



Board/ First TRIM Public Hearing

September 11, 2023

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING/TRIM I
(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

The Children's Trust Meeting, Board of Directors/Trim I Meeting was held on September 11, 2023, commencing at 4:05 p.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair
Pamela Hollingsworth, Vice-Chair
Mark A. Trowbridge, Treasurer
Marissa Leichter, Secretary
Edward Abraham, M.D.
Laura Adams
Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
Matthew Arsenault
Daniel Bagner. M.D.
Morris Copeland

1 BOARD MEMBERS (Cont.):

2 Lourdes Diaz

3 Richard P. Dunn II

4 Jaqueline Exceus

5 Gilda Ferradaz

6 Hon. Norman Gerstein (Ret.)

7 Lourdes P. Gimenez

8 Nicole Gomez

9 Valrose Graham

10 Mindy Grimes-Festge

11 Nelson Hincapie

12 Symeria T. Hudson

13 Annie R. Neasman

14 Maria Norton

15 Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.

16 Ashna Paudel

17 Hon. Orlando Prescott

18 Javier Reyes

19 Rep. Alex Rizo

20 Hon. Isaac Salver

21

22 GUEST MEMBERS:

23 Jorge Plasencia

24 Sheila Womble

25 Madelyn Llanes

1 GUEST APPEARANCES (Cont.):

2 Carlos Salgado

3 Rocio Tafur-Salgado

4 Jannie Russell

5 Jamora Jefferson

6 Julie Riveron

7 Dayra Pla

8 Jennifer Peralta

9 Angeline Evans

10 Colton Gibbons

11 Mina Hosseini

12 Santiana Lewis

13 Keon Hardemon

14

15 STAFF MEMBERS:

16 James R. Haj, President & CEO

17 Juana Leon

18 K. Lori Hanson

19 Amanda Gorski

20 Aundray Adams

21 Bevone Ritchie

22 Carol Brogan

23 Danielle Barreras

24 Edward Hudson

25 Felix Becerra

1 STAFF MEMBERS (Cont.):

2 Garnet Esters

3 Grettel Suarez

4 Imran Ali

5 Jacques Bentolila

6 Juliette Fabien

7 Kathleen Dexter

8 Lindsay Francois

9 Lisanne Gage

10 Lisete Yero

11 Mariana Hernandez

12 Natalia Zea

13 Patricia Leal

14 Rachel Spector

15 Sebastian Del Marmol

16 Tatiana Canelas

17 William Kirtland

18 Ximena Nunez

19 Yuliet Alfonso

20

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22

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced
3 at 4:05 p.m.)

4 B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S M E E T I N G

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Hello. Sorry. Welcome everybody
6 to the board of directions meeting. We do have a
7 quorum, so we'll get the meeting started. Did we
8 also call an executive committee meeting for this?
9 I don't believe so. So, we want to cancel that.

10 The first thing I'd like to do is to take the
11 opportunity to take a moment of silence for the
12 victims of the 911 terrorist attacks back in --
13 2001. This was -- before we do that, this was a
14 defining moment, obviously for our country. And at
15 that time, it was a powerful force for unity.

16 It also became a spark for hatred and bigotry -
17 - hatred and bigotry against persons of the Muslim
18 faith. Today, as commemorative services are held at
19 the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in
20 Pennsylvania, we recognize that the victims of 911,
21 all innocent of any acts, lost their lives.

22 So, I would like you to join me in taking a
23 moment of silence for the victims. Thank you. In
24 my opening remarks, even though the welcome is later
25 on, I'd like to first welcome our newest board

1 members. We have joining us as the United Way
2 designee to the board, Symeria Hudson.

3 Symeria, for those of you who don't know about
4 her, I'll tell you a few things about her and then
5 she can respond. Symeria assumed the role of the
6 CEO of United Way of Miami in August 2022. Prior to
7 joining United Way, she was the President CEO of
8 Chapman Partnership.

9 Before moving to Miami, Symeria spent two
10 decades in leadership positions in the healthcare
11 and medical technology industries, driving the
12 portfolios and strategic marketing efforts of
13 billion dollar corporations across the US and
14 Europe.

15 Before that, she spent ten years in various
16 industries such as financial services, insurance
17 brokerage, and consumer goods with a focus on
18 strategy, marketing, and finance. Symeria hold a
19 Master's of Business Administration from Harvard
20 Business School, a bachelor's degree from Alabama
21 A&M University.

22 She's been recognized by many organizations
23 such as Legacy, Miami's 50 most influential Black
24 Leaders of South Florida, Junior League of Miami's
25 Women of the Year, and Chicago United's 2015 Top 50

1 Business Leaders of Color in 2015, to name a few.

2 Welcome, Symeria.

3 We also welcome, but you don't have to, say
4 anything you'd like.

5 MS. HUDSON: -- my home. This is certainly, we
6 reside here, United Way, Miami in this building.

7 And we're so grateful to have a seat at the table,
8 particularly with something so important and near
9 and dear to all of us. So, thank you for having me
10 and a special thank you to James.

11 He has been a wonderful partner and colleague
12 and just really grateful to be part of this board.
13 So, thank you. Thank you so much.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I also like to
15 welcome Nancy Adebisi, who is the Miami-Dade County
16 Health Department designee to the board. Nancy is a
17 government operations consultant and manager at the
18 Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.

19 She serves as the acting Director of the Office
20 of Community Health and Planning, where she oversees
21 vital programs that are working to address social
22 and economic barriers at the county level. Nancy's
23 a Miami native, earned her Bachelor's of Science in
24 Biology and Religious Studies from the University of
25 Miami, and a Master's Degree in Public Health from

1 Florida International University.

2 She's currently pursuing a doctoral degree at
3 FIU in Public Health with a focus on health
4 promotion and disease prevention. Welcome. You're
5 also welcome or not, if --

6 MS. ADEBISI: Just thank you so much for the
7 warm welcome.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Next, I don't know if any of you
9 saw this, but last week or was it Saturday -- sorry,
10 Thursday. The lights of several buildings in
11 downtown Miami and throughout Miami-Dade County were
12 -- went green in celebration of the Children's Trust
13 anniversary.

14 This really culminates a full year of events
15 that we've held, starting with the history museum
16 exhibit back in September, a year ago, as well as a
17 number of other commemorations that the staff has
18 assisted in presenting, as well as getting the
19 community to celebrate with us.

20 We have a video to show, and -- about our 20th
21 anniversary and unfortunately the year celebration
22 is over.

23 (Video playing.)

24 (Video concludes.)

25 MR. HOFFMAN: Great, thank you and thank you to

1 the staff for all their efforts in celebrating our
2 20th anniversary. Next, we had our last -- since
3 the last board meeting or the last family expo, I
4 know many of you attended a couple of them, at
5 least.

6 This was -- this year was the largest
7 attendance we've ever had of children and family at
8 the expos. Post-pandemic, we moved from a single
9 location at the Dade County Youth Fair Grounds to
10 three locations throughout the county.

