



*Katherine Wilson, Chairman  
Curtis Austin, President*

February 20, 2006

The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Miami-Dade County  
111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> St, Ste. 2910  
Miami, FL 33128

The Honorable Charles "Sonny" McCoy, Mayor  
Monroe County  
503 Whitehead St.  
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Mayor Alvarez and Mayor McCoy:

On Thursday, February 16, 2006, the Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI) Board of Directors voted to authorize the President of Workforce Florida to approve a charter for Region 23, provided the new interlocal agreement has been adopted in the form approved and appointments to the board have been made by March 1, 2006, contingent on several key tasks being completed by that date, namely approval and execution of the new Interlocal Agreement (ILA) by both Dade and Monroe Boards of County Commissioners, and appointments of the statutorily-required RWB Board members so that they can exercise authority over workforce programs and funds as of that date.

In order to avoid disruption of services to the citizens of Dade and Monroe Counties, the WFI Board directed WFI staff to arrange for discontinuation of workforce funding flowing to/through the current RWB Board (which has not been compliant since 2002), and designation of a state agent to take policy and funding responsibility for local workforce funds until the new board is fully approved and appointed by local action. Based on a member motion at the February 16, 2006, meeting, the WFI Board also directed that a transition audit be performed as of March 1, 2006, to clearly identify assets, liabilities, obligations and any financial problems at that point so that the outgoing RWB, the new RWB, the relevant local elected officials, the state and the public are fully informed of the true status of finances and operational issues as of the "change of command."

Staff of WFI has been advised that the new ILA has been unanimously and formally approved at a public meeting of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, and will be duly signed/executed promptly and a copy provide to WFI. WFI staff had previously reviewed the content of the new ILA and found that it satisfied the long-standing concerns articulated by the WFI Board regarding selection/supervision of Board executive staff, inherent and potential conflicts of interest for entities/individuals exercising both policy/oversight roles while also receiving workforce funds to provide direct services. We understand that the identical new ILA will be presented to the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, for approval and execution. Then pursuant to the terms of the new ILA,

appointments to the newly constituted RWB Board will be made by both counties, and that Board will then be ready to assume authority and conduct business effective March 1, 2006, with its inaugural meeting to be conducted soon after that date.

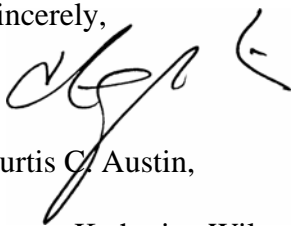
In order to clarify current status, it is absolutely essential for the new ILA to be approved in current form by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners at tomorrow's meeting. Deferral of action or adoption of an ILA that is substantially different from that approved by the Monroe BOCC will result in RWB 23 not having a chartered Regional Workforce Board, and triggering the "receivership" option directed by the WFI Board which may thereafter lead to the potential consolidation of the RWB 23 with a chartered Workforce Region. WFI staff has no authority or discretion to offer an extension for local action, but will follow the directions of the WFI Board to arrange for an alternative funding approval process. Workforce Florida will ensure that services to the residents of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties will not be interrupted by the assignment of administrative responsibilities.

Assuming that favorable action is taken on the new ILA by the Miami-Dade BOCC, then the final major step is appointment of members to constitute the new RWB Board of Directors. At the request of local staff, WFI staff has reviewed the roster of intended appointees for legal sufficiency in terms of mandated representatives, percentage requirements and other provisions of federal and state law regarding such boards. WFI staff does not in any way approve, disapprove or express an opinion on the specific individuals to be appointed, but limited our examination to the compliance with the required categories. As such we find that the tentative roster submitted for review in compliance with all federal and state requirements.

This summary of past developments and current status is offered to clarify tasks at hand and reiterate the importance of timely completion of the local tasks needed for full chartering of a Regional Workforce Board for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff for any further clarification as needed. We have been and continue to be willing to assist with these local tasks, but recognize that we must do so within the parameters of the oversight responsibility of the state Board and in compliance with its direct orders.

Sincerely,



Curtis C. Austin,

cc. Katherine Wilson, Chairman, Workforce Florida  
Rick Beasley, Executive Director, South Florida Workforce Board  
Luis Gazitua, Senior Advisor to Mayor Alvarez  
Susan Pareigis, Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation