



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

**DISTRICT 13 ECONOMIC
RECOVERY TASK FORCE**

“Reigniting Our Economy”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERS	2
LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER ESTEBAN “STEVE” BOVO	4
HEALTHCARE WORKING GROUP	6
HOSPITALITY AND SMALL BUSINESS WORKING GROUP	10
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORK GROUP	12
FINANCE AND PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP	14

MISSION STATEMENT

The District 13 Economic Recovery Task Force shall gather industry leaders to develop a successful, healthy and efficient blueprint to reignite Miami-Dade County’s District 13.



MEMBERS

Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez, Town of Miami Lakes
Council President, Paul Hernandez, City of Hialeah
Mayor Julio Martinez, Former City of Hialeah Mayor
Alex Rizo, Community Council Board Member

Education and Community Working Group

Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Archdiocese of Miami
Ana Garcia, Principal of Monsignor Edward Pace High School
Father Jose Alfaro, Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
Ana Garcia, Principal of Monsignor Edward Pace High School
Councilman Carlos O. Alvarez, Principal of the City of Hialeah Educational Academy
Luther Campbell
Jesus Vergara, Breanna Vergara Foundation
Maria "Lorena" Nicieza, Great Learning Experience
Miriam de Francisco, BBharts
Pastor Pablo Lago, Comunidad Cristiana La Roca Firme
Pastor Stuart Bodin, Miami Lakes United Methodists Church
Rabbi Mendel Weiss, Chabad of North West Dade & Miami Lakes

Finance and Professional Working Group

Cecil Milton, President, Jose' Milton and Associates, United Property Management
Eddie Blanco, Miami Lakes Economic Development Committee and Owner Broker, Stratwell
Jerry Menendez, Vice President-Branch Manager of TD Bank
John J. Brunetti, Jr., President of Hialeah Park Racing and Casino
Julio Ponce, Executive Director of Hialeah Housing Authority
Lynn Matos, RE/MAX Unique Realty
Melissa Caballero Alton, Esq., Miami Lakes Bar Association Nancy Fernandez, Vice President-Branch Manager of Apollo Bank
Ray Palacios, President/CEO of First Origin Mortgage Lenders
Stu Wyllie, President of Graham Company

Healthcare Working Group

Dr. Ausberto Hidalgo
Dr. Francisco Dieguez, Vascardio Heart and Vascular Institute
Luis Zayas, PrimeCare Medical Centers
Michael Bell, CEO of Hialeah Hospital
Rosa Barroso, LMHC, The Therapy Labs

Hospitality and Small Business Working Group

Amy Cao, Vicky Bakery
Ariel Martinez, El Presidente Supermarkets

Carolina Ferreiro, Pharma Natural
David Healy, Vice President General Manager Graham Hospitality
Jim Hamilton, Miami Lakes Sports Shop
Joey Cecio, LaDove Inc.
Lazaro Gamon, Lazarito's Barber Shop
Leroy Jones, Neighbors and Neighbors Association (NANA)
Leslie Gaensel, LMG Beauty Factory
Linda Trischitta, Miami Laker
Mandy Llanes, Hialeah Chamber of Commerce
Miguel Del Rivero, El Vocero News
Mylo Gonzalez, NQC Craft Beer & Grub
Robert Scavusso, Prestige Windows & Doors
Sarah Suarez, Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce

LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER ESTEBAN “STEVE” BOVO



Everyone in our community, from all industries and ages, are waiting for the light at the end of the tunnel. Parents and children have been forced into a new learning environment overnight. Shuttered small business anxiously wanting to reopen. The people of Miami-Dade have demonstrated incredible patience and because of it, our community has overcome this novel virus. The time invested in keeping each other safe, requires that we take measured steps that continue safeguarding the health of our residents, while reopening our economy.

That's why during the last several weeks, I started a conversation with industry and community leaders of Miami-Dade County's District 13 to discuss what a reopening looks like to them. A reopening plan is not and should not look the same for all areas of our County, which rely on different sectors of our economy. The District 13 Economic Recovery Task Force ("Task Force") discussed the circumstances of the district within four areas, divided into the following working groups: Healthcare, Education and Community, Hospitality and Small Businesses, and Finance and Professionals.

