

Item # 48⁽⁸⁾

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
Regular Meeting
May 4, 2021

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
MAYOR STEVE GELLER

Geller, David

Subject: From Alliance Chair Sam Robbin: Broward County Administrator Replacement

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Dear Alliance Board Members,

Thank you for attending our Board of Directors meeting this past Thursday. It was a very positive meeting, and your input and support were appreciated as always. We can't thank you enough for what you do for the Alliance and for helping us grow high-wage jobs, create a strong business climate and diversify our economy.

At the meeting, Mayor Geller mentioned that Bertha Henry would be retiring from her position as County Administrator. He expressed disappointment that the business community, up to now, has provided little feedback regarding Ms. Henry's replacement nor given input into the replacement process. Additionally, the Sun Sentinel published an opinion piece on Friday about the same topic and suggested a national search be considered. They said that Commissioners should hear from community groups including the Alliance and members of the business community. They stated that while Deputy County Administrator Monica Cepero is a leading candidate and is clearly qualified, a national search still needs to be conducted.

By way of background, our current County Administrator, Bertha Henry, has done an outstanding job since being hired in 2008. Broward holds a AAA bond rating and has a strong reputation nationally. Ms. Henry was hired from within, but before her eventual selection, an outside candidate was hired after a national search. That candidate's position within the county turned out to be short-lived at 16 months, resulting in a \$150,000 severance package. According to the Sun Sentinel at the time, that person "struggled to adapt to running the \$3.6 billion operation."

We believe there are good reasons for the County Commission to hire from within because we have a proven candidate. Ms. Cepero has 28 years of state and local government management experience including serving as the Environmental Policy Advisor to Governor Jeb Bush. She has been an assistant or deputy county administrator in Broward for ten years, running several large and important departments. We agree that she has proven to be well-qualified, just as the Sun Sentinel described her.

Your opinion in this selection process is important. Now is the time to make your voice heard. This is on the agenda at the May 4 County Commission meeting. Please submit your letters of support by April 30 to the County Commissioners, whose contact information is in the attached document.

Sincerely,

Sam Robbin
Chair, Board of Directors
Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance