

**Human Services Department****Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division****Human Rights Section**

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 427 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7800 • FAX 954-357-7817 • TTY 954-357-6181

**Meeting Record**

<b>Human Rights Board Meeting</b>	<b>Date:</b> <b>October 20, 2025</b>
	<b>Call to Order:</b> <b>4:19 p.m.</b>

<b>Attendees</b>			
Gloria Battle	Thomas Good	Catherine Rincon	
Michael Berger	Palmer Kelner	Mickey Pope	
Miya Burt-Stewart, Chair	Angela Mumford Lucas	Elizabeth Wiegard	
Saima Farooqui	Michael Rajner, Vice Chair		
Patrice Paldino, Director, HOSS-D	Adam Katzman, Deputy County Attorney	Maxine Martin, Board Coordinator	
Rhonda Wiltshire, Equal Opportunity Officer			
<b>Members Absent</b>			
Susan Kung	Monica Ribeiro		
<b>Key Decisions</b>			

<b>Action Items</b>			
#	<b>Description</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Letter to HRB members reminding them of their attendance responsibilities	Maxine Martin	To be Mailed

**• CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:19 p.m. by Chair Dr. Miya Burt-Stewart. Pledge of Allegiance led by Dr. Burt-Stewart. Vice-Chair Michael Rajner, on behalf of the HRB, expressed condolences to HRB member Saima Farooqui at the loss of her father. Board Coordinator Maxine Martin corrected the record for the August 11, 2025, HRB meeting to reflect that Ellen Feiler was not absent; instead, effective June 23, 2025, she is no longer a member of the HRB. Maxine Martin completed Roll Call, and a quorum was confirmed.

**• HRS Website Update**

Mr. Morales reported that HUD has new requirements for the website and that, as a result, the website will be updated and ready for presentation at the December 8, 2025, HRB meeting.

- **PRESENTATION**

*Immigration*

Dr. Burt-Stewart introduced Dariel Gomez, an organizer with the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (“ACLU of Florida”), to give a presentation on the work being done on immigration, following Mr. Joshua Kaufman's brief overview at the August 11, 2025, HRB meeting.

Mr. Gomez expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to raise awareness of the ACLU of Florida's work. He explained that the ACLU of Florida is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the civil liberties of everyone living in the United States, regardless of immigration status, race, gender, or social standing. Mr. Gomez explained that the ACLU of Florida believes everyone is entitled to constitutional rights and civil liberties, and that it has been assisting individuals for 70 years.

Mr. Gomez explained that the ACLU of Florida focuses on a variety of issues, but his area of expertise is immigration. His role is to offer resources and information to communities throughout South Florida through family preparedness workshops, training, and coalition-building with partnering organizations. Mr. Gomez said that the ACLU of Florida is engaged in litigation against various government agencies that engage in constitutional violations against members of the immigrant community.

Dr. Burt-Stewart asked Mr. Gomez for an explanation of family preparedness. Mr. Gomez explained that, in collaboration with partnering organizations, the ACLU of Florida hosts family preparedness workshops for immigrant families who are concerned that a family member may be detained and deported. The ACLU of Florida assists families with issues such as navigating the process of granting power of attorney to a trusted adult to act as a guardian for their children, in case they are no longer in the country.

Mr. Gomez stated that at the beginning of the year, the Florida legislature held a special session during which it passed two anti-immigrant bills: Senate Bill 4-C and Senate Bill 2-C. Mr. Gomez highlighted Senate Bill 4-C, which, among other provisions, criminalizes entering or re-entering Florida as an undocumented immigrant. Mr. Gomez explained that, under state law, Senate Bill 4-C criminalizes a civil immigration issue by bringing it into criminal court, which violates the Constitution. Mr. Gomez stated that the ACLU of Florida filed a lawsuit and obtained a preliminary injunction that currently blocks the law from taking effect. Mr. Gomez noted that in 2023, a similar Senate Bill, SB 1718, made it possible to arrest drivers who brought undocumented passengers into Florida for human smuggling. Mr. Gomez stated that a preliminary injunction also blocks Senate Bill 1718.