The healthcare professionals reiterated how personal protective equipment and other sanitary measures will become part of our "new normal". The working group discussed creating a sanitation certification program that will both create an ideal work setting and give customers peace of mind. Our discussions also focused on the deteriorating mental health in our community. Many seniors are at home with absolutely no human interaction due to their vulnerable state. Many families may be financially affected as unemployment continues to grow. I plan to work with mental health professional on ways we can proactively help our community.

Opening our economy has a direct impact on our children and childcare programs, and must be opened in tandem. Most parents do not have "safe" childcare in place for their children or may fear utilizing their usual childcare program. Our childcare programs need to be equipped for proper and safe care. The working group also discussed the importance of preparing for the influx of minors that will not have summer activities or jobs, which may be detrimental to areas of our community. Businesses should be encouraged to allow telecommuting as much as possible to assist parents with these unforeseen circumstances.

The small business discussions reiterated the importance of compartmentalizing a reopening plan and evaluating each industry at a micro-level. Each industry has its own needs, and within each industry there are varied sizes. As we have recently witnessed with the County's action plan to reopen open spaces, we must evaluate each area closely and adopt individual measures. Small business owners and banking leaders both expressed the need for financial assistance. I plan to work with Mayor Carlos Gimenez to expand our mom and pop program to offer financial assistance to our small businesses. Our county also needs to explore the ability to extend the early payment discount on all timely property tax payments. A common theme in our conversations was a need to educate and interact with our community. Our Task Force will be leading a series of webinars led by members to discuss important topics, such as mental health, legal impacts on small businesses, and business best practice.

There are several fundamental factors to successfully reopen the County. First, better intergovernmental communication and coordination. Even though the circumstances of each County district and municipality may vary, there must be greater coordination between municipalities and Miami-Dade County as we look to announce each policy concerning reopening. It's the least local government can do to avoid further confusion and stress on residents. Second, we must strike the appropriate balance between prioritizing protecting residents, especially the most vulnerable, and restarting our economy. There may be times when the two are in conflict. If so, safety should always prevail. And third, we must have the flexibility to adjust as needed. We must be prepared to make accommodations and correct course as needed. I look forward to the continued input from the Task Force. Their real-life experience and on-the-ground feedback is vital to know what works best and what requires correction.

For all of us, these are all new and unprecedented challenges. Many of the measures that have become part of our daily routine may become permanent, while others may be phased out. We must keep in mind that the manual for this new reality is being written by all of us, each day, and will require our continued patience and commitment to each other to succeed.

Sincerely,



Esteban "Steve" Bovo
Miami Dade County Commissioner



HEALTHCARE WORKING GROUP

The Healthcare Working Group addressed the following topics:

- In addition to CDC guidelines, what safety measures should be implemented or recommended as we reopen the economy?
- How will the Healthcare industry, which heavily relies on close and physical contact, evolve to a new normal?

The following are observations and recommendations:

General Best Practice:

- Usage of hand sanitizers or washing of hands for at least 20 second will be extremely important in everyday life. The usage of sanitation and disinfection will be imperative at home and at the persons workplace.
- Avoidance of touching your face and adherence to usage of personal protective equipment (PPE), specifically in enclosed areas, should continue to be recommended.
- The presence of physical distancing should continue to occur in a six feet radius from other individuals whenever possible.
- People who have symptoms like shortness of breath, fever, productive or nonproductive cough should continue to stay at home.

Returning to New Normal:

- A reopening of the economy should be implemented in multiple phases as recommended in President Trump's "Opening Up America Again" guidelines. Prioritization of industry types and an orderly return to work will tread new ground in terms of legal issues, medical counsel, and privacy, particularly if individuals return to work based upon virus exposure, immunity, or eventually vaccination.
- Consideration for openings of venues for purposes of housing multitudes of people should be deferred once there is a descent in the slope of prevalence of COVID-19 infections. The same principles of minimizing gatherings of greater than ten individuals should continue to be enforced. Once again, physical distancing should encompass a six feet radius.

