



*Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Inc.*

## Board of Directors Meeting

March 9, 2016



*Welcome*



Richard Kuper, Esq.  
Executive Director

OFFICERS

President  
Hon. Francis X. Suarez  
Commissioner, Miami  
First Vice President  
Hon. Oliver Gilbert, III  
Mayor, Miami Gardens  
Second Vice President  
Hon. Jordan W. Leonard  
Mayor, Bay Harbor Islands  
Secretary  
Hon. George Vallejo  
Mayor, North Miami Beach  
Treasurer  
Hon. Claudia Cubillos  
Mayor, El Portal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Howard Weinberg  
Commissioner, Aventura  
Hon. Seth E. Salver  
Councilman, Bal Harbour  
Hon. Robert Yaffe  
Councilman, Bay Harbor Islands  
Hon. David Coviello  
Mayor, Biscayne Park  
Hon. Vince Lago  
Commissioner, Coral Gables  
Hon. Peggy R. Bell  
Mayor, Cutler Bay  
Hon. Luigi Boria  
Mayor, Doral  
Hon. Harold Mathis  
Councilman, El Portal  
Hon. R.S. Shiver  
Vice Mayor, Florida City  
Hon. Judy Lusskin  
Councilwoman, Golden Beach  
Hon. Yiozet De La Cruz  
Mayor, Hialeah Gardens  
Hon. Jeff Porter  
Mayor, Homestead  
Hon. Bernard Klepach  
Mayor, Indian Creek  
Hon. Mayra Peña Lindsay  
Mayor, Key Biscayne  
Hon. Roberto Martell  
Mayor, Medley  
Hon. Wifredo "Willy" Gort  
Commissioner, Miami  
Hon. Esteban Bovo, Jr.  
Commissioner, Miami-Dade County  
Hon. Susie Castillo  
Board Member  
Miami-Dade County School Board  
Hon. Micky Steinberg  
Commissioner, Miami Beach  
Hon. Felicia Robinson  
Vice Mayor, Miami Gardens  
Hon. Nelson Rodriguez  
Councilman, Miami Lakes  
Hon. Herta Holly  
Councilwoman, Miami Shores  
Hon. Xavier Garcia  
Mayor, Miami Springs  
Hon. Connie Leon-Kreps  
Mayor, North Bay Village  
Hon. Alix Desulme  
Vice Mayor, North Miami  
Hon. Anthony DeFillipo  
Councilman, North Miami Beach  
Hon. Myra Taylor  
Mayor, Opa-Locka  
Hon. Eugene Flinn  
Mayor, Palmetto Bay  
Hon. James E. McDonald  
Vice Mayor, Pinecrest  
Hon. Gabriel Edmond  
Commissioner, South Miami  
Hon. Isaac Aelion  
Commissioner, Sunny Isles Beach  
Hon. Barry Cohen  
Commissioner, Surfside  
Hon. Orlando Lopez  
Mayor, Sweetwater  
Hon. Richard Block  
Councilman, Virginia Gardens  
Hon. Eduardo Muhiña  
Mayor, West Miami

# Board of Director's Meeting

March 9, 2016  
94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron Restaurant  
1395 NW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33126

Immediate Past President

Hon. Jon Burgess  
Councilman, Homestead

Past Presidents

Hon. Cindy Lerner  
Mayor, Pinecrest  
Hon. Luis Gonzalez  
Council Vice-President, City of Hialeah  
Hon. Isaac Salver  
Councilman, Town of Bay Harbor Islands  
Hon. R.S. Shiver  
Commissioner, City of Florida City  
Hon. Wifredo "Willy" Gort  
Commissioner, City of Miami

6:00 p.m. Reception - 7:00 p.m. Dinner Meeting



WELCOMING REMARKS:

*President Francis X. Suarez,  
Commissioner, City of Miami*

1. INVOCATION:

*Treasurer Claudia Cubillos,  
Mayor, Village of El Portal*

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

*Second Vice President Jordan W. Leonard,  
Mayor, Town of Bay Harbor Islands*

3. MINUTES: December 3, 2015

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Monthly Disbursement

5. MDCLC 62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GALA:

A. INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS:

- Mayor David Coviello, Village of Biscayne Park
- Commissioner Vince Lago, City of Coral Gables
- Commissioner Wifredo “Willy” Gort, City of Miami
- Board Member Susie Castillo, MDC-Public Schools
- Councilwoman Herta Holly, Village of Miami Shores
- Vice Mayor Alix Desulme, City of North Miami

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

*Richard Kuper, Esq.*

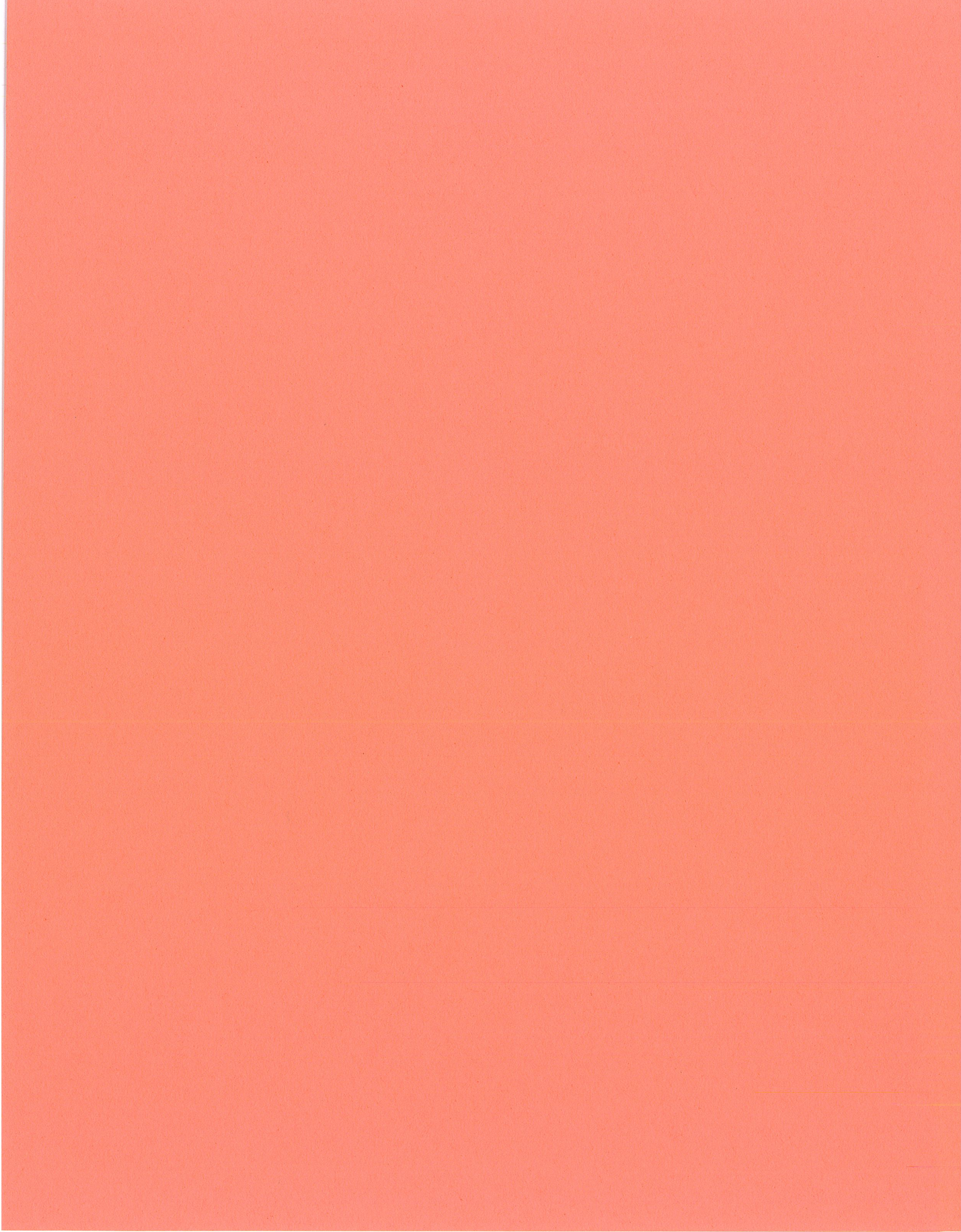
7. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES:

- 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala Highlights
- 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala Sponsors
- MDCLC 2016 Board Meeting Dates
- Letter from MDCLC Past President Michael R. Blynn, Former Councilman, City of North Miami

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2016**  
Location: T.B.A

9. ADJOURNMENT





OFFICERS

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Commissioner, Miami  
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Hon. Luigi Boria  
Mayor, Doral  
Hon. Harold Mathis  
Councilman, El Portal  
Hon. R.S. Shiver  
Vice Mayor, Florida City  
Hon. Judy Lusskin  
Councilwoman, Golden Beach  
Hon. Yioset De La Cruz  
Mayor, Hialeah Gardens  
Hon. Jeff Porter  
Mayor, Homestead  
Hon. Bernard Klepach  
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Mayor, West Miami

*Miami-Dade County League of Cities*

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Minutes

December 3, 2015

Hialeah Park

President, **Jon Burgess**, Councilman, City of Homestead, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m., welcomed the guests to Hialeah Park & Casino. Councilwoman **Vivian Casals Muñoz**, City of Hialeah gave the invocation. Former State Representative **Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez**, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **municipalities represented** at the Board Meeting: Bal Harbour, Biscayne Park, Doral, El Portal, Hialeah Gardens, Indian Creek, Miami, Miami-Dade County, Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, Miami Lakes, Miami Shores, North Bay Village, Opa-Locka, Pinecrest, Surfside, Virginia Gardens **Associate Members** and guests: Alberni Caballero & Fierman, Nestor Caballero, Andrew Fierman, American Traffic Solutions, Orlando Torres, Berger Singerman, Javier Vazquez, C.A.P. Government, Inc., Carlos Penin, Raul Rodriguez, Jose Miranda, Monica De Castro, Sonia LeCounte, Gedel Merzius, Carmelo Pifano, CAC Florida Medical Centers, Rey Lopez, Jesus Vidueira, Crowe Horwath, LLP, Michelle Blackstock, Michael Rozelle, FPL, Aletha Player, Armando Fernandez, Charles Knight, Hialeah Park, Vivan Casals- Muñoz, Rich Brock, Marcum LLP, Enrique Llerena, The Corradino Group, Joseph Corradino, Michelle Lopez, Waste Management, Jason Neal, Alex Gonzalez, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, Daniel Espino, Esq..