11 And it's really helped bring the trust to the
12 community. The family expo is one of the main
13 events where the trust actually touches the
14 community. Families can take the opportunity to
15 learn about after-school programs, get school
16 supplies that's right at the beginning of the school
17 year, and meet with trust-funded providers as well
18 as school and county agencies.

19 So, it's really a terrific event to thank all
20 of you that did attend. But it's congratulations
21 again to the staff for another, you know, terrific
22 showing in the community. I wanted to give a
23 congratulations to Nicole Gomez, who was recently
24 appointed COO of LSN Partners, a Miami-based
25 consulting firm that she's been with since 2018.

1 AS COO, she'll oversee the day to day
2 operations of the firm's offices across the State
3 and throughout the nation. What else? Today is
4 Gilda's Birthday. Happy birthday.

5 I don't know if anybody really wants to sing
6 right now. And then finally, I just wanted to
7 congratulate our CEO Jim Haj for having been
8 selected to receive Distinguished Alumni Award from
9 the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences
10 at the Florida State University.

11 The Distinguished Alumni Award is selected by a
12 panel of alumni, retired faculty, and college staff
13 to represent diverse accomplishments and celebrate
14 the breadth of experience as possible with a degree
15 from Florida State University. Congratulations to
16 you.

17 And with that, we'll head into the regular
18 board meeting. Are there any public comments for
19 the board meeting?

20 MS. LEON: There are no public comments for our
21 board meeting, Mr. Chair.

22 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. And skip over the new
23 board member welcome and onto the approval of the
24 minutes. Sorry. Marissa?

25 MS. LEICHTER: Good afternoon, everyone. Is

1 this working? Yeah? Okay. I hope everyone had a
2 chance to review the minutes. Do I have a motion to
3 approve them? Second?

4 MS. NEASMAN: Second, Neasman.

5 (Motion to approve the July 10, 2023, Board of
6 Directors meeting minutes summary was made by Pamela
7 Hollingsworth and seconded by Annie Neasman. Motion
8 passed unanimously, 26-0.)

9 MS. LEICHTER: All those in favor?

10 (CHORUS Of AYE)

11 MS. LEICHTER: Motion -- minutes are approved.

12 Motion carried. And back to the chair.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Thanks. Now I'm
14 going to turn it over to Nelson Hincapie for the
15 bylaws committee report.

16 MR. HINCAPIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
17 afternoon, everyone. The bylaws committee members
18 met on July 20th of this year to review and make
19 recommendations to the bylaws. You can pull it up
20 on your iPads.

21 The words stricken throughout the bylaws are
22 proposed deletions, and words underlined constitute
23 the amendment proposed in the bylaws. Hopefully,
24 everyone had a chance to review the document with
25 the proposed changes.

1 The committee approved the revisions, and we
2 are supportive of them. You will notice a few
3 highlights within the document that constitute a few
4 edits staff requested after the meeting took place.

5 These are additional changes that we would like
6 to make that would align the bylaws with the millage
7 and budget, which is highlighted on Article 4,
8 voting and quorum, page 7, and on Article 7, General
9 Powers of the Board on page 9.

10 Page 7, Article 4, voting and quorum, that
11 speaks to the adoption of the millage rate and
12 annual budget. In this section, highlighted areas
13 on 2B and 2C was revised by staff for alignment
14 purposes.

15 Adoption of the millage rate or any estimates
16 thereof shall require an affirmative vote of at
17 least a majority of all members then serving on the
18 board and be in accordance with any applicable
19 requirements of Sections 200-065 and 125-901 Florida
20 statutes as may be amended and the Florida maximum
21 millage levy calculation.

22 In accordance with Section 125.901 Florida
23 statutes, the vote shall exclude, excluding is
24 stricken. The Juvenile Court Judge who shall
25 neither vote nor be counted in determining a

1 majority for purposes of adopting the millage rates
2 or any estimates thereof.

3 And C, adoption of the annual budget shall
4 require an affirmative vote of a majority of all
5 members then serving on the board. And B, in
6 accordance with any applicable requirements of
7 Section 200.065 and 125.901 Florida statutes as may
8 be amended and the Florida maximum millage levy
9 calculation.

10 Does anybody have any questions? Okay. If
11 none and no discussion, can I get a motion to
12 approve the changes to the bylaws? Thank you,
13 Judge. Second.

14 MS. GOMEZ: Second, Gomez.

15 (Motion to approve revisions to the Bylaws was made
16 by Hon. Norman S. Gerstein and seconded by Nicole Gomez.
17 Motion passed unanimously, 26-0.)

18 MR. HINCAPIE: Thank you. Nicole, Any
19 discussion? No. All those in favor say aye.

20 (CHORUS OF AYE)

21 MR. HINCAPIE: Motion passes. Any against?

22 Okay. Figure. Thank you. I think that's it,
23 Mr. Chair.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Next, we'll bring a
25 resolution to the board. Did not go through the

1 committee process. This is Resolution 2023-68.

2 Authorization to execute a pro bono engagement
3 agreement with Guide House, Inc.

4 For health industry expertise and market
5 research to inform school-based health strategic
6 planning for a term of up to 12 months commencing
7 retroactively on September 1, 2023, and ending
8 August 31, 2024. Jim, do you want to --

9 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. As we spoke
10 about throughout the year, 2007, we came out the
11 door with the health clinics in Dade County Public
12 Schools with about 150 clinics that service over
13 100,000 students per year. So, we were looking at,
14 you know, it's time post-COVID and with all the new
15 technology coming is how do we expand that to the
16 other 150 schools, plus charter schools, private
17 schools, and look at school health in general.

18 Have that discussion as a board and as a
19 community to bring in all our stakeholders. We
20 needed some expertise. Dr. Abraham is the chair of
21 our trust ad hoc committee, and he works for a guide
22 house who will agree to do it pro bono.

23 So, what we're here asking is to have Dr.
24 Abraham's organization -- Dr. Abraham works for a
25 guide house to do this work pro bono and give us

1 some expertise that we're not -- you know, we don't
2 know the national trends and what's happening in
3 other districts and throughout.

4 So, we're looking forward for the expertise and
5 the best part, it's pro bono and we do not have to
6 pay. Thank you. Mr. Chair.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Any questions or comments?

8 MS. LEICHTER: I'd just like to thank the
9 doctor. I just need to recuse myself, obviously.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Of course, we haven't gotten to
11 the vote yet.

12 No comments. All those in favor -- any
13 recusals? Sorry.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

15 MR. ARSENAULT: A motion to approve.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: We have a motion.

17 JUDGE PRESCOTT: Prescott, seconds.

18 (Resolution 2023-68: Motion to approve the
19 resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by
20 Hon. Orlando Prescott. Authorization to execute a pro
21 bono engagement agreement with Guidehouse, Inc. for
22 health industry expertise and market research to inform
23 school-based health strategic planning, for a term of up
24 to 12 months, commencing retroactively on September 1,
25 2023, and ending August 31, 2024. Motion passed, 25-0.

1 Recusal by Dr. Edward Abraham.)

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. And a second. Okay.

3 All those in favor.

4 (CHORUS OF AYE)

5 MR. HOFFMAN: All right. Any opposed? Okay.

6 The motion carries. Thank you. Jim, I'll turn it
7 over to you to the CEO report and then we'll have a
8 few minutes left before the Trim hearing at 5:01.