- Once at work, it is reasonable to assume employees will be regularly tested and screened for COVID-19 symptoms, which will likely raise both privacy and employment law issues. Given the level of stress in the environment, proactive support of employee mental health will be essential.
- Places for high risk transmission such as gyms, hair or nail salons should be treated in the same fashion as an outpatient medical visit as delineated below.
- Increased precaution at assisted living facilities (ALFs) should continue to protect the seniors in our community, which are most vulnerable. A community spread in an ALF can lead to a high influx of patients in hospitals, which can be detrimental to hospital operations. Senior community centers should reopen with a staggered schedule allowing proper social distancing. Many seniors in our community have had no choice but to stay home without human interaction. A reopening of our senior centers is imperative for their mental health.
- Access to telemedicine facilities will be the norm, as we can expect a dramatic increase in its use as it becomes “business as usual.”
- Patients who are flying through a commercial airline should be expected to use facemask to protect themselves and others. Any patient with fever should not be allowed to board the plane. Airline personnel should protect himself with facemasks and engage in continuous intermittent handwashing-
- Our community may experience a general sense of distrust as we reopen our economy and individuals may be fearful of a “new normal” due to this lack of trust. Creating a voluntary business certification, such as the safety inspection notices posted in elevators, which follows the CDC guidelines. This would certify a business has taken certain precautionary and sanitation measures, and that employees are not infected.

Testing Recommendations:

- Based on testing results and trends in our community, testing requirements should be lax. Individuals may get tested earlier once testing criteria are lessened, which will in turn lessen the possibility of a community spread. Most testing require fever or shortness of breath, which is typically experienced midway through the virus.
- The proposed list of criteria includes a combination of the following:
 - o Loss of severe smell and taste;
 - o Malaise, fatigue, muscle and joint pain;

- Fever and headache;
- Shortness of breath, cough, respiratory symptom; and
- Gastrointestinal (diarrhea and abdominal discomfort).

Outpatient medical visits:

- Office visits to physicians' offices should be scheduled by appointment. Upon the patient's arrival the office receptionist should take the patient's details and allow the patient to wait in the waiting area only if there is an assurance of a six feet radius free from human contact and hence, protecting this patient from transmission.
- If there cannot be any assurance of a six feet free exposure radius, then the patient(s) should wait in their car or outside in an open area. The patient should be notified via telephone or text message when the physician or healthcare professional is available.
- If patient is accompanied by relative, the relative will need to wait outside in the car unless patient needs the assistance. However, office personnel should be able to help patients out from beginning to end.
- Upon arrival to an outpatient office visit, patients should be prepared to wear a mask for their protection. Gloves should not be allowed in the office from patients coming in from the outside. There should be hand sanitizer in lobby for all patients and relatives. In addition, healthcare professionals and ancillary staff should all be wearing facemasks when treating patients.
- If the patient is to have an outpatient procedure within an office setting it is recommended the procedure be scheduled 48 hours after intentions to perform COVID-19 testing. If patient is positive for COVID-19 testing and the procedure is urgent or medically necessary, then all steps should be taken to perform this patient's procedure without the possibility of contamination to other patients and staff. Appropriate PPE for healthcare staff involved in the procedure, as well as proper PPE for the patient, must be utilized to minimize transmission.

Usage of N95 masks and face shields would be highly recommended specifically for healthcare professionals. Healthcare workers who are dealing directly with the oral or nasopharyngeal cavities should take extra care including usage of single, if not dual surgical gowns, and N95 facemasks, in addition to face shields.

