

**CRB Chair Report to General Membership Meeting**  
**March 21, 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 on February 26. . 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. His funeral was held in Miami-Dade on March 3, 2012. This young man's death has caught the attention of local, state-wide, national and international communities. People are questioning the killing of an African-American youth during an unexplained altercation with a 28 year old white male who was a self-described Crime watch Captain. 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. CRB Community Intervention staff has reached out to the Sanford Police Department, County Commissioner Barbara Jordan and the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service. The CRS is monitoring community tensions and community regularly with the CRB staff. Later in the meeting, we will explore strategies to reduce tensions over the killing of Trayvon Martin.
- **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 had been adopted by the Florida House and there were efforts to by-pass Senate Committees to place a companion bill for a vote on the Senate floor. Fortunately, the bill was not heard by the Senate and was not adopted. A press release about the CRB's efforts generated some media coverage. Mario Artecona was interviewed live of Spanish language radio and newspaper articles about the CRB's efforts appeared in Diario las Americas and in the Florida Independent. We understand that the effort to pre-empt Miami-Dade's Wage Theft Ordinance are likely to be introduced in the Florida Legislature again next year.
- **Wage Theft Demonstrations.** In a related develop, Miami-Dade supporters of the Wage Theft Ordinance have conducted demonstrations and distributed flyers outside the downtown Macy's department store in downtown Miami late last month. Macy's Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Mr. Paul Imbrone is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Florida Retail Federation.
- 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. 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. We will discuss questions to be submitted to the Corrections Director later at today's meeting.

- 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.
- **Gideon at 50.** CRB member Maritza Lopez represented the CRB at a planning committee meeting for the Gideon at 50 Celebration. The Miami-Dade Public Defender is organizing activities in our community. I will ask Ms. Lopez to share a brief report on the meeting later on our agenda.
- **In the Company of Women.** The Commission for Women is co-hosting the In the Company of Women event which is this evening, 6 – 9 p.m. at the Biltmore Hotel. Tickets for this signature event are \$40 and may be purchased at the door. We understand more than 400 people have submitted an RSVP.
- **CRB ROSTER UPDATE:** During this meeting, a copy of the CRB Member Roster will be passed to you. The roster lists contact information for each of you who served during calendar year 2011. It is very important that you look at the information pertaining to you and make any corrections on the document today. Staff must submit accurate information to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners this week so that the information may be provided to the Elections Department. The Elections Department will soon mail to your correct home address, the required financial disclosure forms for all county advisory board members who served any time during calendar year 2011. Your failure to complete these forms constitutes a misdemeanor criminal offense. Your cooperation is most appreciated.