9 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. The monthly
10 media report's in your packet. Again, great work
11 going out throughout the community. Just want to
12 highlight that video. One, I want to thank staff
13 for coordinating with all the buildings,
14 organizations, everyone throughout the community who
15 turned their buildings green to celebrate the Trust
16 on Thursday.

17 It was a lot of work for months leading up to
18 this. And the drone footage of -- throughout the
19 community were done by one of the providers. The
20 kids and one of our providers supplied the drone
21 footage to create this video, which I thought was
22 really neat. The second trim hearing is next
23 Monday, September 18th at 5:01. We will be doing
24 pictures before about 4:30. We'll have a group board
25 picture at 4:30.

1 And the strategic framework was laid -- I think
2 they were laid right in front of you. I want to
3 give it to -- tee it up for Lorie. This we started
4 to work -- well, this has been a work in process for
5 years. At the last board retreat, Lorie presented
6 on this. We came back the following March and
7 reviewed this again.

8 And then we -- Lorie and her team have been
9 working with communications, too, to package this
10 and put this nice document right in front of you.
11 So, I'd like to turn it over to Lorie to go through
12 this quickly.

13 MS. HANSON: Thank you, Jim. As Jim said, we -
14 - earlier this year, talked with you about our
15 strategic plan which had been done probably about
16 seven or eight years ago. It was out of date with
17 our branding. It was not up to date with all of the
18 initiatives and projects that we were working on.
19 And so we knew that there needed to be an update to
20 the plan. We shared some of the content with you
21 during the retreat and in the follow-up reports.

22 And so what you have in front of you is the
23 updated, you know, design. This new framework
24 really is a high-level picture of the Trust's
25 vision, mission, values, as well as the priority

1 investment areas. So, if you get to those pages
2 that are mostly green, that's, sort of, the key part
3 that our budget is built around -- the framework.

4 The structure that the budget is built around,
5 as well as the detailed list of the current
6 investments that are funded.

7 And then last but not least, the page following
8 that are the Headline Community results that we seek
9 for children in partnership with other community
10 stakeholders. On one side of the page, we have the
11 family and community supports that then support the
12 child health -- child and youth well-being outcomes
13 that we hope to drive in our community, on the other
14 side of the page, just a new reference document that
15 we wanted to share with you. Thank you for your
16 ongoing input to guide our investments.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I did want to point
18 out on a personal note, looking at the media report,
19 which I hadn't for a while, we really have a lot of
20 excellent exposure in the community, not just about
21 our special programs, our anniversary, but about day
22 to day activities of the Trust. And we've been
23 partnering -- the staff has been partnering a lot
24 with Trust-funded providers on events and news
25 releases.

1 So, it's really terrific. When I started on
2 the Trust, I think about nine years ago, friends,
3 parents, and others would say, Children's Trust.
4 What's that? Don't really hear that as much
5 anymore. I think it's in part due to the media
6 exposure we've gotten; a lot of which is dedicated
7 around the 20th anniversary.

8 But again, on a day-to-day basis, if you look
9 at the last media report, it's just really terrific
10 the number of mentions, but also the number of
11 events the Trust is participating in in doing so.
12 Congratulations to the staff. With that, we will
13 adjourn the board meeting. We have a trim meeting
14 starting in about nine, ten minutes. See you there.
15 (Thereupon, the Board meeting was adjourned at 4:50
16 p.m.)

17 (Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced at
18 5:01 p.m.)

19 FIRST TRIM PUBLIC HEARING

20 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. We're going to call the
21 first trim hearing to order. It's 5:03 pm on
22 Monday, September 11th. The matters before the
23 board this afternoon are setting the tentative
24 millage and approval of the tentative budget.

25 The resolutions to come before the Board are as

1 follows: Resolution 2023-69, which is resolution of
2 the Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
3 adopting the tentative millage rate for levying of
4 ad valorem taxes for the Children's Trust of Miami-
5 Dade County, Florida, for fiscal year 2023-2024, and
6 declaring the percentage change in the property tax
7 levy as defined under Section 200.065 of the Florida
8 statutes, providing for an effective date.

9 And resolution 2023-70 Resolution of the
10 Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
11 adopting the tentative budget for fiscal year 2023-
12 2024, providing for an effective date. State law
13 mandates that the first item for discussion is
14 Resolution 2023-69, setting the tentative millage
15 necessary to fund the budget, as well as a
16 discussion of the specific purposes for which ad
17 valorem tax revenues are being used. The CEO will
18 give us an explanation, please.

19 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. As a reminder,
20 Florida Statute 200.0252(e)1 requires that hearings
21 discuss the percentage increase in millage over the
22 rolled-back rate necessary to fund the budget, if
23 any, and the specific purposes for which ad valorem
24 tax revenues are being increased.

25 The general public shall be allowed to speak

1 and to ask questions before adoption of any measures
2 by the governing body. The governing body shall
3 adopt its tentative and final millage rate before
4 adopting its final tentative -- before adopting its
5 tentative or final budget.

6 This will be the 21st budget year of the
7 Children's Trust. The tentative millage rate to be
8 levied in order to produce sufficient ad valorem
9 taxation revenue, which will be adequate to pay the
10 appropriations in the budget for the fiscal year
11 beginning October 1st, 2023, and ending September
12 30, 2024, shall be 0.5 mills.

13 The tentative operating millage of 0.5 mills
14 will result in a property tax increase of 12.123
15 percent, which is more than a rollback rate of
16 0.4455 mills. The rollback rate is the millage rate
17 that would generate approximately the same amount of
18 property revenues as approved for the prior year.

19 Last year's actual property tax levied for the
20 Children's Trust was \$184,670,635.

21 This year's proposed ad valorem tax revenue
22 estimate at 95 percent in ad valorem tax levy of
23 half mills is \$203,209,460. The purpose of this
24 levy and the resulting increase in the budgeted ad
25 valorem tax revenues over the prior year is to

1 engage the Trust to expand services for children and
2 families while aligning to the strategic plan.

3 The beginning of the new funding cycle, which
4 starts October 1st, next month, the Trust has
5 committed additional 35 million annually and 170.5
6 million over the next five-year cycle for program
7 services during the fiscal years 24 through 28.

8 This five-year commitment continues to emphasize the
9 importance of program spending as it provides
10 critical services for children and families in our
11 community.

12 The Trust also increased the following program
13 budget categories to support these initiatives.
14 7,950,000 to parenting for group, individual and
15 home visitations, and early literacy, five --
16 5,570,000 for early childhood early intervention
17 supports, 19.5 million for youth development, which
18 is K12 and after school programs and summer camps,
19 960,000 for health and wellness, school-based
20 health, public benefits enrollment, and 1,000 for
21 program and professional development and
22 infrastructure supports.

