



First TRIM Hearing

September 13, 2021

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
First TRIM Public Hearing
BOARD TELECONFERENCE
"VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR WITH A QUORUM OF
MEMEBERS PHYSICALLY PRESENT
AND SOME MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY"

The Children's Trust First TRIM Public Hearing was held on September 13, 2021, at 3250 Southwest Third Avenue, Coral Way; commencing at 5:01 p.m., with a quorum of members physically present and some members attending virtually. The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Hoffman, Chair.

ORIGINAL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair
Pamela Hollingsworth, Vice-Chair
Mark A. Trowbridge, Treasurer
Dr. Magaly Abrahante, (Zoom)
Laura Adams, (Zoom)
Matthew Arsenault
Dr. Daniel Bagner
Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, (Zoom)
Constance Collins
Victor Diaz-Herman

1 BOARD MEMBERS (Continued):

2 Mary Donworth

3 Reverend Richard P. Dunn III

4 Hon. Juan Fernandez-Barquin

5 Gilda Ferradaz

6 Lourdes P. Gimenez

7 Mindy Grimes-Festge

8 Dr. Malou C. Harrison

9 Nelson Hincapie

10 Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn

11 Marissa Leichter

12 Annie R. Neasman, (Zoom)

13 Javier Reyes

14 Sandra West

15 Leigh Kobrinski

16

17 STAFF:

18 Amanda Gorski

19 Bevone Ritchie

20 Diana Beltre

21 Felix Becerra

22 Garnet Esters

23 Imran Ali

24 Jacques Bentolila

25 James Haj

1 STAFF (Continued):

2 Joanna Revelo
3 Juana Leon
4 Juliette Fabien
5 Lisanne Gage
6 Lori (Katherine) Hanson
7 Muriel Jeanty
8 Natalia Zea
9 Patricia Leal
10 Rachel Spector
11 Samuel McKinnon
12 Sebastian del Marmol
13 Stephanie Sylvestre
14 Susan Marian
15 Tatiana Canelas
16 Trisha Barnett
17 Wendy Duncombe
18 William Kirtland
19 Ximena Nunez

20

21 GUESTS:

22 Charles Dinkins, Hosanna Community Foundation
23 Lisa Gwynn, UM Pediatric Mobile
24 Donald Deresz
25 Phillip Tavernier, OLCDC

1 GUESTS (Continued):

2 Rhonda Smith, Fit Kids of America Corp.

3 Nakia Bowling, Opa-Locka Community Development

4 Corporation

5 Matisse Bruer, YWCA South Florida

6 Leopoldo Coronado, Jewish Community Services of South

7 Florida

8 Louis Joseph, Gang Alternative

9 CMB Unlimite, CMB VISIONS Unlimited Inc

10 Thema Campbell, Girl Power Rocks, Inc.

11 Francisco Fins, FIU ENLACE

12 Debbie Rudnicki, Florida International University

13 Beatriz Coronado, RCMA

14 Heather Winters, Jewish Community Services of South

15 Florida

16 Deborah Spiegelman, Miami Children's Museum

17 Chandra Burgess, CMB Visions Unlimited, Inc.

18 Eunice Hines, CHI

19 Natasha Baldelomar, Housing and Community Services

20 Rossana Novaes, Sanrau Corp.

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. HOFFMAN: Okay, thank you. We're going to call the meeting to order. It's 5:04, on my watch, p.m. Before we get to the formal portion of the business, I just want to welcome our newest board members. We have Dr. Malou Harrison.

As many of you know, these two board members were elected -- were appointed at our last meeting. They're both -- actually Malou Harrison was -- Dr. Harrison was appointed by the college president of Miami-Dade College. She became provost of Miami-Dade College at the beginning of 2021 and prior to that time served as president of the North Campus of Miami-Dade College since 2013. After being Dean of Students at the North Campus for over a decade. I hope I get this all right.

Dr. Harrison joined Miami-Dade College in 1989 and has many roles during that time, including serving as Chief of Staff to the College President, Executive Assistant to the President of the Wolfson Campus, and as an adjunct professor of English at the Wolfson Campus. She's a champion of the cause of underserved students and public higher education and has led the creation of high impact initiatives, which have advanced equity in students success.

1 Welcome, Dr. Harrison. Thank you.

2 Also joining us for the first time, Victor

3 Diaz-Herman. Victor is a member At-Large appointed

4 by the board. Victor serves as Chief Executive

5 Officer of Pridelines. South Florida's oldest

6 direct services agency for LGBTQ people. Pridelines

7 provides programs and services throughout Miami-Dade

8 County for all members of the LGBT community and

9 their straight allies. While focusing on serving

10 those who are living on the margins, including

11 people living with or effected by HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ

12 youth and LGBTQ young adults at risk of, or

13 experiencing, homelessness.

