



Second TRIM Hearing

September 20, 2021

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Second 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 Second TRIM Public
Hearing was held on September 20, 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.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair

Pamela Hollingsworth, Vice-Chair

Mark A. Trowbridge, Treasurer

Karen Weller, Secretary

Dr. Magaly Abrahante, (Zoom)

Laura Adams

Matthew Arsenault

Dr. Daniel Bagner

Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, (Zoom)

1 Constance Collins
2 BOARD MEMBERS (Continued):
3 Morris Copelnd
4 Victor Diaz-Herman
5 Mary Donworth
6 Reverend Richard P. Dunn III
7 Gilda Ferradaz
8 Lourdes P. Gimenez
9 Nicole Gomez
10 Valrose Graham
11 Mindy Grimes-Festge
12 Dr. Malou C. Harrison
13 Nelson Hincapie
14 Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn
15 Marissa Leichter
16 Alexandra Martin
17 Annie R. Neasman
18 Hon. Orlando Prescott
19 Javier Reyes
20 Sandra West
21 Shanika Graves
22
23 STAFF:
24 Amanda Gorski
25 Aundray Adams

1 Christiana Taylor
2 STAFF (Continued):
3 Dane Minitt
4 Danielle Barreras
5 Felix Becerra
6 Imran Ali
7 Jacques Bentolila
8 James Haj
9 Jennifer Ulysse
10 Joanna Revelo
11 Juana Leon
12 Juliette Fabien
13 Leila Collazo
14 Lianne Gage
15 Lisete Yeryo
16 Lori (Katherine) Hanson
17 Muriel Jeanty
18 Natalia Zea
19 Rachel Spector
20 Sebastian del Marmol
21 Stephanie Sylvestre
22 Susan Marian
23 Tatiana Canelas
24 Trisha Barnett
25 Wendy Duncombe

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William Kirtland

STAFF (Continued):

Ximena Nunez

GUESTS:

William De la Sierra, Kidworks USA

Francisco Fins, FIU Enlace

Cherly Hodge, Project Director

Melissa Sanchez, Kidworks USA STEM Academy

Tania Hernandez, Kidworks USA

Ana Herandez, CMB Visions Unlimited Inc.

Camila Gil, Armor Dance Thetare

Anna Quevedo, Kidworks USA

Ali Echevarria, Miami-Dade County CAHSD Youth Success

Debra Rudnicki, Florida International University

Hudelaine Dues, RCMA

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. It's 5:01 and we're going to call this meeting to order. The matters before the board this afternoon are setting the final millage and approval of the final budget.

The resolutions to come before the board are as follows: Resolution 2021-83: which is a resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the final millage rate for levying of ad valorem taxes for The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida for fiscal year 2021-2022; and declaring the percentage change in the property tax levy as defined under section 200.065, Florida Statutes; providing for an effective date. The second resolution is 2021-84: Resolution of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2021-2022; providing for an effective date.

State law mandates that the first item for discussion, is Resolution 2021-83, setting the final millage necessary to fund the budget, as well as the discussion for the specific purpose, which ad valorem tax revenues are being used. I'll turn it over for -- to our CEO for further explanation.

1 MR. HAJ: Thank you, Ken. This will be our
2 nineteenth budget year for The Children's Trust.
3 The final millage rate to be levied in order to
4 produce sufficient ad valorem taxation revenue,
5 which will be adequate to pay the appropriations in
6 the budget for the fiscal year, beginning October 1,
7 2021, and ending September 30, 2022, shall be .5000
8 mills. The final operating millage of .5 mills will
9 result in a property tax increase of 15.74%, which
10 is more than the roll back rate of .4320 mills.

11 The roll back rate is the millage rate of a
12 generated approximately the same amount of property
13 tax revenues as approved -- as approved for the
14 prior year. Last years actual property tax levy for
15 The Children's Trust was \$144,492,807. This year's
16 proposed ad valorem tax revenue estimate at 95% ad
17 valorem tax levy at .5 mills, is \$161,528,706. The
18 purpose of this levy and the resulting increase in
19 budgeted ad valorem tax revenues over the prior is
20 to enable the Trust to expand services to children
21 and families while aligning to the strategic plan.