23 This total budget program services is
24 207,295,548. In the Children's Trust history, this
25 is the largest budgeted investment in program

1 services. This budget that we put in front of you
2 reflects management expenses of 5.81 percent, which
3 is the lowest percentage in Trust history. Thank
4 you, Mr. Chair.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

6 MR. HAJ: You're welcome.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: So, the public hearing is open on
8 the tentative millage rate. We have a few public
9 speakers who have asked to comment. I'm going to
10 ask first those -- there are two that are on Zoom.
11 First, Jorge Plasencia. Please state your name,
12 your residence address, as well as your -- the
13 organization, if you're representing an
14 organization. And please limit your comments to
15 three minutes. Thank you.

16 MR. PLASENCIA: Thank you. Can you hear me?

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

18 MR. PLASENCIA: Okay. Perfect. Good
19 afternoon. My name is Jorge Plasencia. I live at
20 7251 Monaco Street in Coral Gables and I'm here
21 representing Amigos for Kids. Good afternoon,
22 everyone. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My
23 name is Jorge Plasencia. I'm the co-founder,
24 chairman emeritus, and a proud volunteer of Amigos
25 for Kids for over 30 years.

1 I'm here as a representative of our
2 organization to express our sincere gratitude for
3 your continued support as you consider the
4 Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County's millage rate
5 and budget. Amigos for Kids is an organization that
6 is deeply committed to improving the lives of
7 children and families right here in Miami-Dade.

8 We work tirelessly to address critical issues
9 facing our community, from education to healthcare
10 to family support. Our partnership with the
11 Children's Trust has been nothing short of
12 transformative. Let's talk about impact. It's one
13 thing to discuss numbers and statistics, but the
14 real heart of our work lies in the stories of the
15 families we serve.

16 With the Children's Trust Support, we've
17 provided vital programs that touch the lives of
18 thousands upon thousands of children in our
19 community. Take for instance, our after-school
20 enrichment programs. This program is not just about
21 keeping kids occupied after the school bell rings,
22 they are about creating safe, nurturing spaces where
23 children can thrive academically and socially.

24 The historic funding commitment from the
25 Children's Trust in the area of youth development

1 has allowed us to expand this program reaching more
2 children who need this urgent support. The smiles
3 on their faces when they achieve a new academic
4 milestone or discover a talent that they never knew
5 they had, that's the impact of our collective work.

6 But it doesn't stop there. The Children's
7 Trust has been instrumental in supporting our
8 initiatives to combat child abuse and neglect here
9 in Miami. We've been able to provide parenting
10 education and resources to families in crisis. With
11 this support, we've seen families heal and flourish.

12 It's just not about intervention, it's about
13 prevention, and the Children's Trust has been our
14 partner in this endeavor. Now, as we talk about
15 accountability, we understand when you entrust us
16 with public funds, you want to ensure that that
17 money is used correctly and wisely.

18 The Children's Trust shares this commitment to
19 transparency and fiscal responsibility that we do at
20 Amigos for Kids. Together we've put measures in
21 place to track and evaluate the impact of every
22 dollar invested in our programs. But we're not just
23 about funding programs.

24 We're all about also building community and
25 building partnerships. With the Children's Trust,

1 we've forged collaborations with other organizations
2 in our community, leveraging our resources to
3 maximize reach and effectiveness. Looking ahead, we
4 have huge, ambitious plans.

5 We want to expand our educational programs,
6 offer more support to struggling families in our
7 community, and continue in our fight against child
8 abuse and neglect. With the Children's Trust
9 support, we can make these aspirations a reality.

10 In conclusion, I am here before you today not
11 just as a representative of Amigos for Kids, but as
12 a voice for countless children and families in
13 Miami-Dade whose lives have been positively impacted
14 through the -- through our partnership with the
15 Children's Trust.

16 Your approval of the proposed millage rate and
17 budget will enable us to keep these vital programs
18 running. I want to thank you on behalf of the
19 children and families we have served for over 30
20 years for your continued trust and for your
21 partnership and support. Together we can continue
22 to make a real difference in the lives of those most
23 in need in our community. Thank you.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you and thank you for your
25 positive comments.

1 MR. PLASENCIA: My pleasure.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: I'd like to call on Sheila Womble
3 next who's on Zoom.

4 MS. WOMBLE: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. My
5 name is Sheila Womble and I live at 1635 Southwest
6 18th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33145. I'm speaking
7 today as a resident, a homeowner, and a trust
8 provider since the early 2000, and an out-of-school
9 program provider since 2015.

10 I serve as the Executive Director at Arts for
11 Learning, and we have a brilliant arts based after-
12 school program at Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary
13 School, where a significant amount of the students
14 and families reside in the Sweetwater neighborhood.

15 Our parents consistently share how pleased they
16 are with the programming and the opportunities that
17 we're providing their children to grow in and
18 through the arts. Including this quote from a
19 parent just recently saying, the staff are amazing,
20 helpful, caring, and instrumental in the positive
21 experience my children receive.

22 A special thank you to Sharay Kado (phonetic)
23 to for keeping us informed and being an amazing
24 liaison for parents. Ms. Kado is our site manager
25 and has been for over seven years. I'm

1 wholeheartedly supporting the increase to the
2 millage rate as costs have increased significantly
3 across the board to operate programming.

4 The Trust have been incredibly understanding of
5 this. Especially understanding of what it takes to
6 hire and retain the brilliant professionals who are
7 responsible for the care of our children in our
8 after-school program. I, and my entire team, are
9 grateful that our program was not only renewed but
10 also received the needed increase to continue
11 operating the program at the level of quality that
12 our children and staff deserve.

13 I know that I'm not the only provider that
14 feels this way and I know the Trust made an even
15 deeper investment in after-school programs this year
16 and bringing on new providers who also need the
17 increased support. So, I just want to thank the
18 Trust for all that you do, for the investment you
19 make, not only in Arts for Learning and in the arts,
20 and for children ages zero all the way up to ages 18
21 and beyond, if they have special needs. And I want
22 to thank you for considering this proposed increase.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Sheila. Yeah, then we
24 have some public speakers that are in attendance at
25 the meeting. I will call on first Madeline Janis.

1 And again, please, when you get to the podium,
2 please state your name, your residence address, and
3 kindly limit your comments to three minutes. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. JANIS: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Madeline Janis. I live on 1304 Southwest 36th
7 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33145. I'm here to thank the
8 Children's Trust from the bottom of my heart. I am
9 directly impacted by the services because I've
10 worked as a social worker for many years and I've
11 been at the trenches of what social services and
12 quality of care means to families and children
13 struggling in their lives.

14 I am the Executive Director of Central Matter.
15 I've been for a year, but before that, I was the
16 program administrator of Central Matter in Little
17 Havana, and I also was the social worker at Central
18 Matter for many years. Again, I congratulate the
19 Children's Trust on their 20th anniversary and also
20 I thank them for the last 20 years of support.

21 Central Matter has been with the Children's
22 Trust since 2003, so since the very beginning, and
23 we have been the recipient of their support. And
24 through our doors, we've had over thousands of
25 children. Right now, we're serving close to 800

1 children, only supported by the Children's Trust.

2 That's a big number of children and families that
3 were impacted.

4 Again, I've been in the field for over 25 years
5 and I've finish -- and I've witnessed firsthand the
6 improvements of the quality of services provided to
7 our children by the Children's Trust. Back in 2000
8 -- in the early 2000s, late 1990s, there were a lot
9 of after-school programs in our community.

