



## **Board/First TRIM Public Hearing**

**November 14, 2022**

MDC CHILDREN'S TRUST MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting was held on Monday, November 14, 2022, commencing at 4:00 pm. , at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Conference Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Hoffman, Chair.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

APPEARANCES:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

KENNETH C. HOFFMAN, CHAIR  
PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, VICE CHAIR  
MARK A. TROWBRIDGE, TREASURER  
KAREN WELLER, SECRETARY  
JAMES R. HAJ, PRESIDENT/CEO

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:

4

5 DR. EDWARD ABRAHAM

6 MATTHEW ARSENAULT

7 DR. DANIEL BAGNER

8 HON. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL

9 TA-MYAH BYARS

10 CONSTANCE COLLINS

11 MORRIS COPELAND

12 LOURDES DIAZ

13 VICTOR DIAZ-HERMAN

14 GILDA FERRADAZ

15 LOURDES P. GIMENEZ

16 VALROSE GRAHAM

17 DR. MALOU C. HARRISON

18 NELSON HINCAPIE

19 DR. TIOMBE-BISA KENDRICK-DUNN

20 LEIGH KOBRINSKI

21 MARISSA LEICHTER

22 MARIA NORTON

23 HON. ORLANDO PRESCOTT

24 JAVIER REYES

25

1 APPREARANCES:

2

3 STAFF MEMBERS:

4

5 JAMES R. HAJ, PRESIDENT/CEO

6 AMANDA GORSKI

7 BEVONE RITCHIE

8 CAROL BROGAN

9 DANIELLE BARRERAS

10 FELIX BECERRA

11 IMRAN ALI

12 JACQUES (JACK) BENTOLILA

13 JAMES R. HAJ

14 JENNIFER MORENO

15 JOANNA REVELO

16 JUANA LEON

17 LINDSAY FRANCOIS

18 LISETE YERO

19 DR. K. LORI HANSON

20 MURIEL JEANTY

21 NATALIA ZEA

22 RACHEL SPECTOR

23 SEBASTIAN DEL MARMOL

24 SUSAN MARIAN

25 TATIANA CANELAS

## 1 APPEARANCES:

2

## 3 STAFF MEMBERS, Cont.:

4

5 WENDY DUNCOMBE

6 WILLIAM KIRTLAND

7 XIMENA NUNEZ

8

## 9 GUESTS:

10

11 MONIQUE MAHABIR

12 MARSHAREE CHRONICLE

13 LAUREN KELLY-MANDERS

14 BARBARA STEIN

15 DAVENYA ARMSTRONG

16

## 17 PUBLIC SPEAKERS

18 STRATTON POLLITZER

19 AMAYA BORROTO

20 SCOTT GALVIN

21 JERRY CHASEN

22 ORLANDO GONZALES

23 ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ

24 GEANNY JOSEPH RUIZ

25 PAULINE GREENE

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

2       (Thereupon, the following proceedings were held at  
3 4:00 p.m.)

4                   WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

5           MR. HOFFMAN: We do have 17. Welcome to the  
6 board meeting. First of all, just a couple  
7 administrative items. As usual, please make sure  
8 that you turn your microphone on when you're  
9 speaking and off when you're not.

10          And I think we have at least one director  
11 online today. So, please make sure that if you do  
12 speak, your microphone is on. And again, turn it  
13 off when you're not speaking.

14          Also, if you need to recuse yourself, please  
15 make sure and state your name and agency and the  
16 reason for recusing.

17          A couple of announcements to start the  
18 beginning of the meeting. First of all, on October  
19 23rd, the Trust's twentieth anniversary was  
20 recognized by the Miami Dolphins at the start of  
21 the nationally-televised Sunday Night football  
22 game.

23          We were well-represented by a number of staff  
24 members, our CEO, and board member Mark Trowbridge.  
25 In addition, Silvio Plata, who I think you've all

1 seen now, the young gentleman who's featured in one  
2 of our twentieth anniversary videos, was given the  
3 honor of singing the national anthem and was the  
4 star of the pre-game show, of course.

5 Jim, I think we have a brief video that we'd  
6 like to show the board of that event. So, roll it.

7 (Video was played.)

8 Good. Thank you. October 30th, the Spooky  
9 Symphony. Trust sponsored the spooky Symphony as  
10 it has for years. It was performed to a very good  
11 audience this year in person. I was there and  
12 brought greetings on your behalf. And our own Mark  
13 Trowbridge acted as MC and what has become a  
14 tradition for the event brought a variety of  
15 costumes apropos to the musical selections. It was  
16 really quite a scene.

17 November 6th, we held a -- staff held a  
18 bidder's conference for the Youth Development RFP  
19 which was issued at the end of October. Staff gave  
20 an overview of the RFP, which is for the new five-  
21 year cycle that begins in August 2023.

22 There was a lot of interest. Over 500  
23 participants were in attendance learning about what  
24 the RFP was -- what the scope of the RFP as well as  
25 the review process and scoring criteria. So, kudos



1 to our executive team and staff for continuing to  
2 broaden our communications and help level the  
3 playing field for trust-funded opportunities.

4 Jim, is there anything you'd like to add about  
5 --

6 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, just to remind everyone,  
7 as already stated earlier, about 85 percent of our  
8 funding is going out the door the next several --  
9 the past several months and through the next six  
10 months. FNSP was brought back to the board in  
11 June.

12 But our big one that's over \$6 million is  
13 Youth Development, which was released on October  
14 26th. This is just a reminder we are under the  
15 cone of silence. But the bidder's conference was  
16 there to answer all the questions.

17 I think as of last week, there was 116  
18 questions. We answered as many as we can after the  
19 session ended. There was a live link that people  
20 can ask their questions and answered so everybody  
21 else could see it. We had 116 that were answered  
22 but they're coming in every day.

23 I don't even know what number we're at now but  
24 the questions are being answered and it will close  
25 on December 14th. But we did have over 500

1 participants participating in our bidder's  
2 conference and asking questions and clarifying for  
3 the RFP that is currently out.

4 And when that closes, Parenting will be coming  
5 to the board to release in February. So, that's  
6 our next initiative as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. And as Jim said, I  
8 think and I believe is new that all the questions  
9 that were asked, as well as all the answers to the  
10 questions are being posted so all potential  
11 participants can get the benefit of that.

12 Upcoming events. Just a reminder that the  
13 Children's Trust is a sponsor of the Miami Book  
14 Fair, the street fair that's going to be held on  
15 Saturday and Sunday.

16 We have a large tent and event activation in  
17 the Children's Alley. We will highlight the book  
18 club, feature several interactive activities,  
19 including face painting, art, and crafts, and some  
20 children's books readings. I hope to see some of  
21 you there.

22 Champions for Children on December 6th at 9:00  
23 a.m. The Champions for Children Selection  
24 Committee will meet to choose the award recipients  
25 for next April's event. It would be great to have

1 your input so if you're able to make it but haven't  
2 already RSVP'd, please consider joining us on that  
3 date. It'll be at the Children's Trust offices,  
4 9:00 a.m.

5 Most of the resolutions that come before the  
6 Board are first considered and approved at the  
7 committee level. So, it's critical that we have  
8 good representation of the Board on each of our  
9 committees.

10 In addition to the Executive Committee, which  
11 met right before this meeting, we have three  
12 standing committees -- the Program Services and  
13 Childhood Health Committee, Human Resources  
14 Committee, and Finance and Operations Committee.

15 We also have ad hoc committees that meet from  
16 time-to-time as required, including the Nominating  
17 and Bylaws Committee and others. So, before the  
18 new year, I do plan on reviewing the board  
19 committee assignments.

20 If you have any interest in serving a  
21 committee that you're not already serving on,  
22 please let Jim know. I would certainly like to  
23 have you placed on committees, you know, of  
24 interest to you and where you can provide the most  
25 significant input.

1 I mentioned last meeting that we will be  
2 resuming field trips to some of our providers at  
3 the beginning of the year. Staff will be sending  
4 out dates before the end of the year, I think,  
5 about the dates and the programs we'll be visiting.

6 We will not be going on buses but will ask --  
7 will identify the location and ask that you meet  
8 staff and other board members that are attending at  
9 the location. These are great opportunities to see  
10 the impact of our programs up close and we hope  
11 that you'll take the opportunity to join us on some  
12 of these.

13 Sad to report that -- well, happy for her but  
14 sad to report that Muriel, our longtime board  
15 clerk, will be retiring shortly. Muriel's not at  
16 the meeting today. She's, I think she's joined us  
17 by Zoom. She's been with the Trust since 2004, so  
18 almost, probably over 18 years.

19 And she's certainly been a fixture in terms of  
20 the operations of the Board and interaction with  
21 all of us between the Trust and all of us. Sorry  
22 to see Muriel leaving. Muriel, if you're on, would  
23 you -- is there anything you would like to say?

24 MS. JEANTY: Yes, Ken. Thank you. You find  
25 me. First, I must say that it's a pity not to be

1 able to attend my last Board meeting in person so I  
2 can bid you all farewell but I'm sick and I must  
3 stay away.

4 I have missed only one meeting before this one  
5 and it was under exceptional circumstances.  
6 Anyway, looking back at my time as the clerk of the  
7 Board, I admit that at first, it was quite  
8 intimidating to keep track of 32 Board members.

9 But quickly, I was able to keep up and get to  
10 know each of you as I welcome you on the Board year  
11 after year. Indeed, I have known some of you for a  
12 good number of years and I want to believe that we  
13 have maintained a good relationship.

14 Saying goodbye after almost 19 years with my  
15 Children's Trust Family may be painful but one  
16 thing I'm not going to regret is the anxiety that I  
17 go through when quorum drops at the last minute for  
18 a Board meeting. And suddenly, all eyes are on me.  
19 Ken is looking at me, Jim, Imran, the attorney.  
20 Are we going to have quorum?

21 And luckily, there is this last expected or  
22 unexpected Board member showing up to save the day.  
23 Well, I know that when it happens, it's because of  
24 your busy schedule and your personal work  
25 obligations.

1        Nevertheless, please be kind to my replacement  
2        in this regard. But seriously, it has been an  
3        honor to work with such an amazing group of  
4        distinguished and dedicated professionals. It was  
5        incredible to have witnessed this Board with so  
6        many different backgrounds and interests that come  
7        together towards one common goal to fulfill the  
8        mission of the Children's Trust.

9        It's either by guiding or approving  
10       resolutions to pass funding to all those great  
11       programs tailored to improve the lives of children  
12       and families in Miami-Dade County. And 20 years  
13       striving, I truly admire you, each of you for  
14       volunteering your time for this worthy cause.

15       Well, I will always cherish this experience e  
16       by saying that during these moments of our lives  
17       together at the Children's Trust, we were able to  
18       make a real difference in this world. (French).  
19       Thank you.

20       MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Muriel. And you get  
21       credit for this meeting's quorum as well.

22       MS. JEANTY: Yes.

23       MR. HOFFMAN: Okay.

24       MS. JEANTY: Thank God.

25       MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. So, are there any -- we

1 had a few people registered for public comment and  
2 I will take them in order that I have them here.

3 MS. JEANTY: Yes.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Please when you address the  
5 Board, please use the microphone. State your name  
6 and address and limit your comments to three  
7 minutes, please.

8 So, I will start with Stratton Pollitzer.

9 MS. JEANTY: Ken, we're going to start with --

10 MR. POLLITZER: Muriel, this is --

11 MS. JEANTY: -- going to do.

12 MR. POLLITZER: This is Stratton. I'm here.  
13 I'm here virtually instead of in person, Muriel  
14 today.

15 MS. JEANTY: Oh.

16 PUBLIC COMMENTS

17 MR. POLLITZER: Are you -- should I start?  
18 Are you ready?

19 MS. JEANTY: Yes, Mr. Stratton.

20 MR. HOFFMAN: Please do.

21 MS. JEANTY: Please state your full name like  
22 Ken just said, the organization you represent, and  
23 your full address for the records. Please be  
24 specific and you have three minutes to speak  
25 starting now.

1 MR. POLLITZER: Thank you very much. Stratton  
2 Pollitzer. I am the Deputy Director of the  
3 Equality Florida, the State LGBTQ group. I'm a 20-  
4 year resident of North Miami.

5 I was also one of the folks 18 years ago who  
6 helped organize the first meeting between the  
7 Children's Trust and the LGBTQ community. And that  
8 meeting led to the initial funding from the Trust  
9 to LGBTQ work.

10 And we're back today as a community to raise  
11 some concerns but also, we hope to begin a longer  
12 conversation and a partnership. LGBTQ young people  
13 make up a large portion of our community. One in  
14 four Miami-Dade high school students identify as  
15 LGBTQ or questioning. That's from the CDC Youth  
16 Risk Behavior survey.

17 And they have a number of risk factors you're  
18 going to hear about from other speakers.  
19 Unfortunately, today, they have very little support  
20 in the way of programming in our county.

21 And while the Trust heroically funds one LGBTQ  
22 organization, the Alliance for LGBTQ youth, that is  
23 the sum total of the specific funding for this  
24 population. Less than one half of one percent of  
25 the overall Trust funding goes to this group.



1 And we also know this is a group under  
2 enormous increasing pressure. We've seen suicide  
3 rates going up over the last 24 months for the  
4 first time in a decade.

5 And so, we're here today to ask for two things  
6 -- to say that we believe it's time for there to be  
7 a dedicated level of funding support for this  
8 community in the way that there is for other  
9 children, that it should be commensurate with their  
10 need and the number of young people who it will  
11 impact.

12 And we're hoping that the Trust will  
13 contemplate aiming for a goal of one day funding  
14 five to ten percent of its programs in this way.

15 And the second is that beyond funding, the  
16 larger need is that we have to reach a place where  
17 every single child services agency in this county  
18 has the cultural competency, the programming, the  
19 staff training, the policies to welcome our LGBTQ  
20 youth into their services.

21 And we know that right now, unfortunately,  
22 very few have any specific policies, training, or  
23 programming. Very few. And so, we're asking the  
24 Trust to make this a part of how you evaluate  
25 agencies or at least how you gather information.

1       Ask how many LGBTQ youth they serve; what  
2 policies do they have; what training have they put  
3 their staff through. Because whatever afterschool  
4 program it is or parents group program it is,  
5 whatever it is that you're funding, we need to know  
6 these young people who so often face isolation and  
7 risk will be welcome there as well.

8       So, you'll hear from a few more folks in our  
9 community and from other organizations. But we  
10 really hope this can be the beginning of another  
11 phase of conversation with you to meet the needs of  
12 these young people who are feeling a little more  
13 desperate and a little more alone right now. Thank  
14 you very much.

15       MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

16       MS. JEANTY: Thank you, Mr. Stratton. We are  
17 calling Amaya Borotto next.

18       MS. BOROTTO: Hi. My name's Amaya Borotto.  
19 I'm the Community Engagement Intern at the  
20 Children's Trust and I participated in the Summer  
21 Youth Internship and I'm here to share my  
22 experience.

23       I was feeling very lost at the end of my  
24 junior year. The year previous, I'd been dead set  
25 on a career in medicine. But as I immersed myself

1 in organic chemistry, I began to grow  
2 disillusioned. The shine was off the apple and I  
3 set my sights on a new career as a public defender.

4 However, after a closer read of the hit 2004  
5 film, Legally Blonde, I could no longer see myself  
6 on that treadmill looking over the LSAT textbook  
7 with such impassioned focus.

8 The quick and easy death of the second dream  
9 on the precipice of my senior year had discouraged  
10 me deeply. Suddenly, I noticed the barrage of  
11 emails I'd received from one strategic community  
12 initiatives manager at the Children's Trust.

13 I'd enrolled in the Summer Youth Internship  
14 Program in late May without a real picture of where  
15 that would take me. After a quick Google search  
16 and an interview with (Unintelligible), my  
17 imagination ran wild.

18 The Children's Trust, which I soon learned to  
19 recite, is a special taxing district here in Miami-  
20 Dade County, Florida. This coalition of teachers,  
21 representatives, and social workers is committed to  
22 supporting programs that promote youth development  
23 in my community.

24 It is a perfect storm of the legislative work  
25 of lobbying for public policy and the social

1 services of a nonprofit organization.

2 On my first day with the Children's Trust, I  
3 had to pinch myself to be sure I wasn't dreaming.  
4 For the next six weeks, I took a crash course in  
5 infrastructure, community organizing, and nonprofit  
6 administration.

7 Our supervisor focused on the educational  
8 aspects of the internship, taking our group of  
9 eight public policy and community engagement  
10 interns to meetings with the various departments  
11 within the Trust, elected representatives of Miami-  
12 Dade, and other nonprofits working to strengthen  
13 Miami.

14 I was given new eyes through which to  
15 experience my hometown. It was like a six-week,  
16 buffet-style career day and the broken promises of  
17 dream jobs past had left me starving.

18 While learning about the social solutions to  
19 systemic problems from inside the Children's Trust,  
20 I felt that I was battling those same forces at  
21 home.

22 Alongside countless others across the country,  
23 my family started using food stamps at the  
24 beginning of the pandemic. Our rent had increased  
25 by 40 percent since the original lockdown.

1       Frighteningly, once we began to look for a new  
2 home, housing prices all across Miami were up more  
3 than 14 percent from 2021. With our landlord  
4 nipping at our heels urging us to move out as soon  
5 as possible, we rushed into the first apartment we  
6 visited.

7       Gratefully, my mother had finally been  
8 approved for a mortgage and we believed we were in  
9 the clear. Unfortunately, what followed was a  
10 convoluted deadlock between realtors, the result of  
11 which left my family displaced and fragmented for  
12 the remainder of the summer.

13       During my internship, I was able to experience  
14 my housing insecurity on two levels -- as the  
15 institution and the individual. At one of the  
16 Trust's family expos, a family intern who knew  
17 about my situation suggested I speak to the folks  
18 at Project Upstart.

19       This particular program supports transient  
20 students in finding some stability in their lives.  
21 Although the partner program ultimately wasn't for  
22 me, I couldn't believe the community I had found in  
23 the world of social services.

24       Getting a closer look at the infrastructure  
25 that sustains my life was especially remarkable as

1 a grateful benefactor of many trust-funded social  
2 services.

3 Equipped with the wisdom I'd learned  
4 throughout my internship, I finally felt sure about  
5 a career path and a passion that would combine my  
6 drive to better the community around me with an  
7 undying interest in all aspects of government.

8 Discovering the far-reaching influence of  
9 public policy in my life ignited in me a new,  
10 permanent dream. Now working towards a goal I  
11 truly believe in, I don't feel nearly as lost  
12 anymore. Thank you.

13 MS. JEANTY: Amaya, would you please state  
14 your full address for the records before you leave?

15 MS. BOROTTO: Yes. I'm the Community  
16 Engagement Intern for the Trust, for the  
17 department.

18 MS. JEANTY: I'm talking about your physical  
19 address.

20 MS. BOROTTO: Oh, my home address?

21 MS. JEANTY: Yes.

22 MS. BOROTTO: 18 -- Southwest 1st Street.

23 MS. JEANTY: Thank you.

24 MS. BOROTTO: Thank you.

25 MS. JEANTY: So, we are going to call next

1 Scott Galvin.

2 MR. GALVIN: Hi, everybody. My name is --

3 MS. JEANTY: Mr. Galvin, state your name, the  
4 organization you represent, and your full address  
5 for the records. You have three minutes.

6 MR. GALVIN: Thank you.

7 MS. JEANTY: Thank you.

8 MR. GALVIN: My name is Scott Galvin. I am a  
9 member of the North Miami City Council. I'm also  
10 Executive Director of Safe Schools Safe Florida and  
11 I reside at 1755 Northeast 137 Terrace in the great  
12 city of North Miami.

13 As an elected official since 1999, I am the  
14 longest-serving, openly LGBTQ legislator in the  
15 State of Florida. And as Safe Schools' Executive  
16 Director, we're doing work with LGBT youth in  
17 schools and LGBTQ school teachers in schools across  
18 south Florida, hence the name Safe Schools Safe  
19 Florida.

20 We really, really, really need the Trust to  
21 dedicate funding for the LGBT youth. I could go  
22 into stories about how much more difficult things  
23 have become for our kids and our teachers since the  
24 Don't Say Gay law was passed.

25 So, please find a way in your hearts and in

1 your budgets to support our LGBTQ youth. They are  
2 very deserving. Thank you for your time.

3 MS. JEANTY: Thank you, Mr. Galvin. We have  
4 next Roger Thompson. Roger Thompson?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Muriel, he's stuck at the  
7 veterinarian's office. He couldn't make it.

8 MS. JEANTY: Oh, okay. All right. So, we're  
9 calling then Orlando Gonzales.

10 MR. GONZALES: Hello.

11 MS. JEANTY: Mr. Gonzales?

12 MR. GONZALES: Yes, I'm on.

13 MS. JEANTY: Mr. Gonzales, please state your  
14 name, the organization you represent, and your full  
15 address for the records. You have three minutes.  
16 Thank you.

17 MR. GONZALES: Thank you, Muriel. And thank  
18 you for your service. Have a great retirement.

19 MS. JEANTY: Thank you.

20 MR. GONZALES: My name's Orlando Gonzales.  
21 I'm the Executive Director of SAVE, which stands  
22 for Safeguarding American Values for Everyone.  
23 We're the longest-serving LGBTQ advocacy  
24 organization in Florida. My address is 567  
25 Northeast 96th Street, Miami Shores, Florida,



1 33138.

2 First, I want to thank everybody with the  
3 Children's Trust really for your work that you do  
4 for the youth of Miami-Dade County. I think that  
5 the work that is done is monumental and really  
6 deserves to be acknowledged.

7 It is good to be with the company of so many  
8 colleagues and also familiar faces. Before I go on  
9 to sort of state, you know, what my big ask is  
10 here, I do want to acknowledge the funding that's  
11 provided to the Alliance for LGBTQ youth. It's  
12 tremendously appreciated.

13 And the work that was done ten years ago to  
14 make that happen is really a testament to  
15 collaboration amongst members of the community and  
16 of you-all listening carefully to what needed to be  
17 done at the time.

18 I also want to acknowledge the efforts that  
19 were made a few months ago and maybe even possibly  
20 over a year when you were very deliberate in  
21 recruiting Board members that are members of the  
22 LGBTQ community.

23 I was a candidate in that pool and I'm really  
24 pleased that Victor Diaz-Herman was selected really  
25 for his expertise and for the experience that he

1 has as a service provider.

2 In the same vein, I want to emphasize that  
3 there isn't really enough funding to serve the  
4 needs of vulnerable LGBTQ youth. And really, we  
5 could say that there's never enough funding to do  
6 all that we want to do.

7 But for the first time in more than a decade,  
8 we are seeing reports of suicides increasing  
9 amongst LGBTQ youth. The needs for the community  
10 are startling and there is a really enormous  
11 growing crisis and we must really take action.

12 Our community is very large and vast in south  
13 Florida. And taking the action that is necessary  
14 to respond to those needs is really the responsible  
15 thing to do.

16 And I have really just one ask of you and that  
17 is that you be deliberate in providing funding to  
18 support LGBTQ youth. Really avoid the  
19 tokenization. You've funded one organization.  
20 You've sought one Board member in this sort of  
21 capacity.

22 But think of it more deliberately. Broad  
23 funding announcements that you make do good for  
24 covering the general population but really targeted  
25 funding announcements actually help to move the

1 needle and they make a difference in a way that is  
2 really focused.

3 Leverage your influence and provide support  
4 for existing service organizations to account for  
5 the LGBTQ youth population that they serve and also  
6 provide support for increased cultural competency  
7 for those general service organizations that are  
8 out there.

9 And of course, lastly, fund LGBTQ-led  
10 organizations. Thank you for allowing me to make  
11 public comment. And again, thank you so much for  
12 your work.

13 MS. JEANTY: Thank you, Mr. Gonzales. I'm  
14 calling Geanny Joseph Ruiz.

15 (No verbal response.)

16 MS. JEANTY: Mr. Ruiz? Geanny Joseph Ruiz?

17 MS. JOSEPH RUIZ: I'm here. Over here. Hi.  
18 Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Geanny Joseph Ruiz.  
19 Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

20 So, I serve as the Statewide Safe and Healthy  
21 Schools Manager for Equality Florida. I was born  
22 in Jackson Memorial Hospital a little over 30 years  
23 ago. I won't specify. And I was born and raised  
24 here in Miami-Dade County.

25 And so, I want to provide to you all a little

1 more framing for the conversation around the need  
2 to support LGBTQ youth, particularly in this  
3 moment.

4 So, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a  
5 national survey that aims to capture the mental  
6 health and the well being of our youth. And  
7 particularly, wanting to understand what risk  
8 factors contribute to the leading cause of death  
9 for our young adults.

