

Item # 48

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
Regular Meeting
May 4, 2021

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
MAYOR STEVE GELLER



"Helping People Help Themselves, Through Training & Employment"

April 23, 2021

Mayor Steve Geller
Broward County Board of County Commissioners – District 5
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 411
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302

Dear Mayor Geller,

At OIC, our mission is to be a leader in providing self-help skills and employment opportunities for disadvantaged and underemployed residents of South Florida, thus assisting them to become productive members of society. I am writing this letter as per your request at the recent Alliance Board Meeting, for feedback regarding the replacement of the Broward County Administrator.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March of 2020, has created turmoil in the market conditions of Broward County. Over the past week, the County has seen an average of 800 daily positive COVID-19 cases with a steady uptick in the amount of new cases on a weekly basis. We are encouraged with the amount of businesses that are re-opening and taking safety measures and precautions, while more individuals are progressively obtaining the vaccine, yet there is more work to be done. Sadly, only 15% of the population has received their first dose of the vaccine, compared to 41% in the nation, and many of our population of residents continue to feel uncertain about obtaining the vaccine. The pandemic has also exacerbated the number of individuals without employment. According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Broward's unemployment rate is currently at 5.6%. This rate is 2.3% higher than it was one year ago and in minority communities it's as high as 15%, with 57,632 unemployed residents. Finally, our country continues to struggle with issues of over-policing and bias in the criminal justice system as seen with the death of George Floyd. These issues underscore the fact that Broward County needs an individual that has the knowledge and experience to lead the County in a forward moving direction, while providing sustainability and growth, under the direction and partnership of the County Commission leaders such as yourself and other County Commissioners.

In good practice it would be beneficial and prudent to perform a national candidate search for the Broward County Administrator position. However, given the conditions of our county and country, continuity of leadership is most important during this season. Ms. Cepero comes with 28 years of both local and state government experience and is familiar with Broward County's needs. She has demonstrated the necessary skills, leadership and commitment needed for the next season of Broward County and its residents. Therefore, I acknowledge and support Ms. Cepero's nomination for Broward County Administrator.

Sincerely,

President & CEO
OIC of South Florida

Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida, Inc.

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