

# The City of Aventura



19200 West Country Club Drive Aventura, FL

## City Commission Workshop Meeting

January 19, 2012

Immediately following 9 am Special Commission meeting  
Executive Conference Room

### AGENDA

1. ***Key to City Recommendation (Commissioner Diamond)\****  
Future Action Required: Resolution
2. ***Aventura Government 101 – A Citizen’s Academy (City Manager)\****
3. ***Right Turn-lane @ 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Country Club Drive (City Manager)\****
4. ***Lehman Causeway/Biscayne Blvd Traffic Safety Camera***
5. ***Recommendation to Increase Enrollment at ACES (City Manager)\****  
Future Action Required: Resolution
6. ***NALEO Conference (Commissioner Weinberg)***
7. ***Adjournment***

#### **\* Back-up Information Exists**

This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 305-466-8901, not later than two days prior to such proceeding.

# MEMO TO ERIC SOROKA, CITY MANAGER

## KINDLY PLACE ON NEXT WORKSHOP AGENDA

FROM: Commissioner Bob Diamond  
TO: Aventura City Commission  
DATED: December 12, 2011  
RE: Key to City of Aventura

On October 11, 2005, the Aventura Commission adopted a Resolution (No. 2005-62) **establishing criteria** for the award of Keys to the City of Aventura. The Key shall be awarded (among other criteria) to those persons who have **distinguished themselves** for public recognition and appreciation for their achievements or accomplishments, by activities, which include but are not limited to **“rendering of service to the public.”**

I know of no one more deserving of the honor than Victor Cynamon, Vice President and Chairman of the Holocaust Survivors Committee of the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center (ATJC). It is critically important that the world continue to be aware of the horror of what took place in World War II when Hitler and his henchmen killed millions of innocent people, including 6,000,000 Jews. The Aventura area, outside of Israel, has one of the largest number of Holocaust survivors, of which, Victor continues to serve for many years as their Chairman.

On Sunday, January 29, 2012, Victor and the Holocaust Survivors will be honored at ATJC with a testimonial dinner, entitled “A Celebration of Life 67 Years After Liberation.” If approved by our Mayor and City Commission, presentation at that time of the Keys to the City of Aventura to Victor would be an unforgettable event. I submit the following:

1. Victor has spoken before numerous young groups, including several hundred junior and senior students at Krop High School and other local schools, to educate them as to the horror of the Holocaust, so that young people can learn about prejudice and what took place before they were born. He has also had the honor to speak and enlighten the FBI about prejudice. In addition, Victor also teaches students enrolled in Holocaust Education classes at the University of Miami and speaks at their graduation luncheon each year.
2. Victor’s importance for distinguishing himself for public recognition and rendering a service to the public is well illustrated by the attached letter sent to Victor on June 1, 2011 from Zach Rutta, from Los Angeles, a former student of Victor at the University of Miami. According to his letter, Victor’s stories “have inspired to never lose hope and always have faith....Again, thank you for all that you have done to change my life.”
3. On a personal level, a few years ago, I was called in by a large company in Aventura as to a serious anti-Semitic incident that took place. I shall leave out the name of the company. I then brought in the Regional Director of the ADL, and together with officials from the company, we decided to ask Victor Cynamon to speak to the entire staff of the company and tell them about prejudice, anti-Semitism, his past history and the Holocaust. There was not a dry eye in the large room as Victor spoke. His message will never be forgotten by the employees. I don’t believe that an anti-Semitic incident will ever occur again at that company.
4. With the aging population of the “survivors,” some are rushed to Aventura Hospital with serious, emergent problems. Some are without spouses or nearby family. Victor, I and CEO Heather Rowan

have an arrangement wherein Victor will call me immediately with the name of the “survivor” who is in the hospital and I then call Heather, who then goes immediately to see the patient, provide every possible care, concern and help, including speaking with the doctors, nurses and family. According to Victor, “It is like a blessing from God. The ‘survivors’ have spread the word how wonderful it is to live in the City of Aventura.” Praise goes to Victor and Heather.