10 A lot of these programs didn't have any
11 benchmarks, didn't have a license, didn't have any
12 quality objectives, and because of the Children's
13 Trust, we have grown not only to serve families, but
14 also on the quality and giving the best. Because
15 it's not just a place where you leave your child,
16 your child is learning, your child is growing, your
17 child is enhancing their potential.

18 And that is, to me, the big difference that the
19 Children's Trust is making. It's not just a place
20 to go. It's changing lives and exposing the
21 children to a lot of opportunities that a lot of the
22 families living in Miami-Dade County, especially now
23 with the cost of living, don't have the opportunity
24 to experience.

25 So, back in the day, it was just playing

1 around, taking attendance. Right now, it's so much
2 more. We're doing so many beautiful and wonderful
3 things that it would be great if a lot of you would
4 see it firsthand because it makes a connection.

5 It makes it real, and it gives us a sense of
6 what we're doing is correct. Because we're
7 investing on what is important. The lives of our
8 children and the future of our community. So,
9 again, on behalf of thousands of families that we
10 have supported and changed their life, I thank you.

11 I also thank you on behalf of Central Matter.
12 Our program has been over -- here in Miami for over
13 55 years and we continue to be -- we continue and
14 plan to be here for many more. I also want to thank
15 the Children's Trust for the wonderful soccer mini-
16 pitch we'll be getting it pretty soon. You're all
17 invited to the grand opening. It is on October
18 21st. Thank you.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Next, I'd like to
20 call on Carlos Salgado.

21 MR. SALGADO: Good afternoon.

22 MS. TAFUR-SALGADO: Good afternoon.

23 MR. SALGADO: Chair Mr. Hoffman; Ms.
24 Hollingsworth by chair; the Director of the Trust,
25 Mr. Hash; the rest of the board members and guests

1 that are here. Our names are Carlos and Rocio, and
2 Rocio has to be with me. She's been with me for
3 close to 50 years. So -- I mean, and we are both
4 the founders and directors of enFAMILIA.

5 We would like to -- we're here to express our
6 gratitude because the continuous support that you
7 have been giving us since the year 2003 under the
8 supervision with other partners and also
9 independently.

10 MS. TAFUR-SALGADO: Thank you for your staff.
11 Your staff has been very trusted with us. They have
12 been a tremendous support to us. They have given us
13 a lot of guidance. Thank you for the partnership,
14 for your continued support for the collaboration
15 that enFAMILIA has been getting for 20 years.

16 We've been in existence for 23 years. And
17 definitely in 2003, we met Rachel and we met some of
18 the people from Homestead. And so we've been
19 getting all your services. And we have assist our
20 families -- many families through the children's
21 programs.

22 Right now we got the five million, I'm sorry,
23 the half-a-million dollars and support. Thank you.
24 Support for the after schools. We opened four
25 after-school programs inside the workers' sites. We

1 are lee -- we are working inside the -- Both in
2 Florida City -- in Florida City and also in
3 Homestead.

4 MR. SALGADO: And by the way, we -- now we're
5 Carlos and Rocio Salgado, and we are -- our office
6 is in Homestead, 16030 SW 293rd Drive. Also for
7 several years, ten years, I was an art middle school
8 teacher in Homestead, and that taught me the
9 importance of involving the arts in our programs.

10 And that's why that's been an essential component of
11 what we do with the students. And these have been
12 able to work on their self esteem and also to
13 develop a lot of talents that they didn't know they
14 had.

15 MS. TAFUR-SALGADO: In addition to our summer
16 program, we celebrated this year summer camp number
17 26. Because at the beginning in 2000, we were able
18 to do two summer camps, one in June for the middle
19 schools and one in July for high school. So, that's
20 why we just celebrated 2060 summer camps.

21 And we also have the group leaders. We have
22 the -- and also parents programs such as counseling,
23 such as Nurturing Parenting program, fatherhood
24 program since 2003. And finally, care coordinations
25 to safe coaches now. And so we're extremely

1 grateful for all those services to the entire
2 family.

3 MR. SALGADO: And we would like to end by
4 (yeah, I know it's a mess) -- we would like to end.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: You can finish. Since both of
6 you registered, you can --

7 MR. TAFUR-SALGADO: Also, we have six men.
8 It's limited. So, through the funds that the trusts
9 have given us throughout the years, not only we have
10 been able to help all these families, but also it
11 has become an experience, a way for the staff to
12 find out and to confirm their mission, which is to
13 serve people. And for Rocio and I, definitely to
14 fulfill our dreams because this is what we wanted to
15 do for many, many years. Thank you very much.

16 And I would like to end that for the -- our
17 staff and -- mentioned, they are constantly
18 attending the academy, this was academic classes,
19 courses. And we are constantly learning about the
20 best guidance for our families and so forth. And
21 again, we are fulfilling not only are the dreams,
22 but also purpose in life. Thank you and thank you
23 for attending yes.

24 MR. SALGADO: We also got the mini pitch in the
25 soccer field. Thank you.

1 MS. TAFUR-SALGADO: Thanks. I should be gone.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Next up, Jannie Russell.

4 And again, please state your name and residence
5 address.

6 MS. RUSSELL: Good evening. I guess I should
7 have brought Mr. Russell because I think I need
8 numbers. We're not 50, but we're almost there. I'm
9 Jannie Russell. I'm the founding Executive Director
10 of Teen Up-Ward Bound.

11 My address is 1210 Peri Street, in the city of
12 Opa-Locka, where I have my program and have had for
13 23 years. Teen Upward Bound was one of the original
14 recipients of funds through the Children's Trust.
15 And through the trust, we've really grown. And it's
16 such a pleasure to be able to provide services in
17 the community which I live, I work, and I see our
18 kids grow up.

19 Over these 20 years, what the trust has been to
20 us, we started off and I still consider myself a
21 small organization, although we've reached that --
22 over that \$500,000 mark. But the Trust has really
23 taught us about capacity building. We did not
24 understand and know and we were able to come to
25 those finance meetings early in the morning and get

1 the guidance that we needed.

2 And through the staff and staff of the
3 Children's Trust, Teen Upward Bound has been able to
4 grow. So, now we've always serviced kids outside of
5 because in our community, you know, what the trust
6 paid for is just a small portion of what we have to
7 provide as an organization to all of our children
8 and their families.

9 But we have been able to expand to three
10 locations outside of our site. And one thing I
11 would like to bring home that, you know, when
12 everybody was going into the schools and going into
13 the schools, I wanted Teen Upward Bound to have a
14 home so that our children would be able to leave the
15 school and come to a place where if they wanted to
16 throw paint on the wall, we wanted to put our hands
17 on the wall, we could do that with no problem.

18 The Children's Trust, because of the capacity
19 building that Teen Upward Bound now has been the
20 recipient of the Miami Foundation's CREO Grant. And
21 we should be closing maybe this week on our own home
22 in the city of Opa-Locka. And that's only because
23 of the hard, hard, hard things that we had to learn
24 as a small organization.

