2016 BRICKELL/DOWNTOWN CANDIDATES FORUM

Moderator’s Notes

Candidate Questions

# Mayor’s Race

Education & Schools

* Recently two projects were unveiled to help alleviate the lack of quality secondary schools in the Urban Core. Miami-Dade County Public Schools announced publicly that it is in negotiation with the City of Miami to expand Southside Elementary School into a K-12, with a new upper school collocated at what would be a newly renovated Fire Station No. 4. Once approved this proposed project has a two to five-year timeline.  
    
  This summer Mater Academy, Inc., a local charter school company, announced plans for Mater Brickell Academy, a state-of the-art K-12 academic campus on land it already owns in the heart of Brickell. Upon approval, the Mater Brickell urban campus can be completed in 12 months.   
    
  Which project do you support and why? As Mayor of Miami-Dade County how would you help support the timely completion of either of these vital community projects?
* Would you commit today to working with other community stakeholders toward achieving an Urban Core feeder pattern with schools rating no lower than a “B” by 2020? Furthermore, will you as Mayor commit to signing on to an inter-local agreement in which Miami-Dade County and the School Board pledges to work with stakeholders to sustain the new standard of excellence through 2030?

# School Board, District 6 Race

Education & Schools

* Most of our Urban Core public schools are chronically low enrolled and under-performing. How do we strengthen (short-term, mid-term, and long-term) the Urban Core feeder pattern (i.e. Frederick Douglass Elementary, Jose de Diego Middle School, and Booker T. Washington Senior High School) to assure comparable excellence throughout?
* Imagine yourself as one of the more than 8,000 families with children living in Greater Miami. You are the proud parent of an 11-year-old daughter who lives in the Downtown/Brickell area. Your child is an average to below average student with special needs issues who is preparing to leave Southside Elementary School for middle school. After reviewing all the educational options available to you and your family as residents of the Urban Core, where would you send your child to school and why?
* Recently, Miami-Dade County Public Schools announced publicly that it is in negotiation with the City of Miami to expand Southside Elementary School into a K-12, with a new upper school collocated at what would be a newly renovated Fire Station No. 4. Do you support this proposed project and why? As the new School Board member representing District 6 how will you help support the timely completion of this vital community project?
* Would you commit today to working with other community stakeholders toward achieving an Urban Core feeder pattern with schools rating no lower than a “B” by 2020? Furthermore, will you as the new School Board member representing District 6 commit to signing on to an inter-local agreement in which Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami, and the School Board pledges to work with stakeholders to sustain the new standard of excellence through 2030?

# Florida Senate 38th District Race

Education & Schools

* Most of our Urban Core public schools are chronically low enrolled and under-performing. How do we strengthen (short-term, mid-term, and long-term) the Urban Core feeder pattern (i.e. Frederick Douglass Elementary, Jose de Diego Middle School, and Booker T. Washington Senior High School) to assure comparable excellence throughout?
* Educating students in the Urban Core comes with its own special challenges including facilities limitations and an inability to offer certain curriculum and/or activities. How do we provide a full educational experience for our students in the Urban Core?

# Florida House 112th District Race

Education & Schools

* Most of our Urban Core public schools are chronically low enrolled and under-performing. How do we strengthen (short-term, mid-term, and long-term) the Urban Core feeder pattern (i.e. Frederick Douglass Elementary, Jose de Diego Middle School, and Booker T. Washington Senior High School) to assure comparable excellence throughout?
* Recently two projects were unveiled to help alleviate the lack of quality secondary schools in the Urban Core. Miami-Dade County Public Schools announced publicly that it is in negotiation with the City of Miami to expand Southside Elementary School into a K-12, with a new upper school collocated at what would be a newly renovated Fire Station No. 4. Once approved this proposed project has a two to five-year timeline.  
    
  This summer Mater Academy, Inc., a local charter school company, announced plans for Mater Brickell Academy, a state-of the-art K-12 academic campus on land it already owns in the heart of Brickell. Upon approval, the Mater Brickell urban campus can be completed in 12 months.   
    
  Which project do you support and why? As our newly elected State Representative in the House how would you help support the timely completion of either of these vital community projects?

# Florida Senate 37th District Race

Education & Schools

* Imagine yourself as one of the more than 8,000 families with children living in Greater Miami. You are the proud parent of an 11-year-old daughter who lives in the Downtown/Brickell area. Your child is an average to below average student with special needs issues who is preparing to leave Southside Elementary School for middle school. After reviewing all the educational options available to you and your family as residents of the Urban Core, where would you send your child to school and why?
* Recently two projects were unveiled to help alleviate the lack of quality secondary schools in the Urban Core. Miami-Dade County Public Schools announced publicly that it is in negotiation with the City of Miami to expand Southside Elementary School into a K-12, with a new upper school collocated at what would be a newly renovated Fire Station No. 4. Once approved this proposed project has a two to five-year timeline.  
    
  This summer Mater Academy, Inc., a local charter school company, announced plans for Mater Brickell Academy, a state-of the-art K-12 academic campus on land it already owns in the heart of Brickell. Upon approval, the Mater Brickell urban campus can be completed in 12 months.   
    
  Which project do you support and why? As our State Senator how would you help support the timely completion of either of these vital community projects?

# Lightning Round Questions

1. Do you support traditional public school education over charter school’s/voucher programs?
2. Would you support decriminalization of small amounts of recreational marijuana?
3. Would you support privatization of Florida prisons?
4. Do you support Florida buying the land near Lake Okeechobee which is contaminating the water?
5. Do you agree with the recent decision to allow more toxins into Florida’s water?
6. Would you support the expansion of the Bay walk to Key Biscayne?
7. Do you agree with eliminating homework in public schools?