mentors George Ray, Alix Desulme, Dr. Claudius Carnegie and Bishop Joseph Watson.



Summer camps

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department hosts great summer camps at 40 parks to help kids wile the holidays away. Children 6 to 14-years old can enjoy 11 weeks of a wide range of activities designed to promote healthy lifestyles. Summer camps run from June 9 to August 15 and many accommodate children with disabilities. For more information, call Miami-Dade Park and Recreation at 305-755-7800 or log on to www.miamidade.gov/district01 and look for the Summer Camps link.

Alan Dry Cleaners at 183rd and 7th Avenue honored for service to the community

Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan and former District One Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson stopped at Alan Dry Cleaners one Saturday in April, but not to drop off dirty clothes. They were there to present the business' operator Mikhail Braverman with a certificate of commendation for his and the business' contribution to the community.

"It is not often that you find a business that so willing entrenches itself into the fabric of the community around it, like Alan Dry Cleaners has done," said Commissioner Jordan. "Mr. Braverman has committed himself and his business to giving first class service to customers, hiring from the community and improving the quality of life for his neighbors. The value he has brought to the City of Miami Gardens cannot be overstated."

Alan Dry Cleaners has been an institution in Miami Gardens since 1978 and the business and Braverman have become an integral part of many community betterment projects. One of those projects has been Clean Start. The program, coordinated with the Youth Co-op Employment Assistance Center, provides dry cleaning services to unemployed youth in the community who are actively looking for a job. The program was the brainchild of Braverman and Commissioner Ferguson; it continues to be supported by Commissioner Jordan and Miami Gardens Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett.

One beneficiary of the Clean Start program is Cassandra Knowles, who recently got a job with Marriott Miami Global Reservations and Customer Care. "I received help with my job search from Youth Co-op Employment Assistance Center and received a dry cleaning voucher for service at Alan Dry Cleaners," Knowles said. "Getting some pieces of work clothes cleaned for free allowed me to be properly dressed for my interviews. Programs like this are vital to the community."

Alan Dry Cleaners has garnered national attention for its quality services and contributions to the community and was recognized with a merit award by American Dry Cleaners magazine in January. The publication cited the conveniences the establishment offers to customers, such as same-day service, drive up windows, full repair and alteration services and several service desks. It also lauded the business for its job development projects and promotions for breast cancer awareness.

In accepting the certificate of commendation and the community acknowledgment, Braverman was grateful but humble. "I am happy to receive this recognition, but everything I have done for this community is because I love it and because I think it's for the greater good of everyone who lives here."



Mikhail Braverman, operator of Alan Dry Cleaners in Miami Gardens, thanks Commissioner Jordan, former Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson, customers and well-wishers after receiving a certificate of commendation for his and the business' contributions to the community.

Commissioner Jordan named on list of most influential Black professionals

Success South Florida Magazine named Commissioner Barbara Jordan to its 50 Most Influential Black Professionals of 2007 – an annual compilation of the nation’s black movers and shakers. The list was published in March in the magazine’s Black Power Issue and includes nationally recognizable names like radio personality Tom Joyner, award winning author Edwidge Danticat and power attorney Willie Gary.

Commissioner Jordan, known for tackling tough, and often controversial issues since she was a Miami-Dade County administrator, has also made her mark as a tireless fighter for the betterment of the South Florida community. She and the other 49 individuals

were honored at a reception hosted by Success South Florida Magazine in March. The 50 names, which were selected from hundreds of nominations, represent a variety of industries including law, media, art, medicine, banking and education.

“I am always in awe of how much of an impact my work has on others,” said Commissioner Jordan. “I am happy to serve the residents of Miami-Dade County and that is its own reward, but I am also honored to be listed among such distinguished personalities like University of Miami’s football coach Randy Shannon and Florida Memorial University president Dr. Karl Wright.”

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 being sponsored by Commissioner Jordan and being considered by the Board of County Commissioners:

- Resolution urging retailers of television sets to accept the federal government coupons of \$40 as full payment by consumers for the digital-to-analog converter boxes that will be required after February 17, 2009 to receive over-the-air television signals.
- Resolution urging the U.S. Congress and the Florida legislature to strengthen hate crime laws to provide that intentionally exposing a person to hanging nooses or other objects or symbols evidencing prejudice creates a presumption of a hate crime, in light of recent events in Jena, Louisiana.
- Resolution urging the Florida legislature to designate State Road 916 including Opa-locka Boulevard, N.W. 135th Street, N.W. 136th Street and N.W. 136 Terrace; from N.W. 7th Avenue to N.W. 47th Avenue as the “Honorable Robert Ingram, Ph. D. Boulevard;” approving such designation; and urging the City of Opa-locka to approve such designation.
- Resolution directing the County Manager to start a food relief drive for Haiti; encouraging all county employees to and citizens of Miami-Dade County to donate food to the Haitian Food Relief Drive; and directing the Mayor to partner with other agencies in carrying out the food relief drive.

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 Advisory 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.

Upcoming BCC Events and Meetings

June

- 3** • Board of County Commissioners, 9:30 a.m.
- 5** • Board of County Commissioners and Zoning, 9:30 a.m.
- 9** • Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 10** • Governmental Operations and Environment Committee, 9:30 a.m.
• Budget and Finance Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 11** • Economic Development and Human Services Committee, 9:30 a.m.
• Transit Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 12** • Airport and Tourism Committee, 9:30 a.m.
• Health and Public Safety Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 17** • Board of County Commissioners, 9:30 a.m.
- 19** • Board of County Commissioners and Zoning, 9:30 a.m.
• Metropolitan Planning Organization, 2:00 p.m.

July

- 1** • Board of County Commissioners, 9:30 a.m.
- 3** • Board of County Commissioners and Zoning, 9:30 a.m.
- 7** • Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 8** • Governmental Operations and Environment Committee, 9:30 a.m.
• Budget and Finance Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 9** • Economic Development and Human Services Committee, 9:30 a.m.
• Transit Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 10** • Airport and Tourism Committee, 9:30 a.m.
• Health and Public Safety Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 17** • Board of County Commissioners, 9:30 a.m.
• Metropolitan Planning Organization, 2:00 p.m.