25 How to handle money. Finances is something

1 that we as small agencies, sometimes we put that at
2 the bottom of our grant dollars, but it really
3 should be at the top. And that's what the
4 Children's Trust taught us.

5 So, thank you very much. From Odesto, all the
6 way down to Jim, from Dave Lawrence, yeah, Emron,
7 everybody have been supported when we didn't know
8 whether or not we were going to be able to keep our
9 doors open when things really got hard. The
10 Children's Trust came through and because of that,
11 the children in Opa-Locka can definitely say that
12 they have a home. Thank you very much.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Timing of a three
14 minutes.

15 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Next up. Jamora
17 Jefferson.

18 MS. JEFFERSON: Hello. My name is Jamora
19 Arroyo-Jefferson. I live at 3624 Oak Avenue, Miami,
20 Florida 33133. I'm a high school senior at Ransom
21 Everglades Upper School, and I'm going to say third-
22 year member of the Youth Advisory Committee,
23 affectionately called Yac.

24 The Children's Trust is helping to shape me and
25 my fellow Yacers into the next generation of diverse

1 change makers by providing us valuable life
2 experiences and fostering essential life character
3 traits that will provide us with -- provide us with
4 the ability to cha -- make positive change for the
5 residents of Miami-Dade County.

6 In fact, being a member of Yac has personally
7 helped me shape the person I am today, as well as
8 the person I aspire to be in the future. So, I'm
9 here today to ask that the board adopt the proposed
10 mileage rate so that the Children's Trust has the
11 ability to continue the positive impact on the lives
12 of Miami-Dade residents like Yac. Thank you.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Before you leave, where are you
14 going to college?

15 MS. JEFFERSON: Well, I wanted to go to the
16 Cornell for Sustainable Agriculture and Plant
17 Sciences.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Are you -- are already -- are you
19 in or accepted?

20 MS. JEFFERSON: No. I still have to finish my
21 application.

22 MR. HOFFMAN: Well, lots of luck.

23 MS. JEFFERSON: One step at a time.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: We have a lot of -- right -- we -
25 - we have a lot of faith in you because you're

1 carrying our banner.

2 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you.

3 MS. JEFFERSON: But consider the honors
4 college. Consider the honors college.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: All children are my children.
6 Next up, we have Julie Riveron. She -- not from me
7 anyway.

8 MS. RIVERON: Good afternoon, everyone. My
9 name is Julie Riveron and I am the program
10 administrator for Centro Mater West. So, one of the
11 program sites that Madeline was talking about. And
12 we're here to support the Children's Trust. I'm
13 going to date myself, but I remember when I first
14 started in this field and going out and campaigning
15 for taxpayers to vote yes on the ballot.

16 And where we were back then, to where we are
17 now, it's just been an amazing, amazing journey, as
18 Madeline was saying. Back when I started in this
19 field, we -- centers were hardly licensed. There
20 wasn't a -- how do you say -- accreditation. It
21 wasn't the norm. Centro Mater is one of the few
22 centers that has an accredited after-school program.

23 In addition, I think I also wanted to speak for
24 all the partnership programs that we have and the
25 impact it has on our programming. And so, we have

1 what's called the Raising K program, which is part
2 of the younger group that benefits from the
3 Children's Trust, The Reading Explorers, which is
4 also a trust-funded program.

5 It really makes an impact on the, you know, the
6 children and getting -- making sure that they're
7 ready to make that transition from preschool into
8 early childhood. And one of the things that
9 Madeline was mentioning also, is the quality of
10 programming and the experiences that we can give the
11 kids.

12 We are able to -- with the funding that the
13 trust provides, we are able to give them experiences
14 that maybe they would not be able to ever have. One
15 of the things that I learned and it was so impactful
16 for me being from an immigrant family, my parents
17 did a lot to try and make every penny count and do
18 everything that we could do to give us every
19 advantage that they could, but not all families can.

20 And so, I remember one time working with a
21 group of senior students and I said, what do you
22 want to do for your end of the year celebration?
23 And they said, we would like to go to Metro Zoo
24 because they had never gone. And these were seniors
25 in high school.

1 So, I think with the quality -- the funding
2 that the trust provides us, it allows us to give
3 them activities to -- in the arts in STEM, to do
4 field trips, to go, you know, people coming in to do
5 community projects, to build on their social and
6 emotional well development. Because that is such a
7 huge part of what is going to be their future
8 success.

9 If they're good, they feel strong, they know
10 that they can accomplish things, then they are going
11 to be the brighter future for Miami-Dade County.

12 So, I know it's not a whole three minutes, but I
13 think that I just want to say thank you. I know
14 that the community over the years has when you hear
15 out in the community about the trust and all it's
16 doing, it's -- people are aware and they're happy to
17 continue to support it.

18 You hear that from our families. You hear that
19 from our kids that want to not age out of
20 programming. They want to come back and still stay
21 with us. And I think the community at large really
22 sees the positive impact the trust is having. So,
23 thank you. Three minutes.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. One final register is
25 Dayra Pla. I hope I pronounced that correctly.

1 MS. PLA: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is
2 Dayra Pla. I'm the program manager at Centro Mater
3 West II. I live in 1121 SW 122nd Avenue, Apartment
4 403, Miami, Florida 33184.

5 So, I'm going to speak a little bit about the
6 daily programmatics of our program. I've been able
7 to witness our program grow as an after-school care
8 counselor and myself back in 2015. And then I went
9 on and tried to continue my role as a teacher. I
10 ended up going back to Centro Mater because I saw
11 the impact that it had on the families that we
12 served. And I thought it was precious.

13 It was something that I felt like I was giving
14 back to the community. I felt like I was helping
15 other students. And then when I was able to come
16 back and I was offered a program manager position, I
17 was able to see how impactful my role as a leader
18 for my organization was.

19 So, through the Children's Trust, we're able to
20 expose children to so many things in our program.
21 For example, we expose them to soccer, arts,
22 theaters, sports, STEM technology.

23 And most of these experiences are very normal
24 to us. But for many families, there's something
25 brand new. So. the fact that we can provide this

1 for our families, and see the parents thankful and
2 very supportive through everything. It means a lot.

3 I think that just taking the children to field
4 trips that sometimes they're not able to go with
5 their own families. It's great to see their faces
6 and when their parents pick them up saying Mom, Dad,
7 I was able to go to David Busters, and look, I won
8 this prize.

9 And then they tell me, Ms. Dayra, what is David
10 Busters? So, things like that have, like, a
11 tremendous impact. I think that also their academic
12 knowledge through the FIU, I've seen it grow -- I've
13 seen them grow through the FIU Reading Explorers.

14 We've been able to witness and actually have
15 data to prove our students' growth, and not only
16 their academic growth, but their social emotional
17 growth. Because you can be very bright. But if you
18 don't have a social emotional foundation that is
19 strong and sturdy, I mean, you could be as bright as
20 you want, but that comes first. So, I want to thank
21 you. And I want to say that because of you, we are
22 able to provide the support to our families. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Are there any other members of
25 the public that are registered, make comment? No.