22 Since the beginning of the funding cycle,
23 effective October 1, 2018, the Trust has committed
24 an additional 40.8 million annually, and 176.5
25 billion over the 5-year cycle in additional funds,

1 ear marked for program services for the fiscal year
2 of 2019-2023. This 5-year commitment continues to
3 emphasize the importance of program spending that
4 provides critical services for children and families
5 in our community. The Trust also increased the
6 following program budget categories in support of
7 board priorities. High quality early childhood
8 programs to impact school readiness and family
9 economic challenges during the critical period of
10 early brain development, after school and summer
11 camp programs that serve about 30,000 children and
12 youth, including the funds needed to support
13 mandated staff minimum wage increases, which the
14 majority of our program funding supports staff
15 costs.

16 Additional funding to support childhood, early
17 childhood health, including social/emotional
18 wellness and mental health. And in the current
19 fiscal year, the Trust made significant expenditures
20 on emergency funding related to Covid-19 for
21 support, such as PPE, mobile pediatric testing and
22 care, and family basic need items. We expect these
23 needs will continue in the upcoming year.
24 Considering these needs, and in order to keep our
25 current program funds and expand our programing, an

1 increased millage was deemed necessary by our Boar
2 of Directors.

3 Total budget of program services is
4 \$162,444,548. And the 2021-2022 budget reflects GNA
5 expenses of 6.22%, an all time low. In Trust
6 history, this is the lowest management expense ratio
7 and the largest budget investment in program
8 services.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. The public hearing is open
11 on the final millage rate. I have a few speakers
12 from the public who have registered to speak and I
13 would call on first, Camila Gil with Commerce Armour

14 MS. GIL: Thank you member of the Board and Mr.
15 Haj.

16 My name is Camila Gil and I'm the Executive
17 Directors of Armour Dance Theater, formerly Thomas
18 Armour Youth Ballet. For over 3 decades, ADT has
19 used dance as a vehicle to -- for success. Even
20 though the words dance and theater may bring an
21 image of pink, fluffy tutus, our goal is to empower
22 students with life skills that help them reach their
23 full potential, regardless of the career path of
24 their choice.

25 Since 2011, The Children's Trust has supported

1 our organization and has made possible the expansion
2 of our community programs to include academic,
3 social/emotional learning, homework assistance, and
4 parenting components. Through this comprehensive
5 arts education model, students develop skills like
6 resilience, delayed gratification, and a growth
7 mindset to help them master their craft, do well
8 academically, and success in life through high
9 school and beyond.

10 With the help of The Children's Trust, we have
11 seen thousands of students gain placement into
12 magnet schools, graduate high school, and pursue
13 careers in a vast variety of fields. Our programs
14 have become safe havens for many families and
15 students, and last year was no exception.

16 Thanks to your support, ADT was able to serve
17 over 300 students throughout the pandemic through
18 virtual and/or hybrid programming, keep 56 staff
19 members employed, and continue to make a difference
20 in our community, despite the chaos and uncertainty.
21 In partnership with many other Trust funded
22 organizations, ADT was able to help families access
23 resources ranging from digital -- meals, and
24 financial assistance. We never felt alone, and our
25 families were never left to fend on their own thanks

1 to the wonderful community The Children's Trust has
2 built.

3 As our community moves towards regaining a
4 sense of normality, a lot of work has to be done.
5 One of our proudest accomplishments this past year
6 has been adding a mental health component with your
7 support. We are working to pick up the pieces and
8 help students cope with the trauma left behind from
9 a year of civil unrest, food insecurity, and a virus
10 that personally took a toll on many of our families.

11 One specific example of how our program makes a
12 difference, with your support, is the story of Dax
13 McDonald. A fifth-grade student from our Miami
14 Gardens program, who despite trying his hardest was
15 retained and has to repeat the fifth grade. These
16 are some of the words from his mother: I have
17 mentioned bits and pieces about Dax's struggles, but
18 the most recent one is when he failed the fifth
19 grade. He felt defeated and unmotivated. He tried
20 so hard and still ended up having to repeat. He was
21 supposed to go to summer school, but we opted for
22 him to -- for him to do something he loves and
23 wanted to improve his schools. He chose your tap
24 program. We wanted him to find a way for the family
25 to celebrate his successes.