President **Burgess** asked for a motion to approve the minutes and the consent agenda. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

President **Burgess** introduced Second Vice President, Mayor **Oliver Gilbert, III**, City of Miami Gardens, to speak to the Board members present about an amendment to the by-laws. President Burgess had asked Mayor Gilbert to review the by-laws and to make recommendations to the

board. Mayor Gilbert spoke about the nominations and interviews for appointments to the MDCLC Executive Board. He advised everyone that the by-laws were written at a time that didn't contemplate term limits. Because of succession planning, there was not anyone that applied to serve on the Executive Board that met the qualifications within the term limits to ascend to presidency. Mayor Gilbert then suggested an amendment to the by-laws that would change the composition of the board to President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President, as opposed to President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. This will allow whoever is appointed to ascend to the presidency within their four years in office. Mayor Gilbert informed that the Executive Board approved the recommendation.

Mayor **Gilbert** asked for a motion to approve the amendment to the by-laws. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

President **Burgess** introduced Executive Director, **Mr. Richard Kuper**, to speak about an amendment to the MDCLC 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Kuper then reminded the members that the League office was going to move to a new location in Downtown. He asked for a motion to approve the League paying an annual rent not to exceed 20,000 dollars per year.

Mr. **Kuper** asked for a motion to approve the MDCLC Budget amendment. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Second Vice President, Mayor **Gilbert**, City of Miami Gardens was asked by Mr. Kuper to make a presentation on behalf of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools to President Burgess. Mayor **Gilbert** read portions of the proclamation,

“President Burgess is the first Homestead official to assist under privileged students at Redondo Elementary with the MDCLC Back-To-School Drive. The Florida League of Cities bestowed upon him the prestigious 2015 Home Rule Hero for his tireless efforts to advance the League's Legislative agenda and help protect the rights of Florida cities during the 2015 Legislative session. And whereas Burgess has faithfully and dutifully served as the MDCLC President during the past year.”

A proclamation was then presented to President **Burgess** by Mayor Gilbert on behalf of the **Miami-Dade County Public Schools** for his dedicated service and total commitment to the Miami-Dade County League of Cities. President **Burgess** then thanked Mayor Gilbert and the School Board for recognizing not only his hard work, but also the hard work and effort the entire Board of Directors puts in, without the support of the board and everybody who attends the meetings these accomplishments would not be possible.

Mayor **Gilbert** then introduced Commissioner **Joseph Kelley** and Commissioner **Luis Santiago**, City of Opa-Locka. Commissioner Kelley then thanked President **Burgess** for his service as President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and honored him with a proclamation on behalf of the City of Opa-Locka for all of his hard work. President **Burgess** thanked the City of Opa-Locka for this honor.

President **Burgess** then began his *President's Recognitions presentation*. His first recognition, the *President's Distinguished Board Member Award* was presented to Mayor **Luigi Boria**, City of Doral. President Burgess presented this to Mayor Boria for being an active participant at the board meetings, for working on the MDCLC Transportation Committee and for making sure that the City of Doral and its members are active in the League.

The following recognition, the *President's Leadership Award*, was presented to **Steven Leifman**, Associate Administrative Judge, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Judge **Leifman** has received State and National awards for his groundbreaking work for helping people with mental illness who are either in the criminal justice system or at risk of incarceration. Unfortunately, Judge Leifman was unable to attend the meeting. He will be presented with the award at a future date.

President Burgess presented **Carlos A. Penin**, C.A.P. Government, Inc. with the *President's Associate Member Award*, Ms. **Sonja K. Dickens**, Esq., City Attorney, City of Miami Gardens Chair, MDCLC-City Attorney's Advisory Committee with the *President's Municipal Service Award*, and Commissioner **Esteban L. Bovo**, Jr., Miami-Dade County with the *President's Community Service Award*. Commissioner **Bovo** was not able to attend and asked that Former State Representative **Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez** accepted the award on his behalf.

President **Burgess** then recognized the municipalities that have had a perfect attendance at all of our Board meetings and presented them with the *President's City Attendance Awards*. Biscayne Park, El Portal, Homestead, Medley, Miami Lakes, North Bay Village, North Miami Beach, Opa-Locka, and Virginia Gardens. Thank you to all for their perfect attendance.

President **Burgess** went on to thank this year's Ninth Annual Turkey Drive sponsors. This year MDCLC distributed over 1000 turkeys and bags of non-perishable foods. Thanks to Wal-Mart and Wells Fargo we were able to give less fortunate families a Thanksgiving meal. Ms. **Michelle Azel Belaire**, Director of International Corporate Affairs, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Mr. **Lance Aylsworth**, Vice President, Relationship Manager, Government & Institutional Banking, Wells Fargo were unable to attend the meeting. Mr. **Pat Morris** and Mr. **Leo Toca** accepted the award on behalf of the Wells Fargo Corporation. The award will be presented to Wal-Mart at a future date.

Mr. **Kuper** then approached the podium to recognize everybody that helps put the Turkey Drive together. It is thanks to their assistance that our Turkey Drive is a success. He thanked the City of Hialeah Gardens, Mayor **Yiozet De La Cruz**, and Mr. **Manuel Carrera** for providing staff and assuring that Wal-Mart has all of the turkey's for the drive ready. Mayor De La Cruz has been committed to helping the League with this drive for the past 7-8 years. Mr. Kuper then presented Mayor De La Cruz with an award for his service, Former State Representative Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez accepted the award on his behalf. Mr. Kuper then recognized Commissioner **Michael Grieco, Esq.**, and Manager **Jimmy Morales, Esq.**, City of Miami Beach for providing police escorts for the Turkey Drive so that the commute from municipality to municipality for the distribution of 1000 turkey's and bags of non-perishable foods can be made during the course of one day.

President **Burgess** introduced Executive Director, **Richard Kuper** for the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Kuper thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He then introduced the **Former League Presidents** present: Council President Luis Gonzalez, City of Hialeah, Former State Representative Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez, Councilman Isaac Salver, Town of Bay Harbor Islands, Commissioner Wifredo "Willy" Gort, City of Miami. **Executive Board**

**Members** present: President Jon Burgess, Councilman, City of Homestead, Second Vice President Oliver Gilbert, III, Mayor, City of Miami Gardens, Third Vice President Jordan W. Leonard, Mayor, Town of Bay Harbor Islands, Treasurer Claudia Cubillos, Mayor, Village of El Portal. **Board Members** present: Councilman Seth Salver, Bal Harbour, Commissioner Robert “ Bob” Anderson, Biscayne Park, Mayor Peggy Bell, Cutler Bay, Councilman Harold Mathis, El Portal, Commissioner Michael Greico, Miami Beach, Councilman Tim Daubert, Miami Lakes, Councilwoman Herta Holly, Miami Shores, Mayor Connie Leon-Kreps, North Bay Village, Commissioner Joseph Kelley, Opa- Locka, Vice Mayor James McDonald, Pinecrest, Commissioner Barry Cohen, Surfside, Councilman Richard Block, Virginia Gardens. **City Clerks** present: Marilane Lima, Indian Creek, Yenise Jacobi, El Portal. **City Attorneys** present: Charles Citrin, Hialeah Gardens, Sonja Dickens, Miami Gardens, Dan Espino, Doral. **City Managers** present: Edward Rojas, Doral, Daniel Alfonso, Miami. **Judges** present: Laura Anne Stuzin, County Court, Diana Vizcaino, County Court, Monica Gordo, Circuit Court. **School Board Member Candidate** present: Dr. Steve Gallon, Former Miami Northwestern High School Principal. **Associate Members** present: Alberni Caballero & Fierman, Nestor caballero, Andrew Fierman, American Traffic Solutions, Orlando Torres, Berger Singerman, Javier Vazquez, C.A.P. Government, Inc., Carlos Penin, Raul Rodriguez, Jose Miranda, Monica De Castro, Sonia LeCounte, Gedel Merzius, Carmelo Pifano, CAC Florida Medical Centers, Rey Lopez, Jesus Vidueira, Crowe Horwath, LLP, Michelle Blackstock, Michael Rozelle, FPL, Aletha Player, Armando Fernandez, Charles Knight, Hialeah Park, Vivian Casals- Muñoz, Rich Brock, Marcum LLP, Enrique Llerena, The Corradino Group, Joseph Corradino, Michelle Lopez, Waste Management, Jason Neal, Alex Gonzalez, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, Daniel Espino, Esq..

Executive Director, **Mr. Richard Kuper** thanked everyone for attending this evening’s board meeting and for their support of the League all year round. He also thank Hialeah Park for providing the venue for our last Board meeting of the year.