14 Victor is a native Floridian who was born and

15 raised in Miami-Dade County to a Cuban-American

16 family. And he's an LGBTQ activist and community

17 leader.

18 Welcome, Victor. Good to see you.

19 Just a couple other -- take the prerogative,

20 just to give you a couple of other quick things.

21 First of all, last couple of weeks the 2021 Family

22 Expo, The Children's Trust Family Expo, has been

23 held in a new format. Traditionally it's been at

24 the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair Grounds and this

25 year we're doing four separate pop-up events

1 throughout the county in order to reach the
2 different communities that we serve.

3 The first Expo took place on Saturday, August
4 28th at the Sweet Home Community Campus in South
5 Miami-Dade County. The second one took place just
6 this past Saturday. At the Betty T. Ferguson
7 Recreational Complex. Over 1,000 people attended
8 each of the events. There were over 55 exhibitors
9 representing various organizations that serve our
10 families and children of the community. Several
11 board members have been in attendance of those.
12 Lourdes, I know that you were at one. Sandra West
13 was at one. Mindy, Ms. Grimes was at one. I
14 encourage -- there are two remaining, and I
15 encourage you to -- to check them out.

16 The first one, which covers Central Miami-Dade,
17 will be held at the History Museum -- History of
18 Miami Museum, this coming Saturday, September 18th
19 from ten to three.

20 And the last, and I'm not sure how this works,
21 but Jim can explain. The last, covering West Miami-
22 Dade, will be held on Saturday, September 25th at
23 Jackson West Medical Center as a drive-thru event?

24 MR. HAJ: It is going to be a drive-by.
25 Jackson West just opened and with the -- the uptake

1 we were working with Jackson on how to do this
2 safely. And we came up with trying our first ever
3 drive-by.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: And I just want to say, as we
5 head into the budget process for the year, this has
6 been an extraordinary year. As you all know, we've
7 been still living in this -- these COVID times, as
8 we call them. I think The Trust, as we look at the
9 budget going forward, The Trust is -- the Staff has
10 done an extraordinary job of adapting to these
11 conditions. Adapting our programs to the
12 conditions. Adapting how we work with the
13 providers. We've seen, last meeting, we had an IT
14 presentation about how we adapted our entire systems
15 to work with internally and externally. And we're
16 just now transitioning to be back in person or
17 partially in person with The Trust.

18 So, I congratulate the Staff on that. And
19 that's particular Sheryl Borg and Stephanie in
20 Operations. I think we've done a fantastic job of
21 supporting our providers. Both in initiatives like
22 providing PPE over the summer so that summer camps
23 can open on a timely and safe basis.

24 And thank Juliette Fabien and her team for all
25 the work they've done in Programs. We've launched a

1 new book club this year. The book battle that was
2 held over the summer. Summer youth internships were
3 carried on during COVID. I think there were over
4 3,000 summer youth interns in that program. And I
5 think we should be proud, again, of what we've done
6 and what the Staff has done to carry on business of
7 The Trust in these extraordinary times.

8 And of course, the Finance team. Which we're
9 here today to talk about finances. Again, won the
10 Government Accounting Office award, -- award. And
11 thanks to Bill Kirkland and his team.

12 So, thank you all for your participation. But
13 in particular, I'd just like to give a little round
14 of applause to the Staff for all the work they've
15 done.

16 So, to open the meeting, we have a script for
17 this meeting. So, the meeting before the -- the
18 matters before the board this afternoon are setting
19 the tentative millage and approval of the tentative
20 budget. The resolutions to come before the board
21 are as follows:

22 Resolution 2021-81: Resolution of The
23 Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
24 adopting the tentative millage rate for levying of
25 ad valorem taxes for The Children's Trust of Miami-

1 Dade County, Florida, for fiscal year 2021-2022; and
2 declaring the percentage change in the property tax
3 levy as defined under section 200.065, Florida
4 Statutes; providing for an effective date.

5 And, Resolution 2021-82: Resolution of The
6 Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
7 adopting the tentative budget for fiscal year 2021-
8 2022; providing for an effective date.

9 As State Law mandates, that the first item for
10 discussion is Resolution 2021-81, setting the
11 tentative millage necessary to fund the budget, as
12 well as a discussion of the specific purpose for
13 which the ad valorem tax revenues are being used.

14 I'll turn it over to our CEO who will explain
15 further.

16 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you.

17 As a reminder, Florida Statute 200.065(2)(e)(1)
18 requires a hearing discussed the percentage increase
19 in millage over the rolled-back rate necessary to
20 fund the budget, if any, and the specific purposes
21 for which ad valorem tax revenues are being
22 increased. The general public shall be allowed to
23 speak and to ask questions before to adoption of any
24 measures by the governing body. The governing body
25 shall adopt its tentative or final millage rate

1 before adopting its tentative or final budget.

2 This will be the 19th budget year for The
3 Children's Trust. The tentative millage rate to be
4 levied in order to produce sufficient ad valorem
5 taxation revenue will be adequate to pay the
6 appropriations and the budget for the fiscal year
7 beginning October 1st, 2021 and ending September
8 30th, 2022 shall be .5 mills.

9 The tentative operating millage of .5 mills
10 will result in a property tax increase of 15.74
11 percent which is more than a rollback rate of .4320
12 mills. The rollback rate is the millage rate that
13 will generate approximately the same amount of
14 property tax revenue as approved from the prior
15 year.

16 Last year's actual property tax levy for The
17 Children's Trust was \$144,492,807. This years
18 proposed ad valorem and tax revenue estimate,
19 estimate at 95 percent of ad valorem and tax millage
20 -- levy -- tax levy of .5 mills is \$161,528,706.

21 And the purposes of the levy, and the result of
22 increase in the budgeted ad valorem tax revenues
23 over the prior year is to enable The Trust to expand
24 services to children and families while aligning to
25 the strategic plan.

1 And this is just a reminder, we've talked about
2 the last four or five months, but since the
3 beginning of the funding cycle, which took place
4 October 1st, 2018, The Trust committed an additional
5 40.8 million annually and 176.5 million over a five-
6 year cycle in additional funds, year a part for
7 program/services for the fiscal year 2019 to 2023.

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

12 And for the newer board members, this is just a
13 reminder, we were at a half mill since 2010 all the
14 way to 2017. And the Finance Committee adopted a
15 plan to decrease the millage rate, put more money
16 out in the streets, the 40.8 million per year. And
17 then to bring -- utilize your fund balance to bring
18 down our fund balance to where we are today.

19 So, the plan that was developed three years ago
20 has worked. So it went from half mill, we utilized
21 our fund balance, we put additional services to come
22 back to the half mill. So, the plan that was
23 developed three years ago worked as designed.

24 The Trust also, based on a strategic retreat
25 and the strategic planning from our board, added

1 additional funds in the following program budget
2 categories: high quality early childcare programs,
3 impact school readiness, and family economic
4 challenges during the crucial period of early brain
5 development, after school and summer camp programs
6 that serve about 30,000 children and youth.
7 Included in these funds was the need to increase
8 minimum wage, which is mandated by Florida law. And
9 the majority of our program funding goes to support
10 staff comps. Additional funding to support child --
11 early childhood health, including social/emotional
12 wellness and mental health.

13 And in the current fiscal year, The Trust made
14 significant expenditures on emergency funding
15 related to COVID-19 for PPE equipment, mobile
16 pediatric testing and care, family basic needs. And
17 we expect these expenditures to continue this
18 upcoming year. Considering these needs and in order
19 to keep our current programs funded and expand our
20 programming an increase millage rate was deemed
21 necessary by our board of directors.

22 Total budget of program services is
23 \$162,444,548. The 2021-22 budget reflects
24 management expenses of 6.22 of total expenses, an
25 all-time low. In Trust history this is the lowest

1 management expense ratio and the largest budget
2 investment in program services.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay, the public hearing is open
5 on the tentative millage rate. We do have several
6 members of the public registered to speak. One in
7 person, I'll invite up now, is Don Deresz.

8 And I ask that everyone from the public who's
9 speaking limit their remarks to three minutes,
10 please.

11 MR. DERESZ: Good evening. My name is Don
12 Deresz, I'm a resident of the City of Miami. Thank
13 you for the opportunity to speak as a resident, as a
14 property taxpayer.

15 The Children's Trust has traditionally
16 implemented the funding of many programs that
17 enhance experiences of the most important resource
18 of our community, our children. Thank you.

19 The notice of proposed property taxes,
20 documents that our tax allocation to Children's
21 Trust is increasing by a whopping 13 percent. Based
22 on inflation and a proposed budgets of all of the
23 other taxing authorities, this humongous increase is
24 unjustified on its face. Aside from all the cable
25 television misinformation, the current annual

1 inflation rate as reported by the U.S. Department of
2 Labor is 5.4 percent with an expected substantial
3 decrease in the fourth quarter. What is the
4 justification for such an abhorrent increase of 13
5 percent on the residents in our Miami-Dade County by
6 The Children's Trust? Please speci -- specifically
7 itemize the program recipients, new programs, Trust
8 administration salary increases, and so on.

9 I heard the CEO somewhat itemize how these new
10 monies are going to be used. Thank you, very much.
11 Sounds great. But, I just want to let you know, 13
12 percent, that's just -- just seems like so much.
13 So, if any -- if you could offer any other comments
14 regarding that amount, please.