1 Fast forward to when Natasha asked him to be
2 apart of the Tap Team at the beginning of the year;
3 that meant so much to him. To feel as if he can add
4 value to something means the world to him, he was so
5 excited. I told him that Ms. Natasha thought he was
6 good and that he invited him to practice with the
7 team and he jumped for joy.

8 His dad and I can tell him how proud we are of
9 him and how we believe in him. But when someone
10 outside of the family shows it, it really hits home.
11 So, the opportunity for him to join a team and add
12 value to something is the motivation he needs to
13 succeed. Natasha believed in him and that's all the
14 motivation he needed. It put a smile on the entire
15 family's face. Finally, an opportunity to feel
16 valued.

17 Dax is only one of many students who's life has
18 been impacted by the support of The Children's
19 Trust. We look forward to many more years of
20 partnership. Thank you for your time

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you for your kind words.
22 Next up, we have four persons registered from
23 Kidswork: William de la Sierra, Anna Quevedo, Tania
24 Hernandez, and Melissa Sanchez. I know Mr. Bill
25 that you also wanted to show a video, and so I'll

1 allow you to show the video as part of the time for
2 your -- the for members who have shown up for a
3 comment, and please limit your total comments to 12
4 minutes, then. Thank you.

5 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Hello, everyone. First
6 thing that I'd like to tell you is that this is
7 third zoom meeting ever.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Uh-oh.

9 MS. SANCHEZ: Mr. Bill, you're on mute. You
10 have to unmute yourself. You're on -- there you go.

11 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Okay. Am I unmuted now?

12 MS. SANCHEZ: You're unmuted. Are you close to
13 somebody with a speaker? Because you have and echo.

14 MR. DE LA SIERRA: I actually have my phone on
15 in case my computer fails. Oh, the host just
16 removed me from the meeting on my computer.

17 MS. SANCHEZ: Good. That's better, because we
18 were hearing --

19 MR. DE LA SIERRA: I guess I will -- can you
20 hear me on my phone?

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, sir. Let's --

22 MS. SANCHEZ: Yes.

23 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Okay. So, I'll start again.
24 This is only my third Zoom meeting, so I'm having
25 some technical difficulties.

1 The Children's Trust has supported Kidworks'
2 program for about 12 years now. We have served
3 several thousands of children in the Hialeah area.
4 We run a STEM program that is second to none. And
5 The Children's Trust has allowed us to think out of
6 the box. And so, that's what we've always done,
7 think out of the box. We closed our school last
8 year for four or five weeks while we prepared the
9 school for the return of our children. The children
10 returned to our school on May 11 of last year.
11 We've been open since then. And The Trust has been
12 incredible supportive in allowing us to be able to
13 maintain all our staff and employees. And they
14 deserve the break because they have been doing an
15 incredible job.

16 I have two videos that I'd like to share with
17 you. One video is from a STEM class that we put
18 together addressing the current issue of Covid. And
19 so, what we did is we found that when Covid hit,
20 that finding hand sanitizer became almost
21 impossible. And so, I decided that we would take
22 the opportunity to use the time and the effort that
23 we could put together to teach children that in
24 life, in general, if you can't find something on the
25 shelf, you can make it.

1 And so, that's what we did. And I have a video
2 that I'm going to ask the Trust to play for you,
3 which will give you a real idea of how we handle
4 teaching children how to deal with life experiences.
5 Now, one of the things that we do is that we focus
6 on their education, we focus on science, technology,
7 engineering, mathematics, writing, and reading. And
8 we have been very successful at it. The Trust has
9 trusted us to expand our programs and do things that
10 other people are not doing.

11 The second film that I'm going to show you is a
12 little short clip of a very large project that
13 Kidworks has taken on, with the support of The
14 Children's Trust. We reached an agreement with the
15 town of Miami Lakes to have our class, our program
16 drone film all of the facilities in the town of
17 Miami Lakes, so that they could put those drone
18 videos in their Miami Lakes 2025 website.

19 I am going to show you a little short video of
20 what our children are doing. So, if -- if you could
21 run the hand sanitizer video.

22 (Hand sanitizer video playing.)