10 The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is conducted  
11 and managed by the CDC. And here in Florida, it is  
12 managed in partnership with the Florida Department  
13 of Education.

14 The 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey tells us  
15 that nearly a quarter of high school students in  
16 Florida, 24.9 percent specifically identify as  
17 lesbian, gay, bisexual, or unsure of their sexual  
18 orientation. In addition to that, 1.7 percent of  
19 high school students identify as transgender.

20 This suggests that of the 145,000, over 300  
21 high school students across Miami-Dade County  
22 public schools, there are over 35,000 LGBTQ  
23 students in need of our immediate support.

24 The 2021 YRBS also indicates that LGBTQ youth  
25 face bullying at double the rate of their

1     heterosexual peers. It informs us that in Florida  
2     Public Schools, of the 24.9 percent of high school  
3     students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or  
4     unsure of their sexual orientation, of that 24.9  
5     percent, 22.6 percent admitted to attempting  
6     suicide, a number five times greater than their  
7     heterosexual peers.

8         This does not even take into account the 1.7  
9     percent of Florida high school students who  
10    identify as transgender for whom national data  
11    points to an even higher risk of suicide.

12        Due to the discrimination, the harassment, and  
13    family rejection they face, our LGBTQ youth are  
14    extremely high risk for suicide, homelessness, and  
15    substance use.

16        Florida's climate has grown increasingly  
17    hostile for LGBTQ youth. In addition to the  
18    traditional barriers they face that I've named,  
19    there are extraordinary new political and social  
20    pressures being placed on our youth.

21        As a result, for the first time in a decade as  
22    Orlando mentioned, that suicide rate has increased.  
23    And we know that there are protections being  
24    removed for our youth. It's critical that --

25        MS. JEANTY: Ms. Ruiz, I'm sorry --

1 MS. JOSEPH RUIZ: -- we work together to  
2 increase --

3 MS. JEANTY: Ms. Ruiz, thank you for your  
4 comments. Your time has expired.

5 MS. JOSEPH RUIZ: Thank you for your time.

6 MS. JEANTY: Thank you.

7 MS. JOSEPH RUIZ: And I hope that we increase  
8 access and support for our LGBTQ youth.

9 MS. JEANTY: Thank you. We're calling next  
10 Jerry Chasen. Mr. Chasen, welcome. Please state  
11 your name, the organization you represent, and your  
12 full address for the records. You have three  
13 minutes.

14 MR. CHASEN: Thank you.

15 MS. JEANTY: Thank you.

16 MR. CHASEN: Thank you. Thank you for the  
17 opportunity to be here. My name is Jerry Chasen.  
18 I live at 900 Biscayne Boulevard, downtown Miami,  
19 and I've lived there for quite some time.

20 I'm not with any specific organization,  
21 although in the past, I founded and then chaired  
22 for ten years the LGBTQ fund at the Miami  
23 Foundation. And I was on the Board of SAGE, which  
24 is a national organization that supports LGBT  
25 seniors and indeed, after I left my Board service

1 there, I joined the staff and wound up being the  
2 Director of Development.

3 So, I know a bit about this community and its  
4 needs. When you hear that one, pretty close to one  
5 out of every four students is LGBTQ and of that one  
6 out of four, one out of four of those has attempted  
7 suicide and that rate is going up, you know that  
8 there's a serious problem, one that the youth of  
9 this community needs help with.

10 You've heard that of the \$190 million that is  
11 distributed generously by this Trust, less than one  
12 half of one percent goes to the LGBTQ student to  
13 support LGBTQ-specific students. And I suppose  
14 that could continue and the box, the LGBTQ box  
15 could get checked.

16 But that's not going to address the challenges  
17 that this community is currently facing. To do  
18 that, I think three things are necessary. We've  
19 heard about the plea for a dedicated source of  
20 funding.

21 We could argue that if 25 percent of the  
22 students are LGBTQ, 25 percent of the funding  
23 should go there. But even if we look at only  
24 those, the suicide rates, we're still talking about  
25 a dedicated source of perhaps 5 percent or more.

1 But I really want to focus on the plea for  
2 requiring that there be training, the kind of  
3 cultural competency training that Stratton  
4 mentioned. SAGE is an organization, as I said,  
5 that supports LGBTQ elders.

6 When we realized at SAGE that there was no way  
7 that we could build our way out of to provide  
8 direct support for all of the LGBTQ seniors, we  
9 created a program of training in cultural  
10 competency.

11 What does that mean? That means when somebody  
12 is LGBTQ and shows up, they aren't treated, they  
13 aren't asked, well, you know, if you're a man,  
14 where's your wife. Or that in a student's case,  
15 that there was an assumption that you were going to  
16 be dating somebody of the opposite sex. That you  
17 were welcomed as who you were, who you are. That's  
18 what cultural competency training means. Now if  
19 this --

20 MS. JEANTY: Mr. Chasen?

21 MR. CHASEN: -- was important --

22 MS. JEANTY: Mr. Chasen, I'm sorry.

23 MR. CHASEN: Yes.

24 MS. JEANTY: You have -- your time is up.

25 Thank you for your comments.



1 MR. CHASEN: That was three minutes? Wow.

2 MS. JEANTY: Yes. It goes fast.

3 MR. CHASEN: All I can is if that was  
4 important for old people like me who were around  
5 when Stonewall happened, you can imagine how  
6 important that kind of training is when you're  
7 dealing with kids who are first coming to meet, to  
8 know their sexual orientation for the first time.  
9 Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you  
10 today.

11 MS. JEANTY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chasen. Calling Elizabeth Schwartz.

13 MS. SCHWARTZ: Good afternoon.

14 MS. JEANTY: Good afternoon, Ms. Schwartz.

15 MS. SCHWARTZ: My name is Elizabeth Schwartz.  
16 I reside at 3050 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, 33137.  
17 My pronouns are she or hers and I was born right  
18 here. Since we're sharing our hospitals, Mt.  
19 Sinai. And I will also share that this weekend, I  
20 turned 51 and I'm not ashamed of that.

21 I -- thank you. I am here. I'm an attorney.  
22 I've spent a lot of years around board tables such  
23 as this one. I'm so grateful for the work that the  
24 Children's Trust has done and will continue to do  
25 for all vulnerable youth in Miami-Dade County.