15 Thank you, very much.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

17 MS. KOBRINSKI: Could you please state your
18 address for the record?

19 Members of the public have to give their name
20 and address. Thank you.

21 MR. DERESZ: You're welcome. Don Deresz, 1852
22 Southwest 24th Street, Miami, Florida 33145. I live
23 short bicycle ride down the street in the Silver
24 Bluff neighborhood. The wonderful, culturally
25 diverse, Silver Bluff neighborhood. Thank you.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay, thank you. We have several
2 speakers from the public who registered to speak by
3 Zoom. And I'll invite, first Dr. Gwynn from U.M.
4 Pediatric Mobile.

5 And please state your full name and address as
6 well.

7 DR. GWYNN: Sure, my name is Dr. Lisa Gwynn.
8 My address, my work address, is 1601 Northwest 12th
9 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33136. And I'm speaking --
10 actually maybe this could be of help to the
11 gentleman that just was on the microphone regarding
12 where the extra funding has gone in the past year.
13 I am the medical director for the Pediatric Mobile
14 Clinic. It is a program that provides comprehensive
15 health care services to underserved children
16 throughout Miami-Dade County. Our mobile clinic
17 program has been providing health care to uninsured
18 kids for the last 30 years. And I have to tell you
19 that without The Children's Trust support we would
20 not be able to continue to provide this -- this
21 extremely important service to our most marginalized
22 children in our community.

23 Each year, we are the medical home for over
24 3,000 kids who otherwise would not have access to
25 health care. We provide medical services. We

1 provide mental health services. And most freq --
2 most recently, since the pandemic has occurred, we
3 have been the beneficiary of additional funding to
4 provide COVID-19 testing in our communities for --
5 specifically for children, which has been a very
6 difficult task for these young kids. Children don't
7 have the same access to COVID-19 testing as adults
8 do. And because of this extra support we've been
9 about to test over 20,000 kids in our communities to
10 help get them into school quicker. And also, to
11 keep them healthy. So, we administer vaccinations
12 every year to underserved children. We have
13 administered over 10,000 vaccines each and every
14 year. We are now immunizing both children and
15 adults for COVID-19.

16 And so, again, I cannot thank The Trust enough
17 for all of their continued support of our program.
18 We are more collaborated today than we've ever been.
19 And we look forward to continued collaboration to
20 meet all of the needs of our community. Especially
21 for those children that are low income.

22 Thank you for the time.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you for your comments.
24 Next, we'd like to invite Nakia Bowling from the
25 Opa-locka Community Development.

1 MS. BOWLING: Hello, I'm Nakia Bowling. My
2 work address is 490 Opa-locka Boulevard, in Opa-
3 locka, Florida 33054.

4 FEMALE VOICE: Hello.

5 MS. BOWLING: I'm sorry?

6 I would like to first say thank you to the
7 board and CEO of The Children's Trust for all that
8 you do. I would especially like to thank dedicated
9 staff of The Children's Trust for always being a
10 strong support system for our community. And being
11 a strong support system for providers like ourselv--
12 like myself.

13 We have been fortunate to have four programs
14 funded by The Trust. We have our family and
15 neighborhood support programs. Which ensures
16 families have strong structural and societal, and
17 parental supports, including basic needs stability.
18 In this program we serve 230 families yearly, 30
19 vulnerable but living below poverty families, that
20 impacts the lives of approximately 620 children
21 yearly.

22 We are fortunate to be funded under the Youth
23 Enrichment program. Which is we receive funding
24 from both the YEN and YAS funding, which provides us
25 the opportunity to provide free quality STEM

1 enrichment activities to 650 students in after
2 school and summer programming, who would normally
3 not have access to this and would be idle during the
4 after school and during the summer months.

5 We also receiving funding under the Initiative
6 Grant for our Box Joy Initiative. Which works with
7 50 minority families around mental health.

8 The Trust is one of our greatest and strongest
9 partners. Because of the resources we receive from
10 them we make so many families whole. It's easy to
11 stand here and roll out statistics, but how do you
12 put a humanized aspect to that? The Trust should us
13 that, yeah we care about the metrics, but we care
14 about people more. A shining example of this
15 testament is this pandemic. The Trust made sure we
16 had necessary free PPE and educational supports for
17 our community. But more importantly than that, they
18 made sure we had additional funding to meet the
19 enormous needs of our community.

20 You may hear numbers right now, but let me make
21 this real for you. Take the Williams family, a
22 hardworking, single, mother of three children,
23 working in the fast-food industry when the pandemic
24 hit. She lost her job. The unemployment system in
25 the State of Florida was flawed. It was backed up.

1 There was no income coming into this home. This
2 family barely making a living before the pandemic.
3 They were drowning now. The mother did not have
4 enough food in the house to serve the three children
5 who were now home all day long.

6 You see, she depended on the free lunch for the
7 children that they get from school. Her lights were
8 about to be shut off and her internet was already
9 off. She used every dime that she had just to keep
10 afloat with her rent. Because this family was able
11 to come to an agency like ours to get help, at AJC,
12 who's able to make families whole because of funding
13 from The Trust, this family did not drown. We were
14 able to be there for her. We were able to get
15 supports in place for her. We were able to use
16 family stabilization dollars to assist her with
17 basic needs. And this story is not an exception.
18 This is the norm.