5. Victor and his wife Celia were married 65 years ago in Germany at a displaced persons camp by an American army chaplain. They have been major contributors and fund-raisers of the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center for the last 20 years. His tireless dedication to the Federation was recognized with an outstanding service award in 1997. In 1994, Victor was appointed to chair, plan and organize the building of the Holocaust Memorial at ATJC. Almost single-handedly, Victor raised the necessary funds to design and build the Memorial at the ATJC. He motivated hundreds of survivors to support the project of the Shoah Memorial. After completion of this moving memorial, Victor was recognized with a letter from the Hon. Itzhak Shamir, former Prime Minister of Israel. Eventually, the museum with a video of the history of the Shoa was visited by scores of children and adults to learn about the Holocaust. In 2006, Victor hosted a visit from Mrs. Linda Cooper, the Principal of the school that created the 6 million paperclips project, which became a Holocaust museum in a small town in Tennessee which had no Jews. Victor could never have accomplished this without the love and support of Celia. Victor honored his 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to Celia by donating 300 new books and tapes that created the Holocaust Library at ATJC.
6. Victor brings honor and prestige to our City of Aventura. His remarkable bio includes Founding President of the ATJC Men’s Club. He has received numerous accolades, including active participation in the Friends of Israel Defense Forces, National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., the Anti-Defamation League, Women’s Ort and AIPAC, where Victor co-chaired the dinner hosting Congressman Tom Lantos. Victor and Celia are charter members of “WAGRO” (the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization). In addition, Victor also serves as chairman of the State of Israel Bonds Miami-Dade Division since 1995, was honored for this service in 1998 and again in 2003 when he received the L’Chaim Award from the world-wide president of Israel Bonds the Hon. Joshua Matza and in 2008, the Menachim Begin Award. He co-chaired an evening for fundraising for the City of Ariel in Israel.

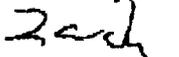
Respectfully,

Aventura Commissioner Bob Diamond

Mr. Cynamon,

From the bottom of my heart, I want to sincerely thank you for spending the last semester sharing your life stories with me. I have grown exponential amounts in the five meetings we had over the past few months. When I was first introduced to the program at the end of last fall, I truly did not know what to expect and to be honest, I did not know how to approach this new experience. You immediately were so kind to me during our first phone call and I knew this would truly become the most meaningful experience I would have in my four years of college. Your stories have inspired to never lose hope and always have faith. I have learned to trust my instincts and listen to those around you when one needs them most. Your stories have motivated me to live every day to its fullest. Even though I have attended a Jewish Day School for the first 18 years of my life and have been surrounded by a great deal of Holocaust awareness and stories, the time I spent with you has truly taught me the most. You have provided me with such a better understanding of the Holocaust and have given me a greater compassion to those affected. I look forward to going back home to Los Angeles and to share your stories with my family and friends. Your stories are truly remarkable and I am proud to be able to have heard them from you. Your experience will never be forgotten and I will share your stories as your father once requested of you. You are a mentor, mentch, and a great friend. Again, thank you for all that you have done to change my life. I am now a better and wiser person because of you.

Sincerely,

  
Zach Rutta



## **Aventura Government 101 A Citizen's Academy 2012**

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### **Overview**

The purpose of Aventura Government 101 - A Citizen's Academy is to provide a learning forum for citizens to become more familiar with City of Aventura Government, improve communications between citizens and government as well as foster citizen involvement.

The Academy is provided free of charge by the City Administration as a service to the community and to be held at the various City facilities. Applications will be accepted during a set period of time and participants will be selected on a first-come first-served basis. The Class will be limited to 30 participants and is open to residents only. Each Session will be for two to three hours. On completion of the Academy the graduates will be recognized at a City Commission meeting.