1 Okay. With that, the public hearing on the
2 tentative millage rate is closed. I request a
3 motion to approve resolution 2023-69, setting the
4 tentative millage as explained in the budget
5 message. May I have a motion, please?

6 MR. DUNN: Second, Richard Dunn.

7 (Resolution 2023-69: Motion to approve the
8 resolution was made by Norman Gerstein and seconded by
9 Pastor Richard Dunn II. Resolution of The Children's
10 Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the
11 tentative millage rate for levying of ad valorem taxes
12 for the children's trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida
13 for fiscal year 2023-2024; and declaring the percentage
14 change in the property tax levy as defined under section
15 200.065, Florida Statutes; providing for an effective
16 date.)

17 (The motion passed: 25 in favor. None opposed. Judge
18 Orlando Prescott Abstained. 27 board members were
19 present.)

20 (Adopted at 5:42 p.m.)

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Is there any board
22 discussion? Isaac?

23 MR. SALVER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
24 know, I just want to say that at the budget-
25 committee level, when we went through this, there

1 was very lively dialogue, you know, as to whether to
2 go to the rollback rate. Because typically, you
3 know, I -- you know, me as a elected official, you
4 know, my position is that -- I try not to raise
5 taxes because regardless of whether our millage rate
6 is the same as the prior year, the rollback rate
7 represents a rate that we don't have to publish the
8 fact that we raise taxes. I'm going to have the
9 same discussion at my town budget hearing, and there
10 are a lot of good reasons on both sides, you know,
11 not to raise taxes.

12 You know, we could be looking at some financial
13 turbulence, moving forward. But the conclusion was,
14 and the majority of the budget committee -- or the
15 finance committee -- proffered that we do rai -- you
16 know, keep the -- or raise the rate, but, you know,
17 we agreed that the suggested rate is the proper
18 rate.

19 This is the first budget, I believe, that we're
20 actually going to exceed \$200 million, and, you
21 know, I've been on this trust long enough to see
22 where the -- where this millage rate would have
23 yielded maybe 65,000. Pam, you were there, like,
24 for most of the beginning years. You know, and I --
25 one of the things I want to say is, first,

1 congratulations to the finance staff, and to James,
2 and to his support staff for putting together a
3 budget that's not only sensitive to the economic
4 throes that we're going through, but sensitive to
5 the community, as well.

6 One of the hardest things that we have to do on
7 the trust is say no, sometimes. And I remember --
8 because, you know, I loved hearing from Teen Up-Ward
9 Bound because I remember I was sitting in a
10 committee meeting where Teen Up-Ward Bound was about
11 to get defunded by The Children's Trust. You know,
12 and they came in to several meetings that we had,
13 and, you know, they made their case that they were a
14 worthy organization. And it's clear that, you know,
15 the trust made the right decision to work with them.
16 And we actually created capacity-building tools that
17 they can take, and we applied it to other
18 organizations as well.

19 So, you know, we definitely made the right
20 decision, and congratulations to them. I hope their
21 grant works out with their new home. So, although I
22 didn't move or second it, and as much as I hate to
23 raise taxes, and Alex, you can appreciate this. I'm
24 going to definitely support the millage rate that's
25 being proposed, and thanks, staff, again, for that.

1 And of course, the whole committee.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Any other comment?

3 MR. DUNN: I always like to add a little humor.

4 Let the church say amen.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Amen. Okay. Anyone else?

6 And I would like to say, Isaac, having been in
7 several of those discussions as a counterpoint to
8 your point, so, I do appreciate that discussion this
9 year was very robust and thoughtful, and I
10 appreciate that you will support the budget that the
11 staff and the finance committee has come up with.
12 That's great.

13 The --- any other discussion, questions? Okay.
14 Prior to the vote on the resolution setting the
15 tentative millage, staff is given the opportunity to
16 check if there's any changes to the millage rate.

17 MR. SALVER: There's no change.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

19 MR. SALVER: This is The Children's Trust.

20 There is a motion and a second for approval of a
21 tentative millage of point 5 or 5 mills, and there
22 is -- and this is a %12.23 percent increase, which
23 is more than the rollback rate of point 4455. The
24 proposed tentative millage rate to be levied by The
25 Children's Trust is half mills.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. We need to vote on
2 the motion to adopt the resolution setting the
3 tentative millage. Excuse me. Two thirds of those
4 serving on the board, excluding the Juvenile Court
5 Judge, who doesn't vote or be counted on determining
6 a majority for the purpose of the millage rate, must
7 vote affirmatively to approve the millage rate.

8 MS. LEICHTER: The vote must be by individual
9 roll call. Dr. Edward Abraham?

10 DR. ABRAHAM: Affirmative.

11 MS. LEICHTER: Laura Adams?

12 MS. ADAMS: I vote yes.

13 MS. LEICHTER: Nancy Adebisi?

14 MS. ADEBISI: Yes.

15 MS. LEICHTER: Matthew Arsenault?

16 MR. ARSENAULT: Yes.

17 MS. LEICHTER: Dr. Daniel Bagner?

18 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

19 MS. LEICHTER: The Honorable Dr. Dorothy
20 Bendross-Mindingall, absent. Morris Copeland, non-
21 voting designee of the Honorable Mayor Daniella
22 Levine Cava, who can vote but is absent.

23 MR. COPELAND: You know, I'm here, but I'm a
24 non-voting member.

25 MS. LEICHTER: Right. The mayor is absent.

1 Lourdes Diaz?
2 MS. DIAZ: Yes.
3 MS. LEICHTER: Pastor Richard Dunn II?
4 MR. DUNN: Yea.
5 MS. LEICHTER: Jacqueline Exceus?
6 MS. EXCEUS: I affirm. Yes.
7 MS. LEICHTER: Gilda Ferradaz?
8 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.
9 MS. LEICHTER: The honorable Norman Gerstein?
10 MR. GERSTEIN: Yes.
11 MS. LEICHTER: Lourdes Gimenez?
12 MS. GIMENEZ: Yes.
13 MS. LEICHTER: Nicole Gomez? Not present for
14 voting.
15 MS. LEICHTER: Valrose Graham?
16 MS. GRAHAM: Yes.
17 MS. LEICHTER: Mindy Grimes-Festge?
18 MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Yes.
19 MS. LEICHTER: The Honorable Keon Hardemon?
20 Absent. Dr. Malou Harrison? Absent.
21 Nelson Hincapie?
22 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.
23 MS. LEICHTER: Kenneth Hoffman?
24 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.
25 MS. LEICHTER: Pamela Hollingsworth?

1 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

2 MS. LEICHTER: Symeria Hudson?

3 MS. HUDSON: Symeria. Yes.

4 MS. LEICHTER: Symeria, sorry.

5 Marissa Leichter? Yes.

6 Annie Neasman?

7 MS. NEASMAN: Yes.

8 MS. LEICHTER: Maria Norton?

9 MS. NORTON: Yes.

10 MS. LEICHTER: Clara Ospina?

11 DR. OSPINA: Yes.

12 MS. LEICHTER: Ashna Paudel?

13 MS. PAUDEL: Yes.

14 MS. LEICHTER: Javier Reyes?

15 MR. REYES: Yes.

16 MS. LEICHTER: The Honorable Alex Rizo? Not

17 present for vote.