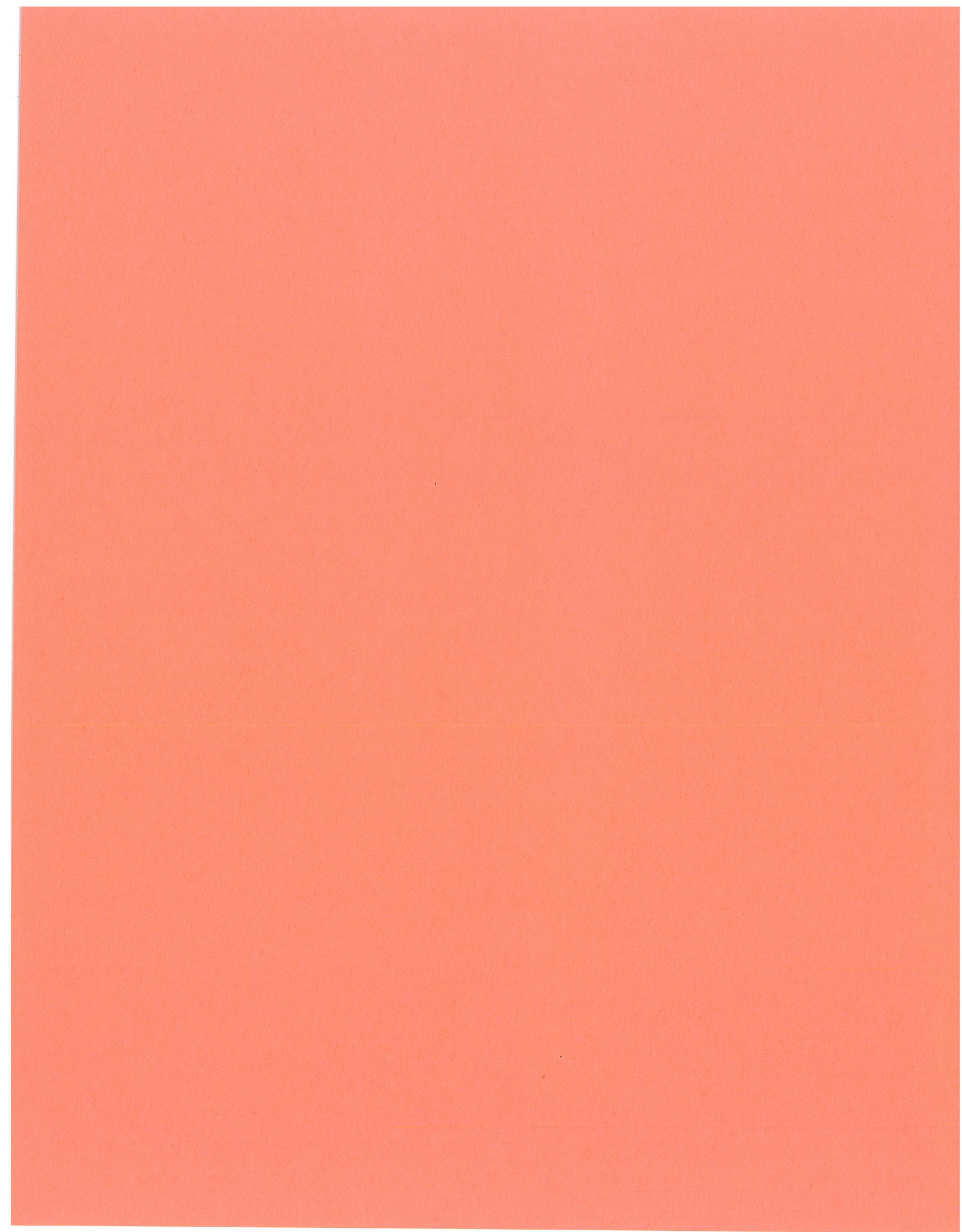
Mr. **Kuper** went on to announce all of the upcoming events, Ninth Annual Toy Drive, December 15, 2015, and the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala on February 20, 2016 at Jungle Island.

He then thanked everyone again for attending this month’s December Board of Director’s meeting and is looking forward to seeing everyone at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Summarized minutes*







## *Miami-Dade County League of Cities 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala*

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala was a huge success. Over 700 people joined Miami-Dade County League of Cities President Francis X. Suarez, the 2016-2017 Executive Board and Board of Director's during their installation at Jungle Island on Saturday Evening, February 20, 2016. NBC 6 News Anchor, Mr. Jawan Strader served as the Master of Ceremonies. Matthew Rodriguez, a student from Shenandoah Elementary School sang the National Anthem, and the MDCLC President's sister, Olga Suarez-Viera recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

We were pleased that the gala was attended by a number of MDCLC Past Presidents, Former City of Doral Mayor JC Bermudez, Immediate Past President, City of Homestead Councilman Jon Burgess, Former City of Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson, Former State Representative, and Former Councilman of the City of Hialeah Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez, City of Hialeah Council President Luis Gonzalez, Town of Bay Harbor Islands Councilman Isaac Salver, and Former State Representative, and Former Commissioner of the City of Miami Beach Richard Steinberg. We were also honored to have Miami-Dade College President, Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón accept the first Miami-Dade County League of Cities Lifetime Achievement Award. President Suarez was very grateful to all who attended the celebration especially to our sponsors for their generosity, participation, and support.

During his speech, President Suarez pledged that the transportation issue is going to be a League priority and asked his colleagues to work with him in addressing this important matter that affects all municipalities in Miami-Dade County. We look forward to another successful year.



President Francis X. Suarez being sworn in by his father, The Honorable Xavier L. Suarez, County Commissioner, District 7 with his wife, Gloria Suarez and mother, Rita Suarez by his side.



2016-2017 Executive Board of Directors  
(Left to right) MDCLC Executive Director, Richard Kuper, City of Miami Commissioner Francis X. Suarez, City of North Miami Beach Mayor George Vallejo, Village of El Portal Mayor Claudia Cubillos, Chief Judge Bertila Soto, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, City of Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert, III, Town of Bay Harbor Islands Mayor Jordan W. Leonard, and City of Homestead Councilman Jon Burgess.



2016-2017 Board of Directors sworn in by The Honorable State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle.



Ms. Olga Suarez Viera recites the pledge of allegiance, Sister of MDCLC President.



Miami-Dade College President, Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón was honored with the first MDCLC Lifetime Achievement award presented by the Executive Board.