19 We work with some of the most vulnerable
20 populations in our community. This funding matters.
21 It's literally a lifeline for people. It's
22 literally the helping hand that they need to get to
23 the next bridge. Without The Trust we could not do
24 the work that we do in these communities. We could
25 not make the families that we meet in this community

1 whole.

2 Thank -- I thank The Trust so much for all that
3 they've done. For all that they continue to do and
4 the lives that they continue to save with this
5 funding. Thank you, so much.

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you for your comment.

7 Next, Rossana Novaes from Sanrau Corp.

8 MS. NOVAES: Hello, can you hear me?

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

10 MS. NOVAES: Oh, okay. My name is Rossana
11 Novaes and we service the West Kendall area. We
12 have two preschools, Lago Mar Preschool I and II.
13 And one of the addresses is 15732 Southwest 72nd
14 Street.

15 Now before The Trust, this was over 12 years
16 ago, we were only serving 45 after school care
17 children. So we are in the YAS program. And now we
18 have doubled that. So piggy-backing on Nakia's
19 narrative it's -- it is -- it is life transforming
20 these kids.

21 What we used to do, we used to just provide
22 them homework help. And now it's so much more
23 enriching. So, I want to thank President Haj. I
24 want to thank the board for this opportunity for
25 allowing me to share our story as well.

1 And just seeing the teachers, the certified
2 teachers, working with these kids, which we never
3 had the resource before to do that. Fitness coaches
4 coming in. Zumba teachers. Just bringing the
5 program to life, right. Through music. Through
6 art. Through intentional literacy components. One-
7 on-one small groups that we were never able to
8 service before.

9 So I just -- I want to thank you all for what
10 you do and we're so glad to be a part of it. And we
11 just now joined in on the -- on the innovation lab.
12 So we call our program Celebrave. And addressing
13 the racial, inequity, and social injustice in our
14 community. It's been extremely impactful. We are
15 creating awareness. We're doing a lot of self-
16 reflection with our staff. We're bringing a lot of
17 real talk into the classrooms. Real talk into our
18 staff meetings. And we will be coming up with a
19 podcast towards the end of the year, just opening up
20 discussion. And really engaging in those meaningful
21 conversations that have had to be had way back years
22 ago. And now we have the opportunities to do that
23 with our families.

24 So again, I want to thank you very much for
25 your time and continue doing what you're doing.

1 It's making a huge difference in our community.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you for your comments.

4 Next, I'd like to invite Reverend Charles Dinkins
5 from Hosanna Foundation.

6 MR. DINKINS: Good afternoon to you moderator
7 and to the board of directors at The Children's
8 Trust. Thank you for this opportunity. I'm Charles
9 Dinkins, my church address is 2171 Northwest 56th
10 Street. My property address is 1141 Kasim Street,
11 Opa-Locka.

12 Let me express my gratitude to The Children's
13 Trust for providing community-based agencies within
14 Miami-Dade County in this effort to improve wellness
15 among youth.

16 My hope is that The Trust will seek to better
17 understand how its current service procurement and
18 reimbursement practice restricts local community at
19 the community level, in its capacity to address its
20 community unique needs. This current reimbursement
21 system restrict local communities' ability to
22 respond to its community holistic at the community
23 level because of its ability to float the amount of
24 a grant award. If the goal is to improve wellness
25 among young people and the community-based agencies

1 are the mechanisms used for goal attainment, please
2 consider how the current system handicaps them from
3 reaching their full potential as community partners.

4 In addition, per Trust staff, The Children's
5 Trust purchase services from community-based service
6 providers. These service providers are viewed as
7 the community experts. To date, the community
8 process, though it provides individual agencies with
9 funding, it does not build a community prevention
10 and intervention infrastructure and capacity to
11 function as one community system of care.

12 Positive youth development is a powerful tool
13 to empower communities and often are not considered
14 as a component in community economic development.
15 In this effort, community partners as a group should
16 be held accountable and not a single lead agency
17 with total power.

18 As a service provider of The Trust, we are
19 grateful. But as a service provider of The
20 Children's Trust, if parents and children voice
21 their discontentment about our agency services to
22 The Trust, The Trust would intervene. Many of The
23 Children's Trust funded service providers share this
24 pain of this reimbursement process in silence. Our
25 communities can benefit from proper concern and

1 solution-oriented interventions on behalf of The
2 Trust in partnership with community service
3 providers.

4 I pray The Trust will seek a better way to
5 empower communities through positive youth
6 development with community partners. Seek the ways
7 that allow communities to take their community plans
8 to a feasible scale where their desired community
9 impact can be achieved.