Inpatient elective medical visits and procedures:

- Inpatient elective procedures should continue to be allowed, given the possibility of collateral disease worsening for other unrelated COVID-19 diseases due to lack of surveillance. We should have measures in place to allow elective procedures if an unforeseen resurgence occurs. While most elective procedure may not be urgent when initially scheduled, these procedures may be lifesaving if otherwise left unattended. Healthcare community is fearful there may be an influx of unrelated COVID-19 cases since many of these situations were not cared for during this time.
- These inpatient elective procedures should be handled in the same manner as outpatient procedures. The following are additional recommendations:
 - o Attempts at rerouting patients through a separate lobby that is not exposed to the rest of the hospital population would be advantageous.
 - o Special care to prevent transmission should be taken to high risk patients including patients older than 60 years old or with conditions like cancer/immunocompromised conditions, heart disease, and/or lung disease. Attempts at striving for minimizing hospital stay should always be the goal.
- There should be a backup emergency plan upon opening of all facilities to mitigate risk of resurgence while still trying to provide care to all patients. If a second wave of cases affects inpatient institutions such as hospitals, there should be a contingency plan to allow certain surgical and outpatient-based labs or centers apt to treat these patient's special permission to treat the patients that would otherwise have needed inpatient procedures. An example would be stoppage of procedures such as cardiac catheterizations, which would be necessary for prevention of myocardial infarction and worsening coronary artery disease in an inpatient or hospital setting. As a contingency plan, centers that would have the capability of treating such patients be allowed to perform procedures if the proper measures to prevent COVID-19 spread would be enforced. This plan would complement and assist in case a hospital surge and overflow would occur.



HOSPITALITY AND SMALL BUSINESS WORKING GROUP

The Hospitality and Small Business Working Group addressed the following topics:

- How does a reopening of businesses look globally?
- How will the mom and pop retail industry evolve as we reopen the economy?
- In addition to the CDC guidelines, what procedures should be adopted for industries that heavily rely on close and physical contact?
- How can local government best support small businesses while reopening?

The following are observations and recommendations:

- A united and measured voice is necessary to properly re-ignite the small business community. The business community strongly urge increased communication and coordination between the various level of local government.
- Local governments should adopt or maintain virtual service models when possible. For example, Miami-Dade County transitioned its construction and permitting procedures to a virtual service for increased social distancing. The County should continue expanding virtual service procedures into the future. The small business community has stated code and law enforcement are instrumental in enforcing social distancing and PPE requirements. While businesses may take all precautionary measure to protect their employees, businesses are concerned the general public may not follow requirements leaving compliant customers vulnerable.
- When developing a sanitation plan, business owners should note day to day operations within their business by itemizing activities that can lead to human contact and frequently touched surfaces or objects. This can assist develop a sanitation framework when following CDC guidelines. This will also identify services that should be curtailed in order to practice social distancing. Businesses should routinely reevaluate and revise disinfecting plan.
- Miami-Dade County should assist securing cleaning products and sanitization materials for small businesses when possible. Small business may experience difficulty gathering supplies as they compete with bulk purchases.

- While business owners should take all measure to prepare its workforce, it should also prepare best practices for its customers. This can include encouraging customers to pay in advance to limit contact, limiting unnecessary crowds or large family when possible, and limiting unnecessary accessories, such as large purses.
- Businesses should adopt shifts or staggered arrival and departure times whenever possible for ideal social distancing. When adopting shifts and hours of operation, businesses should consider the time necessary to properly and sufficiently disinfect between customers.
- Whenever possible, business owners should allow and encourage telecommuting. Vulnerable individuals, as identified by the CDC, should also be encouraged to remain home whenever possible.



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORK GROUP

The Education and Community Working Group addressed the following topics:

- How should a reopening of schools look?
- If permitted by local authorities, what measures should be implemented or recommended for summer programs or after school programs?
- What protocols should childcare programs implement?
- How and when should places of worship open?