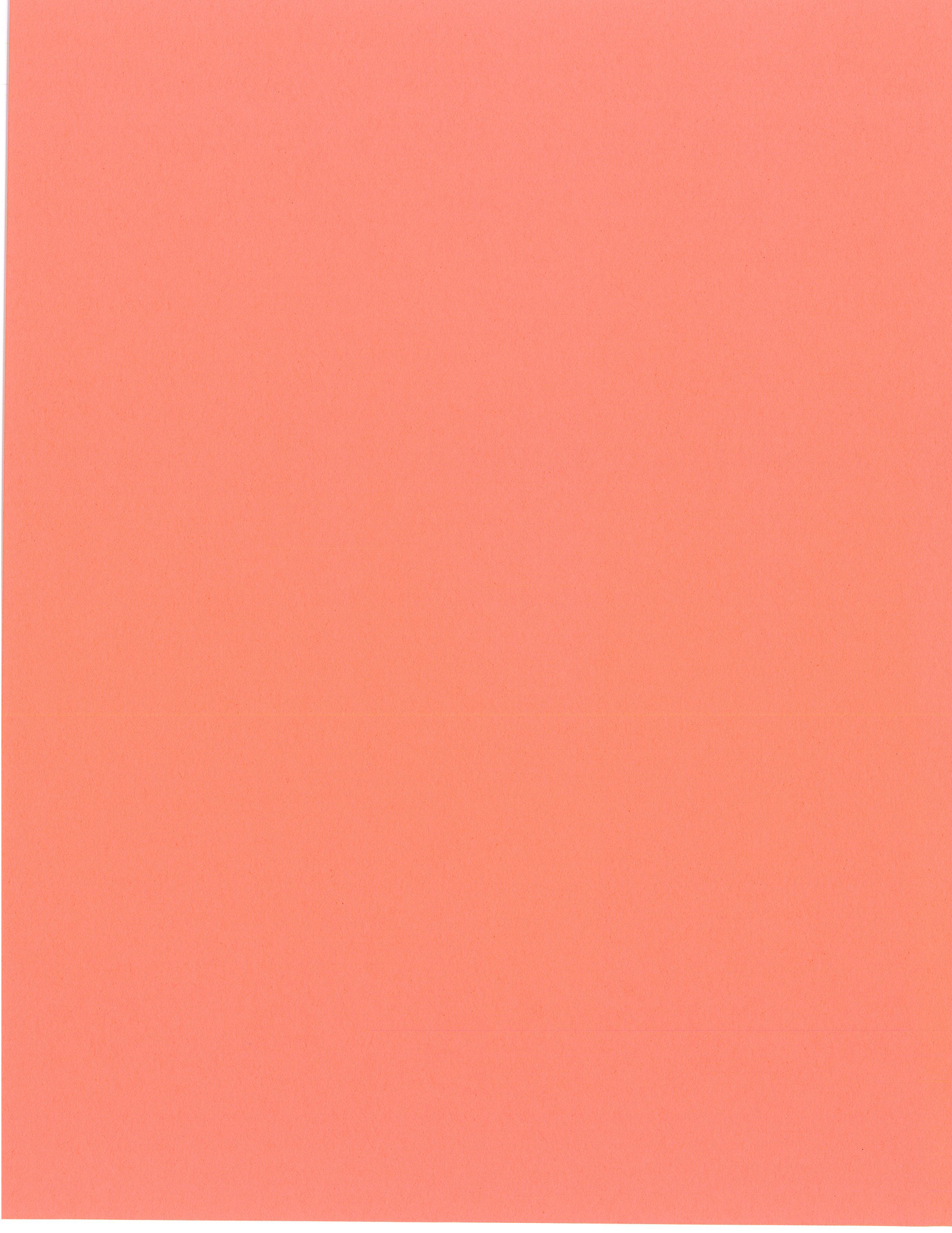


**MDCLC Past Presidents**

(Left to right) Former State Representative, and former Councilman, City of Hialeah Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez, City of Hialeah Council President Luis Gonzalez, Former City of Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson, Former City of Miami Beach Commissioner Deede Weithorn, Former City of Doral Mayor JC Bermudez, Immediate Past President, City of Homestead Councilman Jon Burgess, Town of Bay Harbor Islands Councilman Isaac Salver (not in picture), and Former State Representative, and former Commissioner, City of Miami Beach Richard Steinberg (not in picture).



City of Coral Gables Commissioner Vince Lago introduced the 2016-2017 MDCLC President Francis X. Suarez.





