

**CRB Chair Report to Executive Committee**

**March 7, 2012**

- **Death of Trayvon Martin.** Our deepest condolences to the family of CRB Executive Committee member Ronald Fulton upon the tragic death of his nephew 17 year old nephew Trayvon Martin in Sanford Florida. Mr. Martin was enrolled at Michael Krop Senior High and was previously a student at Miami Carol City Sr. He was shot and killed under mysterious circumstances while visiting family members in Sanford Florida. This young man's death has caught the attention of local activists and along with Miami-Dade family members. People are questioning the killing of an African-American youth during an unexplained altercation with a Sanford resident (a white male, age 25 years). The shooter was described by neighbors as a member of the Neighborhood Watch who regularly "patrols" the area at night. We understand that Trayvon was confronted by the shooter who was in a vehicle. It is not known by family members what was said between the two or who initiated the fight. Trayvon was not armed and died less than 100 yards from his family member's home. Trayvon's father is a truck driver from Miami-Dade and was at the family member's home when the shooting occurred. Trayvon's mother, Sybrina Fulton, is an employee at Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency. The family is awaiting more information from the Sanford Police. CRB Community Intervention staff has also reached out to the Sanford Police Department and have also not received any additional information. We understand that, at this time, the young man who shot Trayvon has not been arrested.
- **Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Joe Martinez has submitted his mandatory resignation** to the Clerk of the Courts and the Supervisor of Elections. Mr. Martinez has announced his candidacy for the Office of Miami-Dade Mayor. His resignation will be effective November 20, 2012. That is the date that his term as commissioner expires and a newly elected Commissioner will take office representing District 11. It is anticipated that a new County Commission Chair will be selected shortly thereafter.
- **Wage Theft Legislation letter:** The CRB prepare a letter to Florida Legislators encouraging them to protect the successful Miami-Dade Wage Theft Ordinance. The Miami-Dade Office of Intergovernmental Affairs assisted by forwarding the letter to key members of the Florida Senate this past week. A bill that would preempt the county ordinance has been adopted by the Florida House and there are efforts to by-pass Senate Committees to place a companion bill for a vote on the Senate floor this week. A press release about the CRB's efforts has generated some media coverage. Mario Artecona was interviewed live of Spanish language radio, an article has appeared in Diario las Americas and in the Florida Independent.
- **Wage Theft Demonstrations.** Local supporters of the Wage Theft Ordinance have conducted demonstrations and distributed flyers outside the downtown

Macy's department store this past week. Macy's Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Mr. Paul Imbrone is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Florida Retail Federation. The Retail Federation has been a major supporter of bills that would preempt local wage theft laws. You have received a copy of a flyer that is being distributed on the streets outside the downtown store.

- **I am pleased to report that Miami-Dade Corrections Director Tim Ryan has agreed to meet with the CRB** at the April 18 General Membership Meeting. In your package is a letter that was forwarded to Mr. Ryan in response to his letter to the CRB wherein he stated that he would not address the board at this time. I met with Mr. Ryan and a representative of the county attorney's office and encouraged the Corrections Director to meet with the CRB and that we would respect his need to be cautious in sharing information relevant to the U.S. Department of Justice investigation of unconstitutional conditions at Miami-Dade jail facilities.
- **I am pleased to announce that the RACE Exhibit Fundraising Committee** has met its goals for bringing the exhibit to our community. A total of \$16,000 has been collected including a \$500 donation from the CRB and \$10,000 from the Children's Trust. The exhibit will be presented at the Museum of Science in February, March and April 2014. Congratulations to Reinaldo Valdes and other CRB members and supporters who have participated in this initiative. A community meeting to begin implementing programming that will explore the meaning of race in our community will be convened in March 2012. . All other members are welcome to participate.
- **Gideon at 50.** For your information, CRB member Maritza Lopez will represent the CRB at a planning committee meeting for the Gideon at 50 Celebration. The 50 year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Gideon v. Wainwright established the right to counsel in criminal felony cases in state court. The first meeting of the committee is this Friday at 3:30 p.m. The Miami-Dade Public Defender is organizing activities in our community and the CRB has been invited to participate in the planning.
- **In the Company of Women.** The Commission for Women is co-hosting the In the Company of Women event on March 21 at the Biltmore Hotel. You have an invitation to this signature event that recognizes outstanding women in our community.