23 MS. SANCHEZ: You're on mute. Mr. Bill, you're
24 on mute. Nope. You have to unmute yourself.

25 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Okay. Am I on now?

1 Ms. SANCHEZ: Yes.

2 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Thank you. This is only my
3 third time at this. Okay. So, I made a deal with
4 your President, and Kidworks is going to, in the
5 next few days, furnish the Trust with 120 bottles
6 of Pirate hand sanitizer, so that every Board
7 member and every staff member of the Children's
8 Trust will be able to see what you're doing to help
9 our kids and how they are utilizing the opportunity
10 to do something that is not only meaningful, but is
11 also educational.

12 Do I continue? Do I have my other people step
13 in? Hello?

14 MR. HOFFMAN: -- about three more minutes
15 please.

16 MS. DE LA SIERRA: Okay. If you could please
17 roll the drone video?
18 (Drone video playing.)

19 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Can I speak again? Am I on?

20 MR. HOFFMAN: Sure.

21 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Hello?

22 MS. SANCHEZ: Yes, you're on Mr. Bill. We can
23 hear you.

24 MR. DE LA SIERRA: Okay. So, I've given you
25 two examples of how we teach our children to think

1 out of the box. The drone program that we have
2 been running that has been supported by The
3 Children's Trust is now on it's third year. Drones
4 are going to be a tremendous source of employment
5 for young people. I don't have enough time to go
6 into all the different things that drones are going
7 to do in the future.

8 But besides teaching our children how to read,
9 how to do math, how to think. We're also teaching
10 them skills that they can use for their future.
11 And The Children's Trust has played an incredible
12 roll in helping us do exactly what we're doing. We
13 are so thankful to have the support of all their
14 staff. And I hope they're as thankful to get a
15 bottle of Pirate hand sanitizer.

16 Thank you very much for all your support.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bill. Final
18 speakers registered is Francisco Fins of FIU, if
19 you're with us, please.

20 Okay. Muriel, is anybody else registered to
21 speak from the public?

22 MS. JEANTY: No.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: No? Okay. So, public comments
24 have been completed. The public hearing on the
25 final millage rate is closed. May I have a motion

1 to approve resolution 2021-83 setting the final
2 millage.

3 MS. COLLINS: So moved.

4 MR. DUNN: Second.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Moved by Constance Collins
6 and seconded by Pastor Dunn. Is there any board
7 discussion on the final millage? Okay. Prior to
8 the vote on the resolution setting the final
9 millage rates, staff is given the opportunity to
10 check if there's any change to the millage rate.

11 MR. HAJ: Bill, is there any change to the
12 millage rate?

13 MR. KIRTLAND: No, there's no change to the
14 millage rate.

15 MR. HAJ: This is The Children's Trust, there
16 is a motion and a second for approval of a final
17 millage rate of .5 mills, and there is a 15.74%
18 increase, which is more than the roll back rate of
19 .4320 mills. The reposed final millage rate to be
20 levied by The Children's Trust is .5 mills.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. We need to vote, then the
22 motion to adopt the resolution setting the final
23 millage. Two thirds of those serving on the Board,
24 excluding the Juvenile Justice Court Judge, who is
25 neither voting nor counted in determining the

1 majority for purposes of adopting a millage rate.

