

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD CONFIRMATION AND ELECTION OF
CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MIAMI-DADE VALUE
ADJUSTMENT BOARD**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED
STAKEHOLDERS**

School Board Policy 0153 states that: "The Chair shall appoint members as necessary to organizations, committees, and/or councils as required by law, School Board policy, or as desired by the Board." It further allows the Chair to appoint individual Board members to serve as liaison representatives from the Board to other official boards, agencies, and committees.

Section 194.015 of the Florida Statutes allows for the creation of a Value Adjustment Board (VAB) for each county and outlines its membership. In accordance with § 194.015, the VAB "(S)hall consist of . . . one member of the school board as elected from the membership of the school board." It also allows for the appointment by the school board of a citizen member ". . . whom must be appointed by the school board and must own a business occupying commercial space located within the school district."

This item requests that the Board elect Mr. Jose Rene Infante, the owner of a business established in Miami-Dade County for over 28 years, as the School Board of Miami-Dade County's Citizen representative to the VAB. Mr. Infante's resume will be circulated under separate cover.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, elect Mr. Jose Rene Infante as the citizen representative to the Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board.

Resume

Jose Rene Infante

An inspirational entrepreneur, community leader, change agent and innovator, Rene Infante is founder and president of Redland Market Village, a fresh food and flea market destination in South Miami-Dade County since 1993, with foot traffic of over 40,000 persons per weekend, and close to 500 families making a living at the Market. In partnership with the Miami-Dade County Office of Economic Development, Redland Market Village, formerly known as Bargain Town, has certified over 393 jobs.

Rene combines his entrepreneurial spirit with a community driven philosophy that focuses on job creation and economic development in South Miami-Dade County. This area has experienced lack of economic opportunities and chronic unemployment for decades, recently as high as 28%. During the past 27 years, Rene has helped generate over 2,000 jobs through his business ventures and projects. He was instrumental in securing \$30 million in federal funding for the Miami-Dade South Busway project during Mayor Alex Penelas' tenure, providing jobs and access to public transportation for the residents of South Dade.

From 1988 to 1993, Rene was president, CEO and general manager of Southwest Dade Storage and Industrial Park, a 140,000 square foot complex on 17.5 acres of land that included among its tenants The Miami Herald, Burger King, V. J. Growers and the HRS of Florida. Rene operated a flea market within the Southwest Dade Storage and Industrial Park, having as many as 437 stalls rented by the summer of 1992, when Hurricane Andrew hit.

In 1988, Rene led U.S. Portable Building Systems, a company created to design-build a 192-bed minimum security detention center in Miami-Dade County. He participated in a joint venture to build the Metro West Detention Center, a 3,000-bed, \$34 million jail complex, the first design-build public project in Miami-Dade County. The project was completed in 1993, on time and on budget. The company also built two after school care program facilities for Metropolitan Dade County at Miami Dade community College North and South campuses.

Prior entrepreneurial experience include being president, CEO and majority shareholder of Property Management and Maintenance, Inc. a company dedicated to providing cleaning services, property up-keep and landscaping replacement and maintenance to commercial and public facilities. Some of its most reputable clients were several banks, the Hialeah Race Track, the Dade County Youth Fair and the Miami Orange Bowl.

As Office and Dispatcher Manager for Stand By Labor, a temporary workforce placement company dedicated to assign duties to over 400 temporary workers, Rene was charged with staffing, setting up, and dismantling the 1972 Democratic Party and Republican Party Conventions at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Rene was president and shareholder from 1968 to 1979 of Caoni Corporation, a Homestead-Unincorporated Miami-Dade County 200-acre farming and tropical vegetables company serving the exile and Hispanic market. He had previously served as a loan officer in charge of installment loans for the International Bank of Miami.

Rene Infante was born in La Habana, Cuba, and in 1961 fled the Castro regime under of the Peter Pan Program. He lived with a foster family in Columbus, Ohio, for a year until he reunited with his mother and sister in Miami. Rene attended Mt. Olive Junior College in Mt. Olive, North Carolina, as a business major. He resides in Coral Gables, Florida, with his wife, children and grandchildren.