



**FLORIDA  
OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM**  
ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

**MEETING MINUTES**

**BROWARD COUNCIL**

**DISTRICT #12**

**02/14/2023**

**01:00 PM, ET**

**8333 W. McNab Road. Suite 231. Tamarac, FL 33321**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>			
Blanca Merchan	Present	Paul Wilson	Present
Don Henry	Present	Ronna Brown	Present
Shazad Kashar	Present	Ann Garfinkel	Present

<b>OTHER OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Gloria T. Freyre, district Ombudsman manager	Elizabeth Cole, administrative assistant.

<b>GUEST NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
John Britton	Ombudsman in training
Nancy Paris	Ombudsman in Training
Herbert Daley	Senior vs Crime Tamarac
Jennifer Marion, Deputy	BSO Tamarac
Jared Weiss, Deputy	BSO Tamarac
Michael Brodie	Owner Placement Agency

**OPEN SESSION**

- Called to order at 1:05 PM
  - Open Session Statement 1:06 PM
- Quorum Established: Yes  
Minutes Approved: No 08/09/22 & 09/13/22

**UPDATES/REPORTS**

- Gloria Freyre, district ombudsman manager, welcomed the attendees to the Council meeting and invite them to a presentation around the table.
- Pending Council Minutes couldn't be approved for lack of a majority.
- Gloria Freyre updated the Council with the current assessment/visitation report. The Council has completed 179 assessments which represent 60% of the total amount of facilities.

- The Council currently has one ombudsman waiting for certification and five more in training. Trainees (4) in need of field experience will be assigned to the more experienced ombudsman for the field assessment/cases as follow: Barbara Sullivan assigned to Ann Garfinkel/ Nancy Paris assigned to Ronna Brown, Noel Gianonne and Judy Delany assigned to Elizabeth Cole.
- Paul Wilson, chairman of the Council, informed that the next State Council meeting will be held via Teams on February 24<sup>th</sup> and requested questions to be presented on behalf of the local Council. Shazad Kashar proposed the following question to be presented to the State Council meeting: Should it be a cap or limit to rent increase in Assisted Living facilities? No more questions were presented.
- Ronna Brown, ombudsman, asked if the Program is still planning to have an Education Conference this year. Gloria Freyre responded that the Program intends to have an Education Conference in April 2023, however, the date has not yet been determined.
- Gloria Freyre informed the Council that the Program has hired a new Legal Advocate Renee Harkins. The previous one Lynn Hearn has left the Program.

**TRAINING:** Herbert Daley, volunteer representative of the Senior vs. Crime Program in Tamarac presented the program to the Broward Council. He highlighted the mission of Senior vs Crime Program in the community and its accomplishments. The presentation was followed by interventions from deputies Jennifer Marion and Jared Weiss regarding different types of scams, virtual fraud, and other crimes targeting the senior community. The presentation was followed by Q&A session.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Council meeting scheduled March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM
- Next Open meeting May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **None discussed.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (limited to 5 minutes each)

- Michael Brodi owner of a Placement Agency made a comment regarding operational costs to run an LTC facility in Broward and the challenges they are facing like the lack of staff, and the need to increase rent.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