**MDCLC**

*62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala* **SPONSORS**

TITLE



**FPL**

**PLATINUM**

**Incoming President,  
Office of Commissioner Francis X. Suarez**

**GOLD**

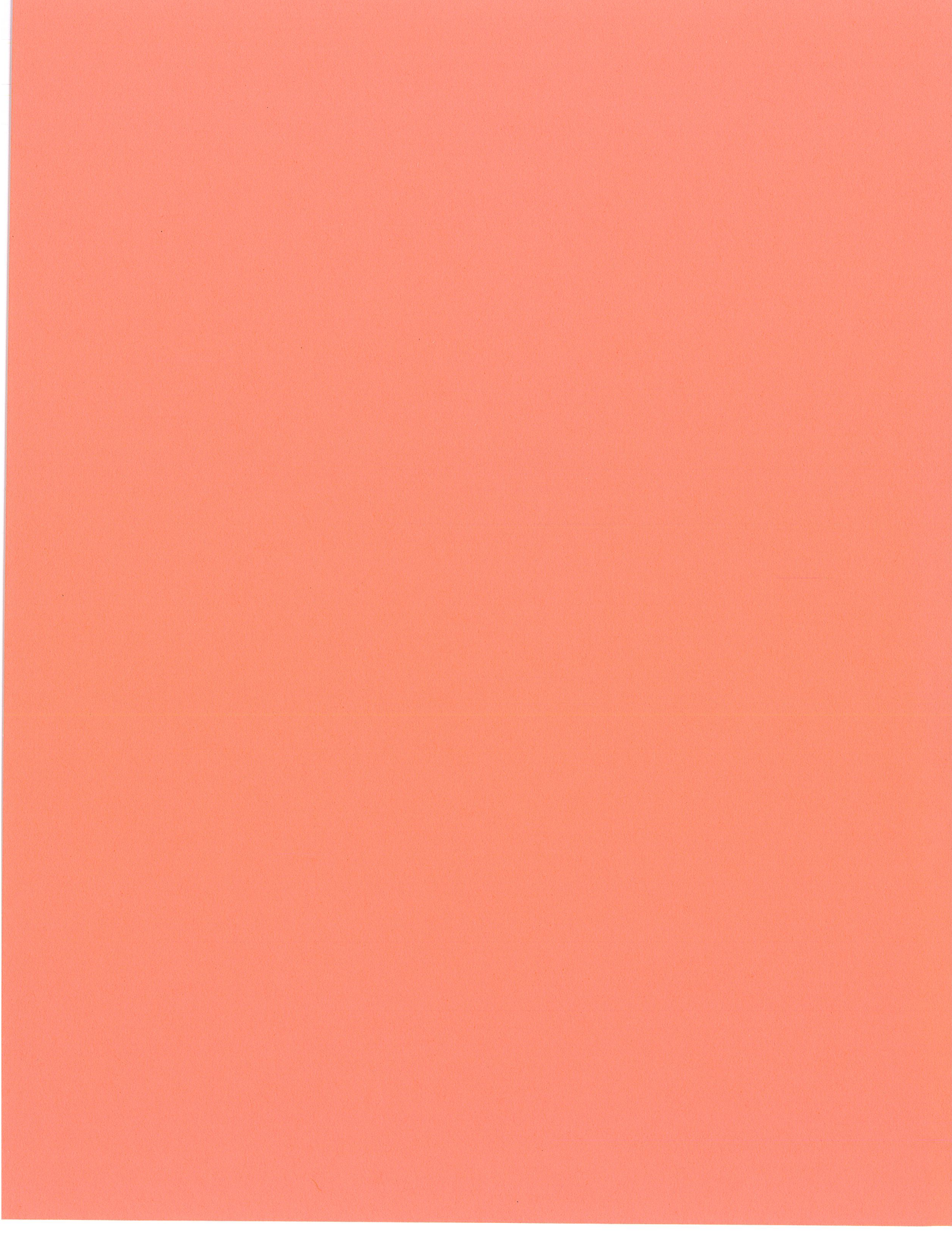


**SILVER**



**BRONZE**

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ALBERNI CABALLERO & FIERMAN, L.L.P. | LSN PARTNERS, LLC                         |
| AMERICAN TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS          | MBF HEALTHCARE PARTNERS                   |
| AT&T                                | METRO DADE FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1403        |
| BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA        | MIAMI ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS             |
| BECKER & POLIAKOFF                  | NORTH BAY VILLAGE                         |
| BERMELLO AJAMIL & PARTNERS, INC.    | PROGRESSIVE WASTE SOLUTIONS OF FL, INC.   |
| C.A.P. GOVERNMENT, INC.             | ROVR DEVELOPMENT, LLC                     |
| CALVIN, GIORDANO & ASSOCIATES, INC. | SHUTTS & BOWEN                            |
| CITY OF DORAL                       | TECO PEOPLES GAS                          |
| CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS             | TOWN OF BAY HARBOR ISLANDS                |
| CITY OF HOMESTEAD                   | TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH                      |
| CITY OF MIAMI BEACH                 | TOWN OF MEDLEY                            |
| CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS               | VILLAGE OF BAL HARBOUR                    |
| CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH           | VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL                      |
| CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH           | WASTE MANAGEMENT                          |
| CITY OF SWEETWATER                  | WASTE PRO OF FLORIDA, INC.                |
| EMPOWER RETIREMENT                  | WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE & BIERMAN, P.L. |
| GREENBERG TRAUIG LLP                | WORLD WASTE RECYCLING                     |
| JORGE LUIS LOPEZ LAW FIRM, LLC      |   |