10 Once again, thank you for all The Trust has
11 done for us as an agency and continue to do. But I
12 believe community level change in these harder
13 communities is something that we can approve upon.
14 Thank you again for this opportunity to voice my
15 opinion.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Reverend Dinkins.

17 Next, we have Francisco Fins from FIU as a
18 speaker. Okay, I'll give him another opportunity
19 after the next speaker, then. Who would be Rhonda
20 Smith from Fit Kids?

21 MS. SMITH: Hello, how do you do? Can you hear
22 me?

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

24 MS. SMITH: Okay. Good evening to our esteemed
25 board members and to our extraordinary President and

1 CEO, Mr. James Haj, and the amazing Staff of The
2 Children's Trust. As you know, last year presented
3 all of us with numerous unprecedented tribulations
4 and challenges that have seriously questioned our
5 ability to survive the wrath of COVID. We all --
6 have all encountered in every aspect of our lives.

7 To say that we are truly grateful to The
8 Children's Trust for their undying support and
9 guidance is an understatement. I think it's fitting
10 to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt
11 gratitude from manifesting so many ways to provide
12 relief, assistance and aide. With every one of your
13 generous gestures, you reinforced our hope and faith
14 that we could survive this pandemic and emerge
15 prepared and stronger, and more resilient. We have
16 never felt so valued and so appreciated for the work
17 we love to do.

18 Throughout the year, as well as the summer, we
19 have impacted with your generous funds, the lives of
20 the children and families that we serve in
21 Westchester. The predominance of our children are
22 in low income households where English is not the
23 first language. So, our assistance in helping with
24 homework and literacy is imperative for their
25 success.

1 This summer, particularly, was a huge success.
2 We provided day camp for over 500 children in our
3 YAS and our YEN programs. And implemented the
4 Miami-Dade Public School 305 Tutoring Program. This
5 program was a big hit. So much so that Miami-Dade
6 County elected us as a model agency for their
7 initiative. We turned learning losses into learning
8 gains this summer. And for the first time, in many
9 months, we heard the most beautiful sound ever, the
10 sound of children laughing.

11 These blessings were all made possible because
12 of The Children's Trust. And you know the way I see
13 it, my philosophy has always been, there's only two
14 types of people in this world those that complain
15 about the dark and those that light candles. We are
16 proud to stand with The Children's Trust and light
17 candles on behalf of the children of Miami-Dade
18 County. God bless The Children's Trust. And God
19 bless our talented and tenacious providers. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Francisco Fins from
22 FIU, are you with us? No?

23 Is there anyone else from the public that's
24 with us that would like to speak? Okay.

25 The public hearing on the tentative millage

1 rate is closed. I request a motion to approve
2 Resolution 2021-81, setting the tentative millage as
3 explained in the Budget Message. I need a motion --
4 MR. DUNN: Mr. Chair?
5 MR. HOFFMAN: -- and a second to that motion.
6 MR. DUNN: So, moved, Richard Dunn.
7 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Second.
8 MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Speaking, Bendross-
9 Mindingall.
10 MS. KOBRINSKI: We had a first by Pastor Dunn
11 and a second by Mark Trowbridge.
12 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you.
13 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay, is there any board
14 discussion on the proposed tentative millage?
15 Constance?
16 MS. COLLINS: Yes, thank you. First, I want to
17 say how extraordinary I think response of The
18 Children's Trust leadership and team has been to
19 this pandemic for the last year and a half and as we
20 continue to brace for its ongoing impact. I will
21 tell you that as an agency that never had the choice
22 to close the support of The Children's Trust when we
23 needed it most was always there. And we were
24 frightened of what it meant to remain operational
25 through this pandemic. But we always felt The

1 Children's Trust had our back. And whether it was
2 PPE or some extra financial support when we were
3 really struggling. You all were there for us.

4 I am reminded today, as we sit here with our
5 masks on, we're not done. As the eviction
6 moratoriums have lifted, we're not done. As we see
7 children and families in our shelter testing
8 positive every week, we're not done. And if there
9 was ever a time where we as a board have to lead in
10 providing the resources needed for our collective
11 community to survive this pandemic and for our
12 children and families to thrive it's now. I can
13 appreciate that any increase feels painful. It's
14 painful to us all. But not relative to the pain
15 that we face if we don't meet the needs of our
16 children and families.

17 And so, I'm very much in favor of the millage
18 rate increase. I think it's a relatively small
19 amount when calculated according to the average
20 household compared to the benefit it provides
21 collectively across our county. I am particularly
22 supported in the way in which this millage increase
23 will implement the priorities articulated at the
24 latest Board Retreat. The way it will provide added
25 funds for mental health support, which are needed

1 more than ever right now across our community as we
2 deal with the stresses of this pandemic. The way it
3 offers a deeper Racial Equity, Diversity, and
4 Inclusivity lens and initiatives to our work. And
5 so, for all those reasons I wish to express my
6 deepest support for both the millage rate and the
7 budget that it reflects. Thank you.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Constance.
9 Reverend Dunn?

10 MR. DUNN: Yes, how you doing? I want to say
11 something. Yeah. I'm kind of scared to come behind
12 Ms. Constance. No, I can't remember vividly what
13 the commercial was but it was a commercial when I
14 was a kid, just a few years ago, that said, either
15 you pay now or you pay later. And I guess more
16 aptly stated an ounce of prevention is better than a
17 pound of cure. And when you look at -- and I can
18 appreciate every speaker, every speaker had their --
19 that's the beauty of this democracy, we have the
20 right to agree to disagree. I can appreciate that.
21 But for the most part, the unanimous sympathy was --
22 symphony was, hey, Children's Trust is a great
23 investment because we're investing in children and
24 families.

25 And what -- what tugged at my heart more than

1 perhaps anything was to see the cultural and racial
2 diversity of those who spoke. And I think that
3 speaks volume of what we've been trying to do here.
4 And as I state all the time, I'm proud and happy to
5 be a part of something that's real and genuine.
6 Especially as it relates to children. So, yes,
7 increase hurts, especially now. But we are either
8 paying now or pay later. You say, well, qualify
9 that for me.

10 If we don't invest in children, particularly,
11 in some of our urban core areas, you will pay with
12 increases in public safety and protection. You will
13 pay, whether you live in Liberty City or whether you
14 live in another part. You will pay. We will all
15 pay. We will pay with increases for protection.
16 Increases for incarceration. We have a lot of
17 educators here today and I'm happy to see my dear
18 friend Dr. Harrison, from Miami-Dade Community
19 College, and Dr. Bagner, and of course my name sake,
20 Ms. Dunn.

21 If we do not invest in children then -- I
22 forgot what the figure was -- it costs -- it costs
23 more to incarcerate someone, which we will pay for
24 through taxes than it does to educate. And so, all
25 of it is relative. And so, when you start investing

1 children and families and it -- more, we can bring
2 up all of the community as much as we can to try to
3 assist them, the more it will be better for all of
4 us.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Pastor.

6 Anyone else who would like to make a comment?

7 I think we'll move on then.

8 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. Prior to the
9 vote on the resolution, setting the tentative
10 millage rate, I will ask the CFO to check if there
11 are any changes to the millage rate?

12 MR. KIRTLAND: No change.

13 MR. HAJ: This is The Children's Trust, there
14 is a motion and a second for approval of the
15 tentative millage rate of .5000 mills and there is a
16 15.74 percent increase, which is more than a rolled
17 back rate of .4320 mills. The proposed tentative
18 millage rate to be levied by The Children's Trust is
19 .5000 mills.

20 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay, we're going to take a vote
21 on the motion to adopt the resolution setting a
22 tentative millage. Two-thirds of those serving on
23 the board, excluding the juvenile court judge, who
24 neither votes nor is counted for purposes of
25 determining a majority for adopting millage rates,

1 must vote affirmatively to approve the millage. We
2 will do that by roll call. And I'll ask Mr.
3 Trowbridge if you could kindly do the roll call for
4 us.

5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you. This is a roll
6 call vote on Resolution 2021-81. Make sure you open
7 your microphone so that we can do this individually.

8 Dr. Edward Abraham.

9 Dr. Abraham, if you're on mute, we'll ask you
10 to unmute.

11 Dr. Magaly Abrahante.

12 MS. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

13 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Laura Adams.

14 MS. ADAMS: Yes.

15 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Matthew Arsenault.

16 Dr. Daniel Bagner.

17 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

18 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Dr. Dorothy
19 Bendross-Mindingall.

20 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Yes.

21 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Danielle Cohen
22 Higgins.

23 Constance Collins.

24 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

25 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Morris Copeland, nonvoting

1 designee of the Honorable Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
2 is the mayor with us today.
3 Victor Diaz-Herman.
4 MR. DIAZ-HERMAN: Yes.
5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Mary Donworth.
6 MS. DONWORTH: Yes.
7 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Pastor Richard Dunn, II.
8 MR. DUNN: Yes.
9 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Gilda Ferradaz.
10 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.
11 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Juan Fernandez-
12 Barquin.
13 Valrose Graham.
14 Lourdes P. Gimenez.
15 MS. GIMENEZ: Yes.
16 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Nicole Gomez.
17 Mindy Grimes-Festge.
18 MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Yes.
19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Dr. Malou C. Harrison.
20 Nelson Hincapie.
21 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.
22 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Kenneth C. Hoffman.
23 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.
24 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Pamela Hollingsworth.
25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

