MINUTES OF THE WLRN COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING
Thursday, January 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by CAB Vice Chair Dr. Marcela Moyano at 12:02 PM.

CAB MEMBERS, WLRN STAFF AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:
Nicole Chipi, Danny Espino, David Hirsch, Dr. Marcela Moyano, Dr. Martin Karp, Kearey Wan, John LaBonia, Sheila Reinken, Adrienne Kennedy, Dinkinish O’Connor, Kearey Wan, Cynthia Weems. 
Guests: Sergio Bustos, Joshua Ceballo, Julia Cooper, James March, Caitie Muñoz, Danny Rivero, Andrew Ruiz, Christina Scott, Ellen Soto Suliani Vanderbiezen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the November 2, 2023, meeting. Members present accepted and approved the minutes as published.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS: DANNY ESPINO AND CHRISTINA SCOTT
John LaBonia introduced and welcomed Danny Espino and Christina Scott to the board. Danny Espino serves as a Member of The School Board of Miami-Dade County for District 5 and is the School Board Chair’s alternate appointment to the WLRN Community Advisory Board. Christina Scott is the VP of Marketing and Communications at Chapman Partnerships.

INTRODUCTION: WLRN KEYS NEWS REPORTER – JULIA COOPER
Sergio Bustos, VP of News, introduced Florida Keys Reporter Julia Cooper to the board. Before joining the team full-time, she was WLRN’s Fall 2023 Intern and graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor’s in journalism and minor in Women’s Studies. Julia will be covering stories in the Florida Keys and South Dade.

PRESENTATION: INVESTIGATIVE NEWS TEAM
Sergio Bustos introduced WLRN news investigation team Danny Rivero and Joshua Ceballo to the board. Danny and Joshua shared a PowerPoint presentation that explained the background and process of investigative journalism in connection with their first story of 2024, revealing how hundreds of thousands of dollars in furniture contracts are going to Miami City Manager Art Noriega’s wife and her family’s furniture company. Immediate impacts to WLRN’s story included the following:

- Four days after publishing, a panel of former Miami City Managers called in to Spanish-language radio program Contacto Directo on Actualidad Radio with Danny Rivero as an invited guest to discuss the findings. One ex-city manager called for Noriega’s outright resignation.

- Reporter Joshua Ceballo was invited as guest on This Week in South Florida with Glenna Milberg on WPLG Channel 10.

- Danny Rivero was invited to speak on MegaTV’s Hoy con Tomas Regalado, a Spanish-language news show hosted by the former Mayor of Miami.

- News partner Miami Herald published follow-up articles and an Op-Ed covering additional information and further discussion due to WLRN’s investigative report.
NEVER DROP THE BALL: PREMIERE FILM SCREENING EVENTS

Adrienne Kennedy, VP of TV, reminded and invited all CAB members to the two upcoming film screening events for WLRN’s original production *Never Drop the Ball*. The first screening would be held at The Historic Lyric Theater on Thursday, January 18\(^{th}\), and the second at the University Theatre on the campus of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) on Wednesday, January 24\(^{th}\), with an opportunity to hear from and ask questions of the film participants and directors following each screening. She encouraged everyone to tune to WLRN-TV for the premiere broadcast on Friday, February 2\(^{nd}\), at 9:00 p.m. and added that the premiere will be a simultaneous statewide broadcast on all Florida PBS affiliates through a collaboration with Florida Public Media. National distribution is anticipated for the Fall of 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Andrew Ruiz, WLRN Management Liaison to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, informed the board that the school district is committed to investing $3 million into the WLRN building over the next two years. The scope of the project includes a new roof, resurfacing/painting exterior walls, upgrades to the TV studio electrical and lighting system, painting and carpeting the first-floor hallways, HVAC upgrades, and installation of new doors for the north/south entrances. This work could begin as soon as June 2024. Plans are to convert the 1st-floor front lobby conference to a news conference room for District leadership and the adjacent space, formerly the Traffic area, will become a multi-purpose meeting space and holding area for the news conferences. The District invested $20,000 on the now completed Radio Newsroom remodel and several of the adjacent offices.

NEXT CAB MEETING: Thursday, March 21, 2024, @ Noon

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.