Mr. Gomez stated that Florida detention centers are notorious for inhumane conditions, so the ACLU of Florida has ongoing lawsuits. Mr. Gomez explained that immigration detention centers are not prisons and are not subject to criminal penalties, even if a judge's ruling sends someone there. Mr. Gomez added that if an immigrant is found guilty of a crime, a judge can order that they be held in a detention center while the immigration case proceeds; however, practices like solitary confinement to punish people for asserting their rights are illegal.

Mr. Gomez noted that the ACLU of Florida has filed two lawsuits against the Everglades Detention Facility, known as "Alligator Alcatraz." Mr. Gomez explained that one lawsuit seeks access to legal counsel for detainees, while the other challenges the facility's legitimacy, arguing that it is administered by the state rather than the federal government or Homeland Security. Mr. Gomez explained that the Everglades Detention Facility is the only facility in the country operated by the state and local law enforcement officials. Mr. Gomez noted that, because U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") does not operate the facility, issues such as unaccounted-for detainees and ICE not knowing the location of a person supposedly detained have arisen because there is no database or tracking system.

Mr. Gomez explained that the state, local police or law enforcement agencies, and the Department of Homeland Security have entered into a memorandum of understanding, known as 287G, that deputizes these agencies to act as immigration agents. Mr. Gomez noted that research shows 287G agreements are harmful because they lead to spikes in racial profiling. Mr. Gomez implored the HRB, local city commissions, city councils, and every individual to take action to prevent the expansion of this program.

Finally, Mr. Gomez told the HRB that if stopped by ICE agents, always request to speak with a lawyer.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Marty Cassini reported that he is unable to move forward with the Sunset Review due to recent changes by HUD and the County's audit by the Florida Department of Government Efficiency, for which there has been no feedback yet. Mr. Cassini recommended that the Sunset Review be tabled for the next HRB meeting or the February meeting.

- **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** to adopt the October 20, 2025, meeting agenda by Michael Rajner.  
Seconded by Pamela Kelner. *Adopted unanimously.*

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 11, 2025**

**MOTION** to amend the August 11, 2025, meeting minutes by Michael Rajner to reflect that Ellen Fieler was no longer a member of the HRB on August 11, 2025.  
Seconded by Pamela Kelner. *Adopted unanimously.*

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

- **REPORTS – CHAIR AND COMMITTEES**

Dr. Burt-Stewart expressed her appreciation to Mr. Gomez for his presentation and encouraged HRB members to bring informative presentations to the meetings.

Dr. Burt-Stewart reported that the Chair has no report.

- **HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION REPORT**

Mr. Morales reported that the Office Support Staff position has been approved, and Ms. Wiltshire is ready to begin the interview process. Additionally, a new staff member joined the HOSS-D team today.

Mr. Morales reported that the Section needs to close 32 cases by the end of the year to meet the Performance Improvement Plan's deadline. Mr. Morales also mentioned that HUD has cut training funds by 90%; however, HUD is now paying \$200.00 more when the Section completes an investigation.

Mr. Morales reported that HUD will review protected classes. He said local governments such as Broward County, that have ordinances containing additional protected classes risk losing HUD Certification.

Mr. Rajner asked if the County's additional protected classes, such as veteran services and lawful source of income, can be placed in a parallel ordinance. Mr. Morales responded that he is unsure of the County's plans.

Mr. Morales reported that HUD will not reimburse agencies for travel to the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) training, including those that received prior approval. Mr. Morales also mentioned that HUD will not approve the use of federal funds for gender ideology training.

Ms. Wiltshire reported that HUD has rescinded its guidance for criminal record cases, alleging disparate impact based on race, which primarily affects minorities.

- **OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

None.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

- **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/LITIGATION**

Mr. Katzman informed the HRB that there is no current litigation.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

- **MEMBER CONCERNS**

Mr. Rajner expressed his concern about the state of the country and thanked the HRB members and the county for the work being done to protect people's rights.

- **IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

**The next scheduled Board meeting will convene:**  
**Monday, December 8, 2025, at 4 PM, Governmental Center**

*If any Board Member or other party would like more detailed information about the contents of these summarized minutes, a compact disk will be available by contacting the Human Rights Section at 954-357-7800.*