



MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER JOSE "PEPE" DIAZ BIOGRAPHY

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz serves as the Commissioner for District 12, which includes the cities of Doral, Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens, Medley, Sweetwater, Virginia Gardens, and a large portion of unincorporated Miami-Dade County. He was first elected as commissioner in September 2002 and re-elected to a fourth term in 2014. He also served as the Vice-Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners from 2009-2010.

Commissioner Diaz has served in various capacities on different committees of the County Commission. Currently, he sits on the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee and the Public Safety and Health Committee and serves as the Vice-Chair of the Infrastructure and Utilities Committee. From 2015-2016, he served as the Chair of the Trade and Tourism Committee and served on the Transit and Mobility Services Committee, the Metropolitan Services Committee and the Value Adjustment Board. In 2013, he served as the Chair of the Land Use & Development Committee. Additionally, Commissioner Diaz, who proudly served as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, was appointed as Miami-Dade County's Military Liaison and also serves as the Chairman of Miami-Dade County's Military Affairs Board.



On the international level, Commissioner Diaz also serves as Chairman of the International Trade Consortium Board and is an advocate for trade and forging partnerships with other nations. In March 2010, Commissioner Diaz was appointed by U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to serve on the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee on Trade (IGPAC), and has been reappointed twice. His current term runs until April 2018. In this capacity, Commissioner Diaz is one of several committee members chosen to advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the U.S. Trade Representative and Obama administration from the perspective of local governments. He also served as Chairman of the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium (ITC) until January 2006. During his tenure, he was instrumental in making profitable connections for businesses on behalf of Miami-Dade County with the Caribbean and Latin America. He toured several Asian cities in 2005 (Tianjin, Hong Kong and Shanghai), met with government officials and business organizations to promote trade partnerships, and participated in a ceremony to mark a joint venture between Florida International University and Tianjin University of Commerce. The commissioner and the Asian delegation also secured a cooperative agreement for the County with Tianjin's Municipal People's Government.

In addition to his County duties, Commissioner Diaz serves on the Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County's Executive Committee. He also served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Miami-Dade County Sports Commission, which is charged with attracting youth, adult amateur, and

professional sporting events to the county and generating support for those events. Under the commissioner's leadership, the Sports Commission created a local bid committee to support Miami as a host city for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and also coordinated a massive block party on Brickell Avenue to support bringing the FIFA World Cup to the United States. Thanks to the Sports Commission, Miami-Dade County hosted their first WrestleMania in 2012, generating \$102.7 million in economic impact for Miami-Dade County.

Before joining the Commission, Commissioner Diaz worked to resolve the ongoing flooding issues throughout Miami-Dade County as Mayor of Sweetwater. He spent countless hours lobbying in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., and acquired the funds necessary for a Comprehensive Street Drainage Project. Commissioner Diaz continues to work with local and state emergency management teams to prevent future flooding. Former Governor Jeb Bush appointed Diaz to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, where he advises on proposed regulations that could adversely affect West Miami-Dade's water levels.

Commissioner Diaz is a strong supporter of the elderly and the military. He spearheaded the "Seniors Never Alone" program, which ensures that enrolled seniors receive a call at least twice a week. The program is operated by the Switchboard of Miami, Inc. and each reassurance specialist engages seniors in conversation, providing emergency assistance if necessary. The commissioner also served on the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee. He strongly advocated for the USS Gridley, which became the first Navy warship to be commissioned in Miami on February 10, 2007. He also organized Miami-Dade's historic Golden Veterans Parade and 50th Anniversary Commemoration on Nov. 8, 2013 to give Vietnam veterans the long-overdue proper homecoming they deserved.

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz is married and has three daughters. He was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba and has lived in Sweetwater, Fla., for more than 30 years. In 1979, Commissioner Diaz enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in December 1984. In 1986, he began his career in public service as Chairman of the City of Sweetwater Police Retirement Trust Fund Board. For the next seven years, he served on the City of Sweetwater Commission and was elected Mayor of Sweetwater in May 1999.