2 Two thirds of us must affirmatively approve the
3 millage, that's 21 out of 31 sitting board members.

4 I will do this by roll call.

5 MS. WELLER: The vote must be by individual
6 roll call. Dr. Edward Abraham. Dr. Magaly
7 Abrahante.

8 DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

9 MS. WELLER: Laura Adams.

10 Matthew Arsenault.

11 Dr. Daniel Bagner.

12 The Honorable Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindigall.

13 The Honorable Danielle Cohen Higgins. I don't
14 think she's here. Okay.

15 Constance Collins.

16 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

17 MS. WELLER: Okay. Victor Diaz-Herman.

18 Mary Donworth.

19 Pastor Richard Dunn.

20 MS. DUNN: Yes.

21 MS. WELLER: Gilda Ferradaz.

22 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes

23 The Honorable Juan Fernandez-Barquin. I don't
24 think he's here. Okay.

25 Valrose Graham.

1 Lourdes P. Gimenez.
2 MS. GIMENEZ: Yes.
3 MS. WELLER: Nicole -- I'm sorry. Nicole Gomez.
4 Mindy Grimes-Festge.
5 MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Yes.
6 MS. WELLER: Dr. Malou C. Harrison.
7 Nelson Hincapie.
8 MR. HINCAPIE: Yes.
9 MS. WELLER: Kenneth C. Hoffman.
10 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.
11 MS. WELLER: Pamela Hollingsworth.
12 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.
13 MS. WELLER: Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn.
14 Marissa Leichter.
15 Ms. LEICHTER: Yes.
16 MS. WELLER: Alexandra Martin.
17 Annie Neasman.
18 MS. NEASMAN: Yes.
19 MS. WELLER: Javier Reyes.
20 The Honorable Isaac Salver. I don't think he's
21 here. Okay.
22 Mark Trowbridge.
23 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.
24 MS. WELLER: Karen Weller, yes.
25 Sandra West.

1 MS. WEST: Yes.

2 MS. WELLER: Okay. So, that would be -- I have
3 27.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: 27. Okay. 27 yeses, no nos.
5 The motion passes.

6 MS. WELLER: Okay.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: The final millage was adopted at
8 5:26 p.m. Second resolution to be taken up by the
9 board is resolution 2021-84: Resolution of The
10 Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
11 adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2021-
12 2022; providing for an effective date. The public
13 hearing is now open on the final budget. Is there
14 anyone from the public wishing to speak? Did
15 Francisco Fins show up?

16 Okay. The public hearing is closed on the
17 final budget, then. May I have a motion to approve
18 resolution 2021-84 adopting the final budget.

19 Motion.

20 Edward Abraham. Second?

21 MS. LEICHTER: Second, Leichter.

22 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Is there any board
23 discussion on the final budget? Okay.

24 We need a vote on the motion for the resolution
25 setting the final budget. The majority of those

1 serving on the board must vote affirmatively to
2 approve the budget. The Juvenile Court Judge may
3 vote and will be counted for this purpose. Now,
4 the vote will be by individual roll call. Karen.

5 MS. WELLER: Dr. Edward Abraham.

6 Dr. Magaly Abrahante.

7 DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes.

8 MS. WELLER: Laura Adams.

9 Matthew Arsenault.

10 Dr. Daniel Bagner.

11 DR. BAGNER: Yes.

12 MS. WELLER: The Honorable Dr. Dorothy

13 Bendross-Mindingall.

14 Honorable Danielle Cohen Higgin I believe is
15 absent. Okay. Constance Collins.

16 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

17 MS. WELLER: Victor Diaz-Herman.

18 Mary Donworth.

19 Pastor Richard Dunn.

20 MR. DUNN: Yes.

21 MS. WELLER: Gilda Ferradaz.

22 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

23 MS. WELLER: The Honorable Juan Fernandez-
24 Barquin, he's absent. Okay.

25 Valrose Graham.

1 Lourdes P. Gimenez.
2 MS. GIMENEZ: Yes.
3 MS. WELLER: Nicole Gomez.
4 Mindy Grimes-Festge.
5 Dr. Malou C. Harrison.
6 Nelson Hincapie.
7 Kenneth C. Hoffman.
8 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.
9 MS. WELLER: Pamela Hollingworth.
10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.
11 MS. WELLER: Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn.
12 Marissa Leichter.
13 MS. LEICHTER: Yes.
14 MS. WELLER: Alexandra Martin.
15 Annie Neasman.
16 The Honorable Judge Orlando Prescott.
17 Javier Reyes.
18 The Honorable Isaac Salver, who I believe is
19 absent. Okay.
20 Mark Trowbridge.
21 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.
22 MS. WELLER: Karen Weller, yes.
23 Sandra West.
24 MS. WEST: Yes.
25 MS. WELLER: Okay. So, we have 28. 28.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: That's the total number?

2 MS. WELLER: That's the total number.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: The motion passes. The time of
4 the passage of the final budget is 5:31 p.m. And
5 this hearing is in adjourn, thank you. At 5:31
6 p.m.

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11 (Whereupon, at 5:31 p.m., the meeting was

12 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 27, 2021

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