

THE INSIDER

ON THE PORT, FOR THE PORT: It's now official county policy that any new development at the Port of Miami must be related to the port's normal activities. County commissioners voted for the new policy 11-0. For years, developers have had designs on vacant land on the seaport for projects ranging from sports arenas to office towers. The resolution passed last week directs the administration to develop a new master plan stretching to 2040 to codify the county's aims for the port.

FINDING THE APPRENTICES: Florida International University President **Mark Rosenberg** is one of 23 people appointed by the US Labor Department on Monday to develop the department's policy of expanding the use of apprenticeships in the US. They're to draft a plan to expand the use of the apprenticeship training strategy, which is popular in Europe but less so in this country. President **Donald Trump** in June signed an executive order making apprenticeships a key element of his strategy to address the shortage of skilled workers. Labor Department Secretary **Alexander Acosta**, who was until recently dean of the FIU College of Law under Dr. Rosenberg, cited the varied perspectives of members of the task force.

PAINTING THE PLAZA: Street Plans, Miami Shores Village, the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce, and Miami Realtors will join forces from 8 a.m. Oct. 27 to 6 p.m. Oct. 29 to transform Plaza 98, the area on Northeast 98th Street between the Miami Theater Center and Miami Shores Auto Repair, into a pedestrian friendly plaza. It's part of Miami-Dade Transit's Quick Build program, which awards small grants for immediate pedestrian- and bike-friendly projects. "The project will prepare Miami Shores Village to turn the street into a programmable space that will host periodic community events," a Quick Build release said. "We need volunteers to help lay out and prepare the mural, and paint the asphalt, to make the community's vision for NE 98th St. come to life!" Visit quickbuild.greenmobilitynetwork.org.

ARTFUL STRATEGY: In its ongoing effort to promote downtown, Colliers South Florida is working with several property owners to create "activations" during Art Basel, said **Noa Figari**, vice president of retail leasing of the company's Urban Core division. A fund-raiser for Puerto Rico and other art-themed events will be held at Mama Contemporary in the 777 Building at 145 E Flagler St. Juxtapose will present artists, music and sculpture at the site of the former La Epoca department store, 200 E Flagler St. Pop-up art displays will take place at 48 E Flagler St., and on a vacant lot at 30 E Flagler St., also owned by **Moïshe Mana**, will be transformed into a mural garden.

BIG DIG? The governing board of the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is set to discuss today (10/19) a request by its vice chair, Miami commissioner and mayor aspirant **Francis Suarez**, to amend the TPO's 2040 long-range transportation plan to include the unfunded section of the Miami River tunnel, and to urge the Florida Department of Transportation to fund and implement the project development and environment study for it. Mr. Suarez has been a strong proponent of the tunnel as a way to alleviate gridlock downtown and in Brickell.

TOLLS FOR THREE: The board will also tackle a resolution by **Esteban Bovo Jr.**, chair of both the TPO and the county commission, urging the State of Florida to revise statutes and update policies to allow Florida Turnpike toll revenues to pay for express bus service on the Turnpike express lanes to help relieve congestion.

MOVING ON: The TPO board is also set to discuss acquiring bigger offices and meeting space in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center for the transportation organization's staff. **Aileen Bouclé**, TPO executive director, said in a Monday meeting of the group's Executive Policy Committee that there isn't enough space in the present quarters for a staff of 13 and a board that now numbers 25, with the recent addition of **Vince Lago**, Coral Gables commissioner. **Rebeca Sosa**, county commissioner and committee chair, said she favors the move, "provided you can find us a space paid for by the government. There is space in County Hall," where the offices are currently. "Work on it and come back to us," she told Ms. Bouclé.

WHAT A GAS: Also discussed at Monday's TPO Executive Policy Committee was a suggestion by Ms. Sosa that Miami-Dade County consider traffic signals with a battery back-up or those that can be converted to run on natural gas if there is no electricity. After Hurricane Irma, many signals weren't working, she noted. "We should pursue funding for that, because it will make the streets safer" after a storm, she said.

SALT IN THE WOUNDS: At the same meeting, Ms. Sosa suggested the county put an end to developers' efforts to push the Urban Development Boundary farther west. "It's a constant fight, and, so far, we've been able to avoid moving it. But I don't think we should allow people to spend their money to continue to apply," **Roberto Martell**, Medley mayor and a member of both the TPO and its Executive Policy Committee, agreed. Developers want to encroach even further into the environmentally sensitive Everglades, he added. "And when salt water gets into fresh water, we're all dead."

TALKS ABOUT SW 22ND AVENUE: A controversial traffic calming project is the topic of a sunshine meeting this weekend. Miami Commissioner **Francis Suarez** will conduct a neighborhood meeting at 10 a.m. Oct. 21 at City Hall to provide information and receive public input related to temporary lane delineators on Southwest 22nd Avenue and future roadway improvements for the corridor. Representatives from the city's Office of Capital Improvements and Department of Transportation, and Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works are to be there. Details: (305) 250-5420.