### **Course Outline**

#### **Week 1 –Overview of Academy**

- Description of the City of Aventura
- Form of government
- Constitutional Officers –City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney
- Duties of Mayor and Commissioners

#### **Week 2 – Where: Police Department Community Room**

- Police Department
- Tour of Police Department

#### **Week 3 -- Where: Aventura Community Recreation Center**

- Community Services Department

- Aventura's "Go Green Program"
- Tour of Community Center

Week 4 -- Where: Police Department Community Room

- Tour of Government Center
- Community Development Department
- Planning
- Building
- Overview of future development projects

Week 5-- Where: Police Department Community Room

- Finance Department
- Budget
- Capital Improvement Program
- Information Technology Department
- Public Communications- Web Page, Public Access Cable Channel, Radio Channel etc.

Week 6-- Where: Aventura City of Excellence School Cafeteria

- Charter School
- Tour of Charter School

Week 7 – Where: Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

- Arts & Cultural Center Department

Week 8 -- Where: Aventura Government Center Commission Chambers

- Graduation

**CITY OF AVENTURA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: City Commission

FROM: Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM, City Manager 

DATE: January 9, 2012

SUBJECT: **Right Turn Lane – N.E. 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Country Club Drive**

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In order to improve traffic flow at the intersection of N.E. 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Country Club Drive, for a number of years the City has requested the County to allow a right hand turn at this intersection. The County has denied this request in the past due to the impact on bus stop at that location.

Recently, the County has agreed to review the request, provided that the City prepares a traffic operational study to evaluate the benefits and the impacts of the proposed improvement. The cost of the study is \$4,350. The estimated cost of the turning lane, including design costs, is \$130,000 and could be included in next year's Capital Improvement Program.

The City Administration is requesting the City Commission's approval to proceed as outlined above.

EMS/act

CCO1764-12

# CITY OF AVENTURA

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### MEMORANDUM

TO: City Commission

FROM: Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM, City Manager 

DATE: January 10, 2012

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to Increase Student Enrollment at the Aventura City of Excellence School**

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### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission acting in its capacity as the Governing Board of Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES) authorized the enrollment of the school to be increased from 972 to 984 students.

### BACKGROUND

As previously advised last year, ACES qualified as a high-performing charter school under sections 1002.331 and 1002.332 of the Florida Statutes. A high-performing charter school is defined as a school that has met each of the following criteria:

1. Received at least two school grades of "A" and no school grade below "B" for the last three years.
2. Received an unqualified opinion on each annual audit in the most recent three years for which such audits are available.
3. Did not receive a financial audit that revealed one or more of the financial emergency conditions set forth in s. 218.503, F.S., in the most three recent fiscal years for which audits are available.

The following is the benefits for ACES to be recognized as a high-performing charter school:

- Increase its student enrollment once per school year by up to 15% more than the capacity identified in the charter without School Board approval.
- Submit quarterly rather than monthly financial statements to the sponsor.

Based on recent discussions with ACES Principal and careful consideration, it was determined that it is in best interest of the school and its educational programs to increase the fourth grade by twelve (12) students beginning in the 2012/13 school year. For the 2012 – 2013 school year ACES will request that the capacity enrollment be increased from 972 to 984. The additional students will increase the enrollment at fourth grade from 108 to 120 students. The revenue generated by the additional students

would be approximately \$72,000. This amount would offset the cost one additional teacher and supplies for the students.

This additional teacher will make it possible to departmentalize the fourth grade team. Departmentalizing allows teachers to focus on one to two content areas with specialization. This enables them to become experts in their content area rather than generalist teaching all subjects. The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards being assessed this year in reading, math and science require an increased depth of knowledge. Additionally next year the FCAT Writes for fourth grade will require students to meet additional standards. Specific scoring rubrics are being developed by the Florida Department of Education. The rubrics will be customized to evaluate the writer's skill in responding to the writing task.

ACES will still meet class size requirements with the increased capacity. It should be noted that the additional students will not have had the benefit of ACES academic program in previous years. They will require close monitoring and possibly additional support to ensure their success and for ACES to maintain the current level of performance on the FCAT at fourth grade.

In order to take advantage of increasing the student enrollment for 2012/13 the Governing Board of ACES must adopt a Resolution approving the change in enrollment by March 15, 2012.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

EMS/