1 And I served on the task force, the LGBTQ task  
2 force that Jerry mentioned at the Miami Foundation.  
3 And as well, I still serve at the Greater Miami  
4 Jewish Federation's Planning and Distribution  
5 Committee.

6 So, I know how hard it is to stretch these  
7 limited dollars to benefit as many kids as we can.  
8 And we would like to offer ourselves here as  
9 partners to you and to work with you to expand the  
10 amount of assistance that we provide to very  
11 vulnerable LGBTQ youth.

12 As I mentioned, I'm an attorney. I work with  
13 LGBTQ families on the frontlines. And I can tell  
14 you folks this is a crisis moment for our  
15 community. Our youth, you've heard the statistics.

16 I will tell you that there is a reality on the  
17 ground which is that these kids are -- and their  
18 families are freaking out now more than ever. And  
19 you know what they're doing? They're picking up  
20 and leaving Florida.

21 In some cases, they can't get the medical  
22 treatments that they need and on and on. And so,  
23 we don't want folks to do that. What we want  
24 instead is for more funding to go to this  
25 community, to do the cultural competency training,

1 to just do a needs assessment.

2 Like what are the organizations that you fund?

3 Like how are they working with LGBTQ youth? Are  
4 they working competently with LGBTQ youth? How can  
5 we help them increase their competency?

6 For the first time in 30 years, the Youth Risk  
7 Behavioral Survey is removing LGBTQ youth. So,  
8 it's been conducted since 1991 and they will --  
9 they are no longer tracking data with respect to  
10 LGBTQ youth, which is alarming.

11 And so, one of the things that we need to do  
12 is be better partners and work better with this at-  
13 risk community. It's incredible, the work that's  
14 being done to fund our friends at the Alliance who  
15 are here and we're so glad to work in partnership  
16 with them.

17 We can do better and we need to do better.  
18 This is something that we absolutely have the  
19 capacity to do. The Trust needs to begin assessing  
20 the needs so that all counties across -- excuse me  
21 -- so that all agencies across this county will  
22 welcome LGBTQ kids.

23 Again, this is a crisis moment. Now more than  
24 ever, we need to stand by our youth and to help all  
25 of our vulnerable youth. We want to be a partner

1 for you in this work. And so, please look to us.  
2 We're all signed up. So, any way that we can do  
3 this, it's critical that we work to increase access  
4 to community support. There's my timer. We've  
5 seen the positive impact with the Alliance and we  
6 want an increased impact. Thank you so much for  
7 your time today.

8 MS. JEANTY: Thank you, Ms. Schwartz. I'm  
9 calling last Ms. Pauline Greene.

10 MS. GREENE: Good afternoon, everybody.

11 MS. JEANTY: Ms. -- Ms. Greene.

12 MS. GREENE: Yes.

13 MS. JEANTY: Please state your name, --

14 MS. GREENE: Yes.

15 MS. JEANTY: -- your organization and --

16 MS. GREENE: Pauline Greene. Yes, ma'am. My  
17 name is Pauline Greene. I am the Executive  
18 Director at the Alliance for LGBTQ Youth. My  
19 address is 1712 Southwest 2nd Avenue, Miami,  
20 Florida.

21 The Alliance, as you've heard and as certainly  
22 you know, is a Children's Trust provider. We have  
23 been a Children's Trust provider for 15 years now.  
24 And initially, the Children's Trust was there at  
25 the inception of the Alliance for LGBTQ Youth.

1 Truly invested in LGBTQ youth, did a needs  
2 assessment. This was 18 years ago. So,  
3 essentially, we're celebrating the 20 years of  
4 nurturing greatness at the Children's Trust, the  
5 Children's Trust was at the beginning in a very  
6 early stage supporting LGBTQ youth.

7 And now is the time to deepen that investment.  
8 We are so proud to be a Children's Trust provider.  
9 We have been fortunate to be in partnership with  
10 the Children's Trust for 15 years, plus 18 before  
11 we became a 501(c)(3). And it has been essential  
12 in our ability to serve LGBTQ youth all the way  
13 from the county line to Florida City.

14 We meet our young people in the schools. We  
15 meet them at home. We meet them wherever they need  
16 support. And we're able to provide them mental  
17 health and care coordination.

18 And as has been pointed to, in this moment, we  
19 are seeing extreme need for increased services.  
20 Our team is certainly out there. We're pounding  
21 the pavement; we're doing the work. And we know  
22 that so many of our Children's Trust provider  
23 partners are also able to reach in places that we  
24 may not be able to go but they do need to be  
25 trained in competency, in being able to work with

1 our young people.

2 And so, as we're looking at equity, what does  
3 that look like for the LGBTQ community. Our  
4 organization provides mental health leadership and  
5 advocacy services. We are the only organization  
6 that's currently providing LGBTQ support within  
7 Miami-Dade County Public Schools. And we want to  
8 continue to do that.

9 In this moment, there are so many legislative  
10 impacts that are impacting our young people and  
11 their well-being and their ability to thrive. We  
12 have to question and look: Are our young people  
13 safe in the schools?

14 We are seeing some of our LGBTQ young people  
15 leave Miami-Dade County Public Schools because they  
16 are not safe there.

17 Over 60 percent of our young people identify  
18 under the trans umbrella. And so, our work is deep  
19 and intensive. Please do gather the data to  
20 understand the need that is occurring for our LGBTQ  
21 youth. I'm going to respect the time limit because  
22 my phone is also going off. But thank you and  
23 please do reach out to the Alliance to converseate  
24 and discuss this further.

25 MS. JEANTY: Thank you, Ms. Greene. Board

1 Chair, that concludes the public comments section.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you, all, for your  
3 comments. Thank our former intern for hers. Even  
4 though as an administrative matter that the clock  
5 runs out on our public speakers, we are in a  
6 listening mode. We would like to listen to the  
7 community.

8 We do so in a lot of different forums,  
9 including recently, we were just talking about a  
10 bidder's conference that we had on the youth  
11 programming solicitation RFP that's out for next  
12 year's, beginning of next year's cycle.

13 And also, I would say that because of the  
14 efforts of our own Board member Victor Diaz-Herman,  
15 we have been having a dialogue with staff about the  
16 participation of the LGBTQ community and Trust  
17 programs.

18 I can't personally say that we would head  
19 towards a set-aside as has been suggested but we  
20 are sensitive to making sure our programs are  
21 inclusive and are serving the community. So, and  
22 Jim, any other thoughts?