Miami votes to partner with others to forge an age-friendly community

By JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

As more and more Baby Boomers reach retirement age and the ranks of the silver haired grow, cities across the country are looking to create senior-friendly communities to attract the aging population.

The City of Miami is no exception.

Mayor **Tomás Regalado** has introduced legislation that would have the city commission direct the city manager to partner with others to make the city an age-friendly community.

Last week, commissioners unanimously approved the measure.

It directs the city manager to work with the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative, the Florida office of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons), and other stakeholder organizations with the goal of making the City of Miami a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

The overall goal is to encourage and promote public policies and plans that consider older adults and support healthy aging in the city and throughout the county.

The mayor's resolution says the global population of people aged 60 and older is expected to far more than double from 841 million in 2013 to almost 2 billion by 2050.

In the US, the population of people 65 and older is expected to grow from 35 million in 2000

to 88.5 million by 2050, taking the share of the 65-plus population from 12% to 20% of the population.

The Miami-Dade County population aged 60 and older is expected to grow to more than 800,000 by 2040, representing 25% of the total population of the county.

As of 2010, the City of Miami's older adult population 60 and older was 83,844, representing 16% of the city's population.

The resolution says research shows that older Americans are looking to their governments for support so that they can stay in their homes and communities as long as possible "and the city believes that the older adult population should have opportunities, options, and environments to stay active, engaged, and healthy with dignity and enjoyment."

Active aging is a life-long process whereby an age-friendly community is not just "elder-friendly," but also intended to be friendly for all ages," it says.

The World Health Organization has developed a Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction and quality of life for older Americans.

The organization has noted that making cities and communities age-friendly is one of the most cost-effective policy approaches for responding to demographic aging.

It has developed eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people:

■ Outdoor spaces and buildings – accessibility to and availability of clean, safe community centers,

parks, and other recreational facilities.

■ Transportation – safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation, "Complete Streets" initiatives, hospitable built environments.

■ Housing – a wide range of housing options for older residents, other home modification programs, housing that is accessible to transportation and community and health services.

■ Social participation – access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people.

■ Respect and social inclusion – programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue, programs to combat loneliness and isolation among older residents.

■ Civic participation and employment – promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents; opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives.

■ Communication and information – promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far.

■ Community support and health services – access to homecare services, clinics, programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and healthy habits).

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps people 50 and older improve their lives. The organization, founded in 1958, today boasts more than 38 million members.



Mark Rosenberg



Tomás Regalado



Noa Figari



Francis Suarez



Esteban Bovo Jr.



Aileen Bouclé

Gables annexations moving ahead

By CATHERINE LACKNER

With a positive response from voters in Little Gables, an unincorporated neighborhood to its north, Coral Gables is ready to proceed with an annexation effort that has been in play since late 2015, and talked about far longer.

Voters in High Pines, an affluent neighborhood near South Miami, are also considering being annexed but aren't as far along in the process.

The next step in the Little Gables annexation is to direct staff to set a public hearing and draft a resolution to be presented to the county commission, which makes the ultimate decision, **Craig Leen**, Coral Gables city attorney, told the city commission Oct. 10.

The office of **Rebeca Sosa**, county commissioner in whose district Little Gables lies, working with the county's Elections Department, sent out a survey to residents and absentee owners in the neighborhood to gauge interest. The majority – 68% – replied that they wanted to be part of Coral Gables.

"Following the survey, 24% of Little Gables voters submitted favorable petitions to the city, sur-

passing the county's 20% requirement," said **Naomi Levi Garcia**, government affairs manager for Coral Gables. "Assessing resident support for annexation was a multi-step process."

Little Gables, 205 acres in size, is south of Southwest Eighth Street between Graceland Memorial Park and Bird Road (Southwest 40th Street). High Pines (which includes Ponce Davis) comprises 675 acres and is southeast of the intersection of Sunset Drive (Southwest 72nd Street) and Red Road (Southwest 57th Avenue). While the population in each neighborhood is about 3,000, Little Gables has 1,624 voters while High Pines has 2,382.

Those numbers are important because "they are the only ones able to vote" on annexation, Coral Gables Manager **Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark** told the commission.

Surveys have not yet been circulated in High Pines. City officials have stressed that each area will be considered separately; if High Pines residents opt out, it wouldn't interfere with the Little Gables annexation. "It's not a package deal," Mr. Leen has said.

Noting that the Little Gables annexation was being discussed

when he was in his first mayoral term (1993 to 2001), Mayor **Raul Valdes-Fauli** told commissioners last week, "I look forward to welcoming Little Gables, as well as High Pines."

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