18 The Honorable Isaac Salver?

19 MR. SALVER: Yes.

20 MS. LEICHTER: Mark Trowbridge?

21 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.

22 MS. LEICHTER: And Judge Orlando Prescott, you

23 must abstain on the millage vote.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. The motion to approve the

25 tentative millage passed. We have 25 votes in

1 favor. The time of adoption is 5:44 p.m. The
2 second resolution to be taken up by the board at
3 this budget hearing is Resolution 2023-70, the
4 tentative budget.

5 The resolution reads, Resolution of The
6 Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
7 adopting the tentative budget for the fiscal year
8 2023 to 2024, providing for an effective date. The
9 public hearing is open on the tentative budget.

10 Is there anyone that's registered to speak for
11 this part of the hearing? No? Okay. Thank you.
12 Then the public hearing is closed on the tentative
13 budget. I request a motion to approve Resolution
14 2023-70, adopting the tentative budget.

15 MR. TROWBRIDGE: So, move, Trowbridge.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Second?

17 DR. BAGNER: Second, Bagner.

18 (Resolution 2023-70: Motion to approve the
19 resolution was made by Mark Trowbridge and seconded by
20 Dr. Daniel Bagner. Resolution of The Children's Trust of
21 Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the tentative budget
22 for fiscal year 2023-2024; providing for an effective
23 date.)

24 (The motion passed: 26 in favor, None opposed. None
25 Abstained. 28 board members were present.)

1 (Adopted at 5:46 p.m.)

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you both. Is there any
3 board discussion on the tentative budget? Okay. We
4 need a vote on the motion for the resolution setting
5 the tentative budget. A majority of those serving
6 on the board must vote affirmatively to approve the
7 budget. That's 17 out of the 32 board positions.

8 MS. LEICHTER: Dr. Edward Abraham?

9 DR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

10 MS. LEICHTER: Laura Adams?

11 MS. ADAMS: I vote yes.

12 MS. LEICHTER: Nancy Adebisi?

13 MS. ADEBISI: Yes.

14 MS. LEICHTER: Matthew Arsenault?

15 MR. AUSENAULT: Yes.

16 MS. LEICHTER: Dr. Daniel Bagner?

17 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

18 MS. LEICHTER: Honorable Dr. Dorothy Bendross-
19 Mindingall? Absent.

20 Morris Copeland, non-voting designee of the
21 Honorable Mayor Daniella Levine Cava?

22 MR. HOFFMAN: (No verbal response.)

23 MS. LEICHTER: And the mayor is absent.
24 Lourdes Diaz?

25 MS. DIAZ: Yes.

1 MS. LEICHTER: Pastor Richard Dunn II?
2 MR. DUNN: Yes.
3 MS. LEICHTER: Jacqueline Exceus?
4 MS. EXCEUS: Yes.
5 MS. LEICHTER: Gilda Ferradaz?
6 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.
7 MS. LEICHTER: The Honorable Norman Gerstein?
8 MR. GERSTEIN: Yes.
9 MS. LEICHTER: Lourdes Gimenez?
10 MS. GIMENEZ: Yes.
11 MS. LEICHTER: Nicole Gomez? Not present for
12 voting.
13 Valrose Graham?
14 MS. GRAHAM: Yes.
15 MS. LEICHTER: Mindy Grimes-Festge?
16 MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Yes.
17 MS. LEICHTER: The Honorable Keon Hardemon?
18 Absent.
19 Dr. Malou Harrison? Absent.
20 Nelson Hincapie?
21 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.
22 MS. LEICHTER: Kenneth Hoffman?
23 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.
24 MS. LEICHTER: Pamela Hollingsworth?
25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

1 MS. LEICHTER: Symeria Hudson?

2 MS. HUDSON: Yes.

3 MS. LEICHTER: Marissa Leichter?

4 MS. LEICHTER: Yes.

5 MS. LEICHTER: Annie Neasman?

6 MS. NEASMAN: Yes.

7 MS. LEICHTER: Maria Norton?

8 MS. NORTON: Yes.

9 MS. LEICHTER: Clara Ospina?

10 DR. OSPINA: Yes.

11 MS. LEICHTER: Ashna Paudel?

12 MS. PAUDEL: Yes.

13 MS. LEICHTER: The judge can vote on the

14 tentative budget. The Honorable Judge Orlando

15 Prescott?

16 JUDGE PRESCOTT: I vote yes.

17 MS. LEICHTER: Javier Reyes?

18 MR. REYES: Yes.

19 MS. LEICHTER: Honorable Alex Rizo? Not

20 present to vote.

21 The Honorable Isaac Salver?

22 MR. SALVER: Yes.

23 MS. LEICHTER: Mark Trowbridge?

24 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: All right. The motion to approve

1 the tentative budget passes. And with that, the
2 first budget hearing is adjourned. I'd like to
3 remind everybody that next Monday at 5:01, we have
4 the second trim hearing. Very important, like this
5 one. If we don't have a quorum, we don't have
6 enough voting members, we will not pass the budget
7 for the next few -- thank you.

8 JUDGE PRESCOTT: Chair, may I say something,
9 please?

10 MR. HOFFMAN: You may.

11 JUDGE PRESCOTT: I want to express my
12 appreciation for what this organization does,
13 starting from the top, down to the staff. Isaac
14 mentioned what happened a number of years ago, where
15 an organization -- organizations almost lost out
16 because in building this structure that we have, for
17 the betterment of our children, we wanted
18 organizations to do better. Some of them did not
19 have the capacity, and they were losing funds, not
20 because they did not have the desire to do better.
21 They did not know how to. The Children's Trust, as
22 this organization dispensing that -- those funds,
23 could have stood back and said, if you don't know
24 how, then you just lose out. But you did not. And
25 Teen Up-Ward Bound benefited from that, and many

1 other organizations as well.

2 As you know, every organization has to have
3 head and heart. Those individuals who have the
4 passion to get it done and then those who have the
5 mental capacity to see to it that it gets done. And
6 when we raised the bar, we left many of those
7 organizations behind. But when they notified us
8 that they were being left behind because of their
9 lack of knowledge, you did not leave them behind.
10 You stepped up when you did not have to.

11 And for that, I am so proud because I've seen
12 the pendulum swing. And those organizations who had
13 the desire did not lose out. Because those are the
14 ones who really get the work done because they have
15 the passion to get it done, and you met their
16 passion with the knowledge. So, to this
17 organization, from the top to the bottom, because it
18 was the bottom who got it -- the job done. They met
19 with them to make sure it was done.

20 For the staff of the trust, thank you. To the
21 administration of the trust, thank you. For those
22 organizations who continue to fight, I'm proud of
23 you.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Judge. And thank all
25 of our board members for their support and actions.

1 Thank you. Have a good evening.
2 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 5:48
3 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

2 The above and foregoing transcript is a true and
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4 digitally recorded in the proceeding identified at the
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6 knowledge and belief.

7 *Coresha Adams*
8 Coresha Adams

9 Coresha Adams, Transcriber

10 September 27, 2023
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