23 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. Thank you for  
24 all the speakers who came out. We are looking  
25 forward to this partnership. We are getting a

1 document. I think Victor mentioned this at the  
2 last Board meeting. We're compiling everything we  
3 do at the Trust in this space because I think it's  
4 important for the Board to know, for the community  
5 to know, and then to go from there and have those  
6 discussions.

7 So, I think we're doing great work  
8 collectively. If there's areas for improvement,  
9 let's continue to work on it. Some of the stuff  
10 that was mentioned, we are in that space and maybe  
11 people don't know what we are doing there.

12 So, hopefully, within the next week or so, we  
13 will have that document for the Board and for our  
14 guests and the public speakers and we can continue  
15 a dialogue.

16 But as Ken said, for any different group, we  
17 sit, we show up, and we will have discussion how to  
18 better this community, how to serve our most-needy  
19 children and families.

20 MR. HOFFMAN: And I do believe until you tell  
21 me otherwise that our staff is very responsive to  
22 input coming from public and from programs so thank  
23 you. Thank you again.

24 MS. JEANTY: Mr. Board Chair, I have a message  
25 from Board Member Victor Diaz-Herman. He wants me



1 to excuse himself. He wanted to be there but his  
2 flight was cancelled. Just to excuse his absence  
3 today. Thank you.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you,  
5 Muriel. With that, we'll move onto the approval of  
6 the minutes of our last Board meeting. We'll turn  
7 it over to our Secretary Karen Weller.

8 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2022 BOARD MINUTES SUMMARIES

9 MS. WELLER: Good afternoon, everyone. The  
10 Board of Directors met on Monday, October 17, 2022.  
11 The minutes can be found on pages 4 and 5 of your  
12 packets. May I have a motion for approval?

13 (Motion to approve the October 17, 2022 Board of  
14 Directors minutes summaries was made by Constance  
15 Collins and seconded by Mark Trowbridge). Thank you.  
16 All those in favor, say aye. Any opposed? Hearing  
17 none, the motion carries. Thank you.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Karen. And now Mark  
19 Trowbridge, the Chair of our Finance and Operations  
20 Committee. I'll turn it over to you for your  
21 report.

22 FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

23 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
24 bring to you greetings from our Finance and  
25 Operations Committee. We last met on Thursday,

1 November the 3rd. We have a number of resolutions  
2 to bring forward to you today.

3 I'm actually going to pass the gavel on  
4 Resolution 2023-11 as I have a conflict. Over to  
5 our Vice Chairman, Matthew Arsenault.

6 MR. ARSENAULT: I can speak loud. Resolution  
7 2023-11 is the authorization to enter into a  
8 sponsorship agreement with Actors' Playhouse at the  
9 Miracle Theatre Inc. for presenting sponsorship of  
10 the Young Talent Big Dreams talent search, in an  
11 amount not to exceed \$65,000 for a term of ten  
12 months, commencing on December 1, 2022, and ending  
13 on September 30, 2023.

14 (Motion to approve the resolution was made by  
15 Tiombe Bisa Kendrick-Dunn and seconded by Javier Reyes.)

16 MR. ARSENAULT: Discussion, the Young Talent  
17 Big Dreams is an annual countywide performing arts  
18 competition now entering its thirteenth year. It's  
19 open to all children and youth under the ages of 17  
20 residing in Miami-Dade County.

21 The Actors' Playhouse (Unintelligible) and the  
22 Children's Trust recognize (Unintelligible) sponsor  
23 (Unintelligible). Vote all in favor? Opposed?  
24 (The motion passed. Recusal by Mark Trowbridge.)

25 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Matthew. We'll

1       now move onto Resolution 2023-12. This is an  
2       authorization to enter into a purchase agreement  
3       with Hitex Marketing Group, Inc. in a total amount  
4       not to exceed \$44,000, which is inclusive of a  
5       \$4,000 contingency, for Trust-branded promotional  
6       items for a term of ten months commencing on  
7       December 1, 2022 and ending on September 30, 2023.

8               Is there a motion to approve Resolution 2023-  
9       12?

10       (Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mary  
11       Donworth and seconded by Dr. Malou C. Harrison.)

12               All right. Are there any recusals? All  
13       right. Seeing none, move toward a discussion.

14               Just to remind you on background that Hitex  
15       Marketing Group, Inc. specializes in manufacturing  
16       and delivering of various Trust-branded materials.  
17       These include, as you can see here on background,  
18       things that we have done in the past and with other  
19       vendors. And things that we do like bags in bulk,  
20       et cetera, et cetera.

21               And so, if you have any questions about that.  
22       We have worked with them in the past and are  
23       pleased to be continuing to hopefully work with  
24       them again.

25               Any discussion? Seeing none, we'll move to a

1 vote. All in favor, signify by saying aye. Any  
2 opposed, nay? The motion carries. Thank you all  
3 very much.

4 MS. JEANTY: Sorry, Mr. Trowbridge?

5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. JEANTY: Who seconded? I don't --

7 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I thought it was Gilda.

8 DR. HARRISON: Harrison.

9 MS. JEANTY: Harrison. Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Oh, I'm sorry, Malou. Dr.  
11 Harrison. She was throwing her voice. All right.  
12 We'll move onto Resolution 2023-13. This is an  
13 authorization to negotiate and execute a contract  
14 renewal with Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc.  
15 for event planning services, in a total amount not  
16 to exceed \$290,000, for a term of ten months,  
17 commencing December 1, 2022, ending on September  
18 30, 2023, with two remaining 12-month renewals.

19 Is there a motion to approve this resolution?

20 (Motion to approve the resolution was made by  
21 Pamela Hollingsworth and seconded by Dr. Edward  
22 Abraham.)

23 Are there any recusals? All right. We'll  
24 move into discussion.

25 Many of you are probably familiar with

1 Armstrong Creative and the work they do with our  
2 family expos. And once again, this year, we are  
3 planning to host three of those in various parts of  
4 the county.

5 You see some of the scope of their work listed  
6 here on page 10, everything from managing and  
7 tracking exhibitor registration to obtaining  
8 estimates, for scheduling and managing all of the  
9 décor, and of course, selecting and managing food  
10 vendors and all of our volunteers.

11 Is there any discussion about Armstrong  
12 Creative? All right. Seeing none, we'll move into  
13 a vote. All in favor, signify by saying aye. Any  
14 opposed, nay.

15 (The motion passed unanimously.)

16 We now move to Resolution 2023-14. This is an  
17 authorization for a procurement waiver from a  
18 formal competitive solicitation to enter into a  
19 purchase agreement with DoubleTree by Hilton Miami  
20 Airport Convention Center in a total amount not to  
21 exceed \$55,984.50, which is inclusive of a  
22 \$5,089.50 contingency to host and cater the 2023  
23 Champions for Children event, which is to take  
24 place in April of 2023.

25 Is there a motion to approve this resolution?

1 (Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mary  
2 Donworth and seconded by Dr. Daniel Bagner.)

3 Are there any recusals? All right. Seeing  
4 none, we'll move into discussion. I think many of  
5 you are very familiar with our Champions for  
6 Children program.

7 And this allows us to solicit relationship and  
8 confirm a relationship with the DoubleTree by  
9 Hilton. I think many of you know we were here last  
10 year and had a very good experience. And  
11 therefore, because we are contracting with a single  
12 hotel, it is a procurement waiver, which you can  
13 see here what some of the other estimates were.

14 I think we're very pleased to return there  
15 with your affirmative vote. A lot of these costs,  
16 as you-all know, are brought down by the cost of  
17 generosity sponsorships. So, in many cases, we  
18 cover these costs.

19 Any further discussion? Seeing none, move to  
20 a vote. All in favor, signify by saying aye. Any  
21 opposed, nay.

22 (The motion passed unanimously.)

23 Next is Resolution 2023-15. This is an  
24 authorization to negotiate and execute a match  
25 contract with Miami-Dade County for the eighth year

1 of the Summer Youth Internship Program in a total  
2 amount not to exceed \$1.5 million for a term of 12  
3 months, commencing March 1, 2023, and ending on  
4 February 29, 2024.

5 This also allows us to allocate up to an  
6 additional \$500,000 to the SYIP initiative  
7 contingent on its inclusion of charter school  
8 students this year.

9 Is there a motion to approve this resolution?  
10 (Motion to approve the resolution was made by  
11 Lourdes Gimenez and seconded by Dr. Malou C.  
12 Harrison. Recusal by Maria Norton.)

13 We'll move onto discussion. And just by way  
14 of background, if you look at page 14, obviously,  
15 you're very familiar with this program that we've  
16 been one of the founders and great supporters of  
17 over the last eight years. Any discussion?

18 MS. BYARS: I have just one question. I want  
19 to know the -- if we have any data regarding the  
20 number of participants that were enrolled in  
21 alternative education programs last year. And if  
22 we're targeting alternative -- students who are  
23 enrolled in alternative education programs.

24 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Okay. Great question. Jim?

25 MR. HAJ: Mark, thank you. Ta'myah, I don't

1 know if we have the answer or somebody on the phone  
2 has an answer or we'll have to get back to you.

3 DR. KENDRICK-DUNN: It doesn't look like  
4 there's a representative from MDCPS on the line but  
5 we'll request that data, the breakdown by the  
6 schools. But I can say generally, it's something  
7 that has been on radar and it's been part of the  
8 collaborative discussions amongst all of the  
9 partners to ensure it's being really noted that the  
10 folks in the alternative schools are really  
11 advertising this to their students and providing  
12 support. It's definitely been on the radar.

13 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Tiombe. Other  
14 questions or comments? All right. Seeing none,  
15 we'll move toward a vote. All in favor, signify by  
16 saying aye. Any opposed, nay. (Motion passed).  
17 Thank you all very much.

18 All right. Next is Resolution 2023-16. This  
19 is an authorization to transfer unexpended fiscal  
20 year 2021-2022 funds that were previously  
21 authorized by Resolution 2021-31 for educator  
22 scholarships and Resolution 2021-32 for INCENTIVES  
23 salary supplement program (now known as A\$CEND) to  
24 the high-quality tiered payments program authorized  
25 by Resolution 2021-28. This purchase order will



1 now be increased by a total of \$400,000 for a new  
2 total amount of \$10.4 million. Resolutions 2021-  
3 28, 2021-31, and 2021-32 will then be amended  
4 accordingly.

5 Is there a motion to approve this resolution?  
6 (Motion to approve the resolution was made by  
7 Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Constance  
8 Collins.

9 Are there any recusals? All right. Seeing  
10 none, we'll move into discussion. Any discussion  
11 about this item? Again, this is a transfer related  
12 to unexpended funds moved into this year's. So,  
13 it's not new dollars; it's transferred dollars.

14 MR. HAJ: Can I -- perfect. Can I clarify  
15 what you just said a little bit about this year?

16 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes, please.

17 MR. HAJ: It's last year's purchase order as  
18 of September 30, 2022.

19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you. All right. Any  
20 further discussion or questions? If not, we'll  
21 move into a vote. All in favor, signify by saying  
22 aye. Any opposed, nay.

23 (Motion passed unanimously.)

24 Thank you-all very much. Back to you, Mr.  
25 Chairman.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Jim, the CEO report?

2 CEO REPORT

3 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, I'll be very brief. The  
4 monthly meeting report's on 24 through 30. The  
5 communications team has done an outstanding job  
6 getting to the community and letting the community  
7 know the great work that we're doing, what the  
8 Board's doing, what's happening. Very proud of the  
9 work.

10 And lastly, this is our last meeting of the  
11 year. So, I just want to wish all the Board  
12 members a happy Thanksgiving and happy holidays  
13 because we will not be together until January.  
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: That was on my script, too. My  
16 own personal script. It is our last meeting.  
17 Well, first of all, I'd also like to remind you  
18 that this Thursday is Give Miami Day.

19 All of the organizations and community that  
20 are raising funds or that deserve our support as  
21 well.

22 Happy Thanksgiving. Happy whatever everyone  
23 celebrates. And it's we'll look forward to the  
24 holiday season spending time with our families.

25 MR. HAJ: May I have one more announcement?

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Sure.

2 MR. HAJ: Friday is National Adoption Day. We  
3 have 31 children being adopted at a ceremony that  
4 we're helping support at the Miami Children's  
5 Museum, which is a beautiful thing for this  
6 community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Thank you, everybody,  
8 and this meeting is adjourned.

9

10 (Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.)

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