The following are observations and recommendations:

- Creating spaces that will allow enough physical distancing is a common concern across all levels of education. Depending on the size of a classroom, schools may need to decrease their classroom student capacity to allow create enough social distancing. If possible, schools should consider creating hybrid classes – combination of virtual learning and face-to-face learning. School should have a plan for parents who do not want their children to return to the physical school setting. School cafeterias and lunch scheduling will also likely be affected. When possible, schools should consider encouraging students to bring lunch from home to eliminate unnecessary contact. Scheduled lunch periods should also be adjusted for ideal social distancing.
- Childcare programs may be one of the first to open to serve those returning to work. However, these programs may be most vulnerable because requiring PPE and CDC protocols for children under the age of five will be very difficult.
- We must be cognizant of the ripple effect an opening of the economy will have on childcare. Many parents returning to work may not have a “safe” childcare option. We will also experience an influx of minors that will not have summer activities or jobs. If telecommuting is not an option, businesses should consider allowing parents to either bring children to work or creating childcare options to alleviate these concerns.
- Facilities offering summer camp or school repeatedly stated it will be a challenge to open its doors during the summer due to the new safety measures that will likely be required. If summer activities for minors should open, programing should commence in June or July. This would

allow enough time to conduct a deep cleansing and preparation between May and June. When possible, programs should attempt to filter through families that need assistance, such as families that do not have alternative childcare. This will help lower the number of children and allowing improved physical distancing.

- More than ever, children's mental health needs to be part of our conversation. Educators are noticing a lack of motivation and incentive to participate. Minors need and seek normalcy.
- Bathroom occupancy should be limited to no more than two individuals at a time. If funds are available, automatic faucet sinks, soap dispensers and air dryers should be considered.
- All children should benefit from the same standard level of care at all schools and programs. Every classroom or childcare program should maintain a standard safety protocol. Educators, staff and aftercare programs should routinely sanitize. Educators should consider utilizing a bell or alarm to maintain a sanitation schedule.
- There is conflicting opinion as to whether schools should institute a temporary split shift. While a split shift can provide an ideal distant setting, scheduling can become very difficult for parents. Employers would need to adopt a similar schedule allowing parents to adapt to a temporary split shift schedule.
- Guidelines may not work for all places of worship. Our centers of worship may look very different from other areas throughout the State of Florida. As repeatedly stated, there is a concern about how to provide enough spacing for individuals.



FINANCE AND PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP

The Finance and Professionals Working Group addressed the following topics:

- Interconnected dilemma between renters, landlords and lenders.
- Are the federal and state financial assistance programs currently in place enough?
- Do residential property owners have protections from tenants who cannot pay their rents?
- What are the legal concerns businesses should be aware of?"?

The following are observations and recommendations:

- Property owners are finding themselves in a predicament between their tenants and lenders. Ultimately, the recommendation is to strike a balance and continue communication at all levels. Whenever possible, property owners should consider adjust rent obligations with the hope to recoup losses towards the ladder of the lease term (i.e., holiday season). Property owners, both commercial and residential, could start seeing a trickle of income as individuals start receiving their unemployment benefits.
- With respect to federal aid, a lot of the federal dollars unfortunately did not go to the “true” small businesses. In the global scheme of things, the federal small business standards may be proper. But at the local level, mom and pops maybe one to two individuals. Financial assistance programs for residential tenants and businesses, such as the program adopted by the City of Hialeah, may help alleviate some of the disparity. Miami-Dade County should explore the possibility of expanding its Mom and Pop Grant program to offer financial assistance equally distributed throughout the Commission Districts of Miami-Dade County.
- The large gap in the PPP small business threshold has left PPP recipients concerned there may be issues in the future if they keep the money, thus creating an additional level of uncertainty. The banking industry and business owners continue to wait for additional guidelines, such as if dollars can be used to hire new employees.
- Professional chambers and associations should explore hosting webinars to guide small businesses during these unprecedeted times. Legal ramifications may be the last thing a business owner is currently thinking about. There are good practices businesses can adopt.,

such as posting sanitation protocols and updating employee handbooks. Associations should also explore waiving member fees during this period to alleviate costs and increase community.

- The Real Estate industry continues witnessing a lot of unintended consequences from the eviction prohibition. Landowners may be unable to make their payments because their tenants are either unable to pay their rent or choosing not to pay their rent due to the eviction protection. Residential landlords are very concerned they could possibly lose their home if they are unable to pay their mortgage or homeowner's association fees.
- Miami-Dade County should adopt financial assistance measures to aid property owners with their property taxes. For example, the County should review the ability to expand the early payment discount for all timely payment.