1 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn.
2 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Yes.
3 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Marissa Leichter.
4 MS. LEICHTER: Yes.
5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Alexandra Martin.
6 MS. MARTIN: Yes.
7 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Annie Neasman.
8 MS. NEASMAN: Yes.
9 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Judge Orlando
10 Prescott will abstain.
11 Javier Reyes.
12 MR. REYES: Yes.
13 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Isaac Salver.
14 Mark Trowbridge.
15 I will vote, yes.
16 Karen Weller.
17 Sandra West.
18 MS. WEST: Yes.
19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Is there anybody who was on
20 Zoom who was muted that wanted to record a vote?
21 Mr. Chairman, I record 24 yes votes, no nay
22 votes.
23 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. The motion passes. The
24 tentative millage was adopted at 5:49 P.M.
25 Second Resolution to be taken up by the board

1 is Resolution 2021-82, which is the tentative
2 budget. The Resolution is: Resolution of The
3 Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
4 adopting the tentative budget for fiscal year 2021-
5 2022; providing for an effective date.

6 The public hearing is open on the tentative
7 budget. Is there anyone from the public who wishes
8 to speak?

9 Okay. Hearing none, the public hearing is
10 closed on the tentative budget. I request a motion
11 to approve Resolution 2021-82 adopting the tentative
12 budget. I need a motion and a second.

13 MR. DUNN: Mr. Chair, ditto, Richard Dunn.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Dunn, moves.

15 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.

16 MS. LEICHTER: Second, Leichter.

17 MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Mr. Chair, Bendross-
18 Mindingall.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: Marissa Leichter, thank you.

20 Is there any board discussion on the tentative
21 budget?

22 MR. DUNN: It's pretty much relative to what we
23 already discussed --

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Sure.

25 MR. DUNN: -- and stated, but I will say this

1 for the record. I mentioned about educators, and I
2 do owe an apology publicly to Dr. Dorothy Bendross-
3 Mindingall. She's the educator of educators, so I
4 do want to publicly state that to you.

5 MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Thank you very much,
6 sir. Thank you.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Any other board discussion?

8 Okay. We need a vote on the motion for the
9 Resolution setting the tentative budget. And as
10 before, the -- it will be done by roll call. Thank
11 you. Mr. Trowbridge.

12 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is
13 a roll call vote on Resolution 2021-82 regarding our
14 tentative budget for the fiscal year '21-'22. Will
15 be a roll call vote, so if you will open your
16 microphones when your name is called. Thank you.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Just to clarify, the Judge can
18 vote on this.

19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Correct.

20 Dr. Edward Abraham.

21 Dr. Magaly Abrahante.

22 DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

23 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Laura Adams.

24 MS. ADAMS: Yes.

25 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Matthew Arsenault.

1 MR. ARSENAULT: Yes.

2 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Dr. Daniel Bagner.

3 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

4 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Dr. Dorothy
5 Bendross-Mindingall.

6 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Yes.

7 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Danielle Cohen
8 Higgins.

9 Constance Collins.

10 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

11 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Again, Morris Copeland is the
12 nonvoting designee of the mayor. The mayor can
13 vote, is the mayor present?

14 Victor Diaz-Herman.

15 MR. DIAZ-HERMAN: Yes.

16 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Mary Donworth.

17 MS. DONWORTH: Yes.

18 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Pastor Richard Dunn, II.

19 MR. DUNN: Yes.

20 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Gilda Ferradaz.

21 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

22 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Juan Fernandez-
23 Barquin.

24 Valrose Graham.

25 Lourdes P. Gimenez.

1 MS. GIMENEZ: Yes.

2 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Nicole Gomez.

3 Mindy Grimes-Festge.

4 MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Yes.

5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Dr. Malou C. Harrison.

6 Nelson Hincapie.

7 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.

8 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Kenneth C. Hoffman.

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

10 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Pamela Hollingsworth.

11 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

12 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn.

13 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Yes.

14 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Marissa Leichter.

15 MS. LEICHTER: Yes.

16 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Alexandra Martin.

17 Annie Neasman.

18 MS. NEASMAN: Yes.

19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Judge Orlando

20 Prescott.

21 Javier Reyes.

22 MR. REYES: Yes.

23 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The Honorable Isaac Salver.

24 Mark Trowbridge.

25 Mark Trowbridge votes, yes.

1 Karen Weller.

2 Sandra West.

3 MS. WEST: Yes.

4 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Mr. Chair, I record 24 yay
5 votes and no nay votes.

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay, the tentative budget was
7 approved at 5:54.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: And if there is no further
9 business to come before this hearing, then the
10 hearing is adjourned at 5:55.

11 Thank you. Thank you, everybody, for your
12 time.

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15 (Whereupon, at 5:55 p.m., the meeting was
16 adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

The above and foregoing transcript is a true and correct typed copy of the contents of the file, which was digitally recorded in the proceeding identified at the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my ability, knowledge and belief.

Christy Caldera, Transcriber

September 26, 2021