Board of Directors meeting dates for 2016\*

January 2016- NO MEETING

February 20, 2016- Installation Dinner

March 9, 2016  
(Note 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

April 7, 2016

May 5, 2016

June 2, 2016

July 2016- NO MEETING

August 4, 2016

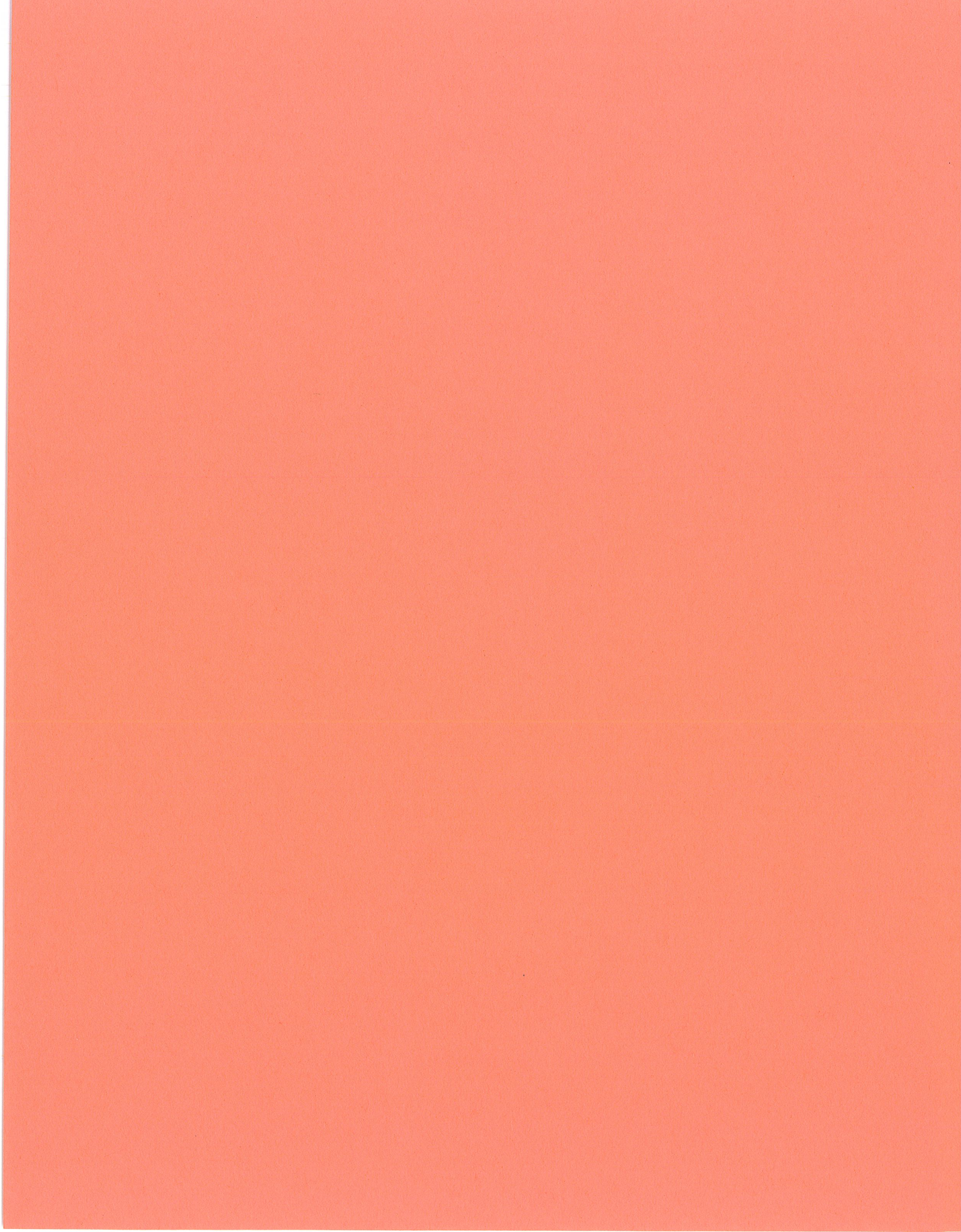
September 1, 2016

October 7, 2016 - Best Practices Conference

November 3, 2016

December 1, 2016

\* Dates subject to change





## **MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL R. BLYNN**

**GOOD EVENING TO ALL. SIX YEARS AGO, MICHAEL BLYNN HAD THE HONOR OF BEING INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT OF THE MIAMI-DADE LEAGUE OF CITIES. HE REGRETS THAT HE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS YEAR AS HE HAS ALWAYS DONE IN PAST MANY YEARS. HOWEVER, HE SENDS HIS BEST WISHES TO THE NEW PRESIDENT, OFFICERS AND BOARD AND THOSE WHO SERVED IN THOSE CAPACITIES IN THE PAST YEARS.**

**AS MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE, IN THE COMING YEAR, HE PLANS TO CONTINUE HIS WORK THAT HE BEGAN WITH MANY OF YOU ON DEBT RECOVERY, PLAYFUL CITY USA INITIATIVES AND AMERICA IN BLOOM PROJECTS.**

**MICHAEL SENDS HIS THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO TOOK THE TIME TO CONTACT HIM DURING HIS HOSPITALIZATION AND RECOVERY, AND A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FRIEND, RICHARD KUPER FOR HIS KINDNESS DURING THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME. GOD BLESS.**

**MICHAEL R. BLYNN,  
PAST PRESIDENT MDCLC 2010**