

Sweetwater bid to annex Dolphin Mall now in voters' hands

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS

Annexation of land to Sweetwater that includes the Dolphin Mall now rests in voter hands. In a move that could save Miami-Dade more than \$567,000 a year, the county commission voted Tuesday to change the city's boundaries upon a special election vote.

Now residents within the boundaries of the proposed annexation will be able weigh in on the issue via mail-in ballot. The special election will be Dec. 14.

"[The ordinance] has gone through every hoop and hurdle there possibly is," said longtime Sweetwater resident and commission Vice Chairman Jose

"Pepe" Diaz. "The people have the right to vote."

If a majority approves, Sweetwater will receive a wealth of commercial properties, a move that Miguel De Grandy of Miguel De Grandy PA, the law firm representing the city, said will help stabilize the tax base. The city would also take on middle-class multi-density developments and a low-income trailer park.

Sweetwater won't be the only one to benefit. Jorge Fernandez, coordinator for Miami-Dade's Office of Strategic Business Management, said the annexation should aid the county's bottom line. While the area produces about \$2.9 million in county revenue, including taxes,



"The people have the right to vote," stated Jose "Pepe" Diaz.

the county spends about \$3.4 million there. Since the county spends more than the area produces, Miami-Dade could save more than \$567,000 a year with annexation.

Sweetwater has passed an ordinance stating it will lower its tax rate to match the Unincorporated Municipal Service Area rate before the annexation takes effect. According to Mr. De Grandy, as the city has been relying on a residential-tax base, having a larger commercial base would allow it to cut its tax rate.

"Neither the citizens nor the commercial properties will feel any impact whatsoever," he said.

An agreement between Miami-Dade and Sweetwater states that the county would continue to receive and retain electrical franchise fees and utility tax revenues generated from the annexed property. It would collect and dispose of all residential waste within the annexed

area, unless it decides to delegate authority to the city.

Sweetwater would have to pay Miami-Dade for its share of the stormwater utility debt service. The city would pay \$39,200 yearly until 2029 or one payment of \$665,660 within 30 days of the agreement. While annexing municipalities usually must hand over 100% of surplus funds, this will not be part of the agreement.

Minus a few exemptions, the jurisdiction, ownership and control of roads would be transferred to the city. Miami-Dade Public Works would continue to issue permits and collect fees for work on streets, thoroughfares, waterways and utility easements.

Commission names 5 executives to Public Health Trust board

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS

Five members were appointed or reappointed Tuesday to the Jackson Memorial Hospital-Public Health Trust's Board of Trustees.

The county commission selected Angel Medina Jr., Stephen Nuell, Robin Reiter-Faragalli and Mark Rogers to serve through 2013. As Diego Mella resigned before his term ended, Gladys Ayala will fill in until October 2011.

Mr. Medina is a retired bank executive who was area president for Regions Bank-South Florida for 10 years. He has been a member of the Public Health Trust for six years, serving as

treasurer and vice chairman. He is currently chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Sustainability. He has been chairman of the Beacon Council and the Dean's Council for Florida International University's College of Business.

Mr. Nuell is president of Nuell & Polsky, 782 NW 42nd Ave. He was president of Job2Career, a national nurse staffing, recruiting and training company, and served on the Board of Governors for the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami's School of Medicine. He founded and directed the American Association of International Healthcare Recruitment and chaired its Govern-

ment Relations Committee.

Ms. Reiter-Faragalli is principal at Reiter & Associates LLC, 550 NE 59th St., offering advisory services to philanthropic foundations. Her work has included serving as president of Miami Children's Hospital Foundation, vice president of the Southeast Banking Corp. and senior vice president of BankAtlantic. She has served as chairwoman for the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Beacon Council.

Mr. Rogers, a Fisher Island resident, was CEO of Duke University Hospital from 1991 to 1995 and is founder of the Society of Critical Care Medicine. He worked as a full professor at the Johns Hopkins University and is a board mem-

ber of the Rogers Family Charitable Foundation, which aims to provide educational resources to minority youth. He was elected to the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine and managed a billion-dollar hedge fund for a New York-based biotech investment company.

Ms. Ayala is a managing partner at Ayala Premph LLP, 1500 NE 162nd St., where she focuses on insurance litigation. She worked as manager of business strategy in Worldwide Development Operations for Pfizer Inc. and volunteered with Southwest Detroit Hospital and Detroit Medical Center. She has been a member of the Public Health Trust since September 2009.

Still without seeing contract, sports commission takes over boxing team

BY ZACHARY S. FAGENSON

The Miami-Dade Sports Commission's board has yet to approve, or receive, a final contract to manage a Miami boxing franchise but it seems the agency is moving forward to prepare for the season's proposed Nov. 16 opener at AmericanAirlines Arena anyway.

The commission expected to have a final contract reviewed by the county attorney's office by Monday but didn't have it in hand that afternoon, said commission Executive Director Mike Sophia.

The contract, with World Series of Boxing owner the International Boxing Association, offers the commission about \$350,000 for one year to manage the franchise and makes it responsible for promoting fights as well as selling tickets and sponsorships.

With the first event a little under a month away, the commission is moving ahead and preparing.

It sent out a press release last week announcing the team's name, the Miami Gallos, and its home opener against Los Angeles. Tickets, the e-mail continued, can be purchased through TicketMaster or by visiting www.miamigallos.com or calling (305) 818-6880, an extension of the sports commission's main line.

A message at on the sports commission's main number



'We're starting to put the pieces in place, assuming we get the contract signed, so we'll be ready to hit the ground running.'

Mike Sophia

says it's the "Miami home of the World Series of Boxing."

"We're doing some things to basically help support the event. It's a lot like we would do for any other event," Mr. Sophia said. "We'll do things from venue coordination to promotional efforts in terms of getting the ticket manifest to promotional details.

"We're starting to put the pieces in place, assuming we get the contract signed, so we'll be ready to hit the ground running."

And "if for some reason we don't get the contract approved we'd get the pieces in place for a local staff," said Mr. Sophia,

who is listed on the sports commission's press release as the team's general manager.

Though the contract was to be approved weeks ago, it's to have some perks for the county and the sports commission.

"First of all, they're hiring the sports commission to do this, which is going to allow us to have a few more resources," Mr. Sophia said in a previous interview. "On a different touch point, I've got a little more of a permanent event, another resource which we can use to engage the community.

"From a county standpoint there will be some benefit in terms of economic impact and there will be some people that come in as we get later in the season," he added.

The Miami team is to be made up of 18 fighters, nine from the US and nine internationals, including 2008 Olympic silver medalist Kenneth Egan.

Though none of the fighters hails from Miami, they'll be based here during the season and train under Olympic boxing coach Pat Burns, Mr. Sophia added.

The season is to include 12 events, six in Miami at the AmericanAirlines Arena and another six at venues across the world, that kick off 3 months next month and run until mid-March. If the Miami team moves into the playoffs, additional matches are to be during April and May.



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P.O.V. Point of View:
 AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT THE
Adrienne Arsht Center
 FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

7,000 SOUTH FLORIDIANS ATTEND FALL FOR THE ARTS FESTIVAL

What had 7,000 people, 150 local arts and community service organizations, 85 performers, and 20 epicurean selections — on wheels? The FALL FOR THE ARTS FESTIVAL! An astounding 7,000 South Floridians — from toddlers to seniors — took over the Adrienne Arsht Center campus for an afternoon of free performances on Sunday, September 12.

To read the complete article and receive regular updates, sign up for P.O.V., the Adrienne Arsht Center's free e-newsletter at www.arshtcenter.org

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