



Peacock Express

A Quarterly Newsletter for the Residents of El Portal

Volume 2 Issue 7

Winter 2020

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM



500 NE 87th Street
El Portal, Florida 33138
www.ElPortalVillage.com

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings El Portal Residents:

In Florida, spring either brings the beginning or end to the State of Florida’s legislative session.

Each state has its own legislature.... and State governments across the country use this authority to hold legislative sessions where a state’s elected representatives meet for a period of time to draft and vote on legislation and set state policies on issues such as taxation, education, and government spending.

The Florida Legislature meets in-session every year for sixty consecutive days. A regular session of the legislature shall convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year.



Since 2020 is an even-numbered year, the legislative session just ended and, if you did not know, since spring of 2015, I have traveled to Tallahassee during the legislative session to meet with state-wide representatives and senators to educate them about our beautiful village - El Portal, and its needs. There is so much value in representing our community in-person. It gives me the opportunity to let them know first-hand what our infrastructure needs are, as they meet to determine how state monies will be appropriated throughout the State of Florida.

We are a community of 3,000 here in El Portal and when you compare our population to that of other communities across Miami-Dade County and the State, with whom Florida State Senators and Representatives will also be meeting with those municipalities too, it’s important for them to understand and visualize that although we are small, all of Miami-Dade County interconnects, because there are no ‘actual’ municipal boundaries and these El Portal projects are necessary as we plan and work towards a resilient and sustainable future. A Village that not only abuts the City of Miami and Miami Shores, but also a Village that shares the same roads; so for us it’s so much more—and it’s important that they hear from local municipal leaders.

Continued on page 2

Mayor (cont. from page 1)

Although our legislative priorities since spring 2015 have been (1) funding to assist us with the conversion from Septic to Sewer, and (2) funding to continue our Drainage Stormwater Improvements, it was not until the 2017 legislative session that the State of Florida finally appropriated \$550 million dollars towards El Portal's -El Jardin Drainage Improvement Project, and in June 2017, the Florida Governor approved the 2017-2018 State budget and El Portal was awarded \$550K. With Hurricane Irma in the fall of 2017, the El Jardin Drainage Improvement Project has not been completed just yet, but the design and logistical details have been completed and this project will be completed in 2020.

In the fall of 2019, the Manager and I met with our lobbying team to assess the 2018-2019 Florida Legislative session and to discuss El Portal's priorities. Given the unfortunate Parkland tragedy, and the ongoing speeding concerns around Horace Mann Middle School, I recommended that along with our Stormwater and Sewer conversion priorities, that we add a third priority to improve safety. As such, we added a third priority: (3) Traffic Calming - Horace Mann Middle School, along with the two aforementioned legislative priorities.

Planning & Zoning Committee Report

Our collaboration with Plusurbia, our contract urban planner who has been with us since December 2014, continues to work towards protecting El Portal Village's Character. Coming in the fall of 2020 will be our first El Portal Architectural Pattern Book, which will paint a picture of a community we want to preserve and in the summer of 2020 an update to the Villages' Comprehensive Plan in order to better address local conditions and improve our quality of life - we are doing this by including your critical input from the two

"Comp Plan" Town Hall meetings, we held back in 2019.

Sanctuary 205 NE 87 Street (This property has been vacant for 16 years).

So, it took over a year and a half for Miami-Dade County - DERM to finally approve "The Sanctuary" mixed-used project's 3rd septic tank design, but not without doubling the impact fees. Unfortunately, the level of interest from the existing owner and investors had changed. Since late summer 2019 they have been entertaining buyers, such as Unity Church, and now The Cristo Rey Miami High School. Since my first meeting with the Cristo Rey Miami organization that I attended with the Village Manager and Planner on January 14th, they have been forthcoming and receptive to 'Payment in Lieu of Taxes' (PILOT), a reduced number of kids, just to name a few. As such, I invited them to attend the January 21, 2020, Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee to introduce themselves to the committee and community. Thereafter, they formally presented to the P&Z Committee Meeting on February 11, 2020, followed by a Community Town Hall on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 that was very well attended. On Tuesday, March 10, 2020

the Cristo Rey Miami organization came before the Planning and Zoning Committee to present their Site Plan and Special Exception approval for the Educational use of a "High School" within the existing building structure at 205 NE 87 Street. The Site Plan and Special Exception passed 4-0 and will now go before the Council on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 7pm. The Cristo Rey organization continues to respond, adapt, collaborate and demonstrate good-faith partnership with the Village of El Portal, as such their Development Agreement and PILOT Contribution Agreement between El Portal and Cristo Rey will be presented, discussed and voted on at a Special Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting, on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 6:30PM

The Kavista 471 NE 83 St. (aka: annexed area)

On November 19, 2019, at a Special Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee, the BH 495 NE 83rd St, LLC (The Kavista) presented to the committee a Development Agreement between the Village of El Portal and BH 495 NE 83rd St for 1.1 million to be paid to the Village in 3 installments. The Development Agreement (three ordinances), with

Continued on page 3

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Mayor (cont. from page 2)

edits, passed the committee, but it must now be heard at two Council Meetings/ Public Hearings. The First Reading of three ordinances on the Development Agreement was heard at the December 17th, 2019, Regular Council Meeting. At that meeting, the Village Council did pass the First Reading of the three ordinances: Ordinance 2019-06, 2019-07, and 2019-08. In brief, these ordinances are: *to establish a public benefits trust fund; to provide for trust fund contributions Public Benefits Trust Fund; and then authorizing the Mayor and Village Manager to execute a development agreement between El Portal and BH 495 NE 83rd Street, LLC.* At the December 2019 Meeting, when the three ordinance passed First Reading, I said that in order to give our residents the opportunity to ask any questions about these ordinances/ Development Agreement, we will have the second reading for these three ordinances at the March 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

On Tuesday, March 10th, 2020, at the Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting, BH 495 NE 83rd Street, LLC presented their Special Exception for a Multi-Family Housing project at 471 NE 83rd Street (in the annexed area, now called "the Kavista") and it passed 4-0, The Special Exception now goes before the Village Council on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 7pm.

SkatePark 533 NE 83rd Street (annexed area)

Jonathan from The Deck Miami, LLC presented a Site-Plan and Special Exception Approval for the Civic Use of a Recreational Facility at 533/561 NE 83rd Street (behind Don Bailey Flooring) to the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee Meeting on March 10, 2020. The P&Z Committee Meeting passed the site plan and special exception voting 4-0. This Special Exception now goes before the Village Council on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 7pm.

Public Safety Committee Report

As a resident, and as an Early Childhood Education business owner located in the Village of El Portal, and of course your Mayor, I want to assure you that every aspect of Public Safety in our Village is of utmost importance to me! Since I was first sworn in to elected-office in 2008, I have been a champion of the El Portal Police Department: Just to review, I'd like name a few initiatives:

- In 2011, I proposed that the part-time officer hourly pay rate increased (the first time in over 10-years).
- In 2015, I introduced that all police officers be sworn-in at Council Meetings to provide them the due respect they deserve.
- In 2015, I suggested and allocated an additional \$25K towards Police Department equipment during budget
- In 2016, I asked that monthly police stats be placed on our Village website
- In 2016, I secured the donation of a Bay Harbor Police SUV, but unfortunately the prior Chief did not complete the transaction.
- In 2016, I reinvigorated the Citizen's Crime Watch via the 2016 Mayor's Task Force.
- In 2017, I spearheaded and requested to the Council to purchase 5 new police vehicles
- In 2017, by the request of some police officers, I initiated a Labor-Management Committee to ensure the interview and selection process of new police officers was fair.
- In 2017, I secured the donation of two police vehicles from North Bay Village.
- In 2018, strongly advocated and voted for the police officers to be granted "take-home" cars as the union requested.
- In 2018, supported the Managers recommendation to increase the starting salary of a new police officer, as well as, granting them annual pay increases for the next 3-years.
- In 2019, requested to meet with Chairwoman Commissioner Edmonson about collaborating on a west side traffic-calming rotunda.

- In 2019, I secured the donation of police cars from the City of Homestead and two police cars from the City of Doral.
- In 2019, recommended and added to our list of legislative priorities for a west-side traffic calming rotunda.
- In 2019, introduced the "Top-Cop" award and it was presented to Officer Riveron in August 2019.

El Portal, I mention this to you as a reminder of my commitment to the safety and well-being of each of you!

In addition, at the January 2020 Council Meeting, Officer Angel Otero was sworn-in as the newest member of our El Portal Police Department and our Village Family.



As we continue to work on mitigating speeding throughout the Village, the Public Safety Committee recommended to Council the purchase of two vehicular radar speed detection devices (as seen below) - as such, Resolution 2019-12 was presented and passed at the October 22, 2019, Regular Council Meeting, authorizing the use of Police forfeiture funds to purchase 2 speed detection devices, these speed detection devices are mobile. They were first placed on NE 87th Street between NE 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue.



Mayor (cont. from page 3)

As mentioned in my 2019 State of Village, my 2020 priorities include a roadmap to resiliency, and innovation for El Portal; in other words a three to five to a ten year plan, to include:

- Following through with the Septic-to-Sewer Phase 1.
- A village-wide cost analysis breakdown for the conversion of Septic to Sewer.
- Establish an El Portal resident-based Resiliency & Sustainability Task Force Committee - can help establish the Little River Compact Initiative.
- Maximize the benefit of Bright Line Railway for our residents as a result of my May 2019 meeting with Aileen Boucle, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).
- Ensure proper management and smart development of the Sanctuary, the annexed area, and the Little Farm.
- Better branding/identification of the Village of El Portal through improved signage at entrance points, bus benches, parks and future development.

As a reminder always visit our website: elportalvillage.com for regular updates, and do not hesitate to reach out to me at 305 778-4199 or mayorcubillos@villageofelportal.org.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos
Planning and Zoning Chair
Public Safety Chair
<http://elportalvillage.com/officials/mayor/>

“Communication creates connection - it creates a stronger sense of community, and it creates progress regardless of the resources available to us and our long-list of differences that so often mistakenly divide us.”
Mayor Cubillos

THE 2020 US CENSUS IS HERE YOUR RESPONSE MATTERS.

Councilperson Roman hosted an informative 2020 Census Town Hall with Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bovo on Saturday, February 29th. Commissioner Bovo shared dates and information that the Council and Staff would like your help in sharing with your neighbors.



- Get informed: This is the most important. Share the information with your neighbors and participate.
- By March 12, 2020, every home should have received an invitation addressed to the head of household to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.
- For the first time ever the [#census2020](https://www.census.gov/2020census) will be available online to complete. Libraries throughout Miami-Dade will be opened and available for those who need access to computers. If you do not wish to complete it online and you have not received the form by mail you may request it by contacting the Census Bureau Customer Service at: 800-923-8282 or 301-763-INFO (4636.)
- March 12 is the first day you will be able to complete the survey.
- Please note that Social Security information is NOT asked for on the Census form. If you receive a form that says Census and is asking for Social Security information do not complete it and throw it out.
- If you live somewhere for 9 months out of the year then that's your address.
- Every child counts...parents do not



forget to put all of your children down including babies.

- Undocumented do not have to fear.
- Census staff and volunteers will begin knocking on doors on April 1st. They will only knock on doors of those who have not yet completed the Census. Avoid the knock on the door and complete your Census by April 1st.
- The Bureau's various censuses and surveys help allocate over \$400 billion in federal funds every year - it helps states, local communities, and businesses make informed decisions.
- The information provided by the census informs decisions on where to build and maintain schools, hospitals, transportation infrastructure, roads and highways, and police and fire departments. The census can shape many different aspects of your community.
- The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.
- The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.
- It's also in the Constitution: Article 1, Section 2, mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the

Continued on page 5

Census (cont. from page 4)

- country has counted its population since 1790.
- Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau.
 - Your privacy matters. **Every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.** When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.
 - The census is sealed for **72 years** because of life expectancy.
 - A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community.

Setting the Record Straight:

- **Does the 2020 Census ask about citizenship status?**
 - o **NO.** The 2020 Census does not ask whether you or anyone in your home is a U.S. citizen.
- **Are non-citizens counted in the census?**
 - o **YES.** Everyone counts. The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the country, including non-citizens. [Learn more about who should be counted when you complete the 2020 Census.](#)
- **Can my answers be shared with law enforcement or used against me?**
 - o **NO.** The law prevents the Census Bureau from sharing your information with law enforcement. Your answers cannot be used to impact your eligibility for government benefits. Your answers are only used to create statistics about our country. The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to protect your personal information and keep it strictly confidential. That’s every answer, to every question.

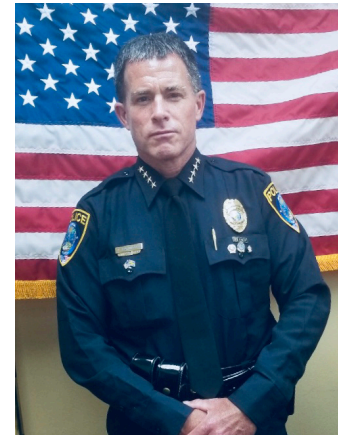
If you have a question, not addressed here or see false information about the 2020 Census or the U.S. Census Bureau, please contact: rumors@census.gov.



Our goal is 100% for the Village of El Portal. Help us get every household in our Village counted.

EL PORTAL'S CHIEF OF POLICE

In recent months I have heard the concerns about speeders in a variety of neighborhoods in El Portal. Your police department takes speeding, and all types of traffic enforcement, very seriously. But more so, we hear the concerns of the citizens first and foremost.



As illustrated on the monthly statistical sheets that are posted to the website, if you refer to December 2019, you will find that your police department wrote 555 traffic tickets in 2019. In greater research I have found that “speeding tickets” did not make up a large portion of these 555 tickets.

In the interim, through law enforcement forfeiture funds, we were able to purchase a speed measuring device that gauges speed and the amount of traffic coming through the given area we are studying. We have recently measured the speeds on NE 87 Street from NE 2 to 4 Avenue. We were able to determine how many people went over the posted 30 mph along with a peak speed of the speeder. Keep in mind, a speeder will also be someone going 31 mph. That being said, as we work with the new equipment, we can adjust for a leeway speed of perhaps 5 mph, which means the equipment will tally anything over 35 mph.

What was interesting in our initial study was that between 0700-1630 hours, on a Tuesday, there were a total of 2,212 cars. Of those 2,212 cars, 285 cars were found to travel over 30 mph. This is 12.8 %. But keep in mind, had I set the lee way to pick up anything beyond 35 mph. those numbers would be far less. The highest speed captured was 46 mph. But that was an outlier. The previous highest peak speeds came, on average of 40 mph.

This new equipment is so great. We will be able to learn a lot from the studies we put forth and from there maximize our efforts to stop speeders. That being said, we have addressed speeding on NE 2 Avenue. Our numbers for ticketing speeders have already by-passed tickets for speeding given in 2019 or 2018. We have already written nine (9) speeding related tickets thus far through mid-February.

Continued on page 6

Police Chief (cont. from page 5)

Our speeding tickets have come on NE 2 Avenue and along NE 87 Street. Of the nine (9) speeders, none were residents of El Portal.

Our new equipment will also allow us to compare when we have it in a sleep mode (where it is still picking up information) minus having your speed posted and again when the speed you are driving is posted. My theory is that when a driver sees his/her speed to be in excess of the limit, they quickly slow down. Hence, this will be a strategy moving forward.

In attention to speeders, we have also focused upon the reckless drivers along NW 5 Avenue who have been doing donuts in the intersections all the way up through Miami Shores/Miami-Dade County jurisdiction on NW 5 Avenue. The complaints and activities have slowed down recently due to our police agency's various surveillances, high visibility, well-placed arrests, and a number of tickets written. We have also reached out to Miami-Dade County Police with our information so that they may assist us, moving forward, should it come down to it.

This will continue to be a point of investigation for us. My thinking is that we may be watching, and you may not see us, but if you recklessly drive (beyond speeding), we will arrest you and confiscate your mode of transportation. We just are not going to put up with reckless and dangerous behavior.

So as you can see, a lot of 2020, thus far, has been focused upon traffic related issues. I would ask all of you to remain vigilant for all other types of crimes and suspicious activity as it occurs.

Remember: Call Police first; post on social media afterwards!

COUNCILPERSON VIMARI ROMAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS & PUBLIC WORKS CHAIR

Wow, hard to believe that we have entered March and that the official first day of Spring is Thursday, March 19, 2020

I trust you have gotten a great start to this new decade and the first quarter of 2020. I've heard from several people that they feel the energy has shifted in 2020 and that so far it is much lighter and friendlier. I am hoping that it continues and that all of us have an extraordinary year.



As a reminder, our 6 committee meetings are very important as this is where most of the business discussions take place. As a resident if you would like to have input, bring your concerns and ideas to the Council then these are the appropriate meetings to do so. Your attendance is welcomed and appreciated. **Please visit our website: elportalvillage.com for up to date times and dates of our committee meetings.**

PUBLIC WORKS:

New Staff: The Village Manager has hired a new Public Works Staff, Angel Hernandez whose first day was January 23, 2020. We welcome Mr. Hernandez to the Village of El Portal. In the short time that he has been here we have seen a difference in the department.

Septic to Sewer Project is still in the works. The Village Council passed the easement agreement with Miami-Dade School Board at the October 22, 2019 Council Meeting. The Village is attempting to finalize the negotiations with Pennoni Engineers so that we can move forward with completing the remaining 8% of the project.

CDGB grant funding request was made of Miami-Dade County for road construction related to the stormwater improvement project. The Village received \$157,000 and the Village Manager and our Project Consultant, Robert Ruano are meeting with Miami-Dade County Public Housing & Community Development staff to review the requirements and finalize an agreement. The Village is in good standing on the process of this project.

El Jardin stormwater outfall project alternate designs passed at the January 7, 2020 Village Council Meeting. The new design has been approved by FDEP. The Village is in good standing on this process of this project.

C7 Canal at N. Miami Avenue Construction: Miami-Dade County has started the work on North Miami Avenue to repair the bridge. A community meeting was held at the Village Hall on Dec 18, 2019 to inform the residents. Miami-Dade had to remove six palm trees that the Village had planted. The County's arborist and staff came out to the Village to look for relocation places but were unable to replant the palms. This construction will take approximately twelve months or more to complete. At its completion the County has promised to work with the

Continued on page 7

Public Affairs (cont. from page 6)

Village in identifying, planting and maintaining landscaping on the medians that will be appealing and welcoming to the Village.

FPL Street Lighting Pilot Program: The Village Manager is in communications with FPL regarding this program. Presently the Village has 151 FPL light posts and all lights are high pressure sodium, with no LED lights. FPL is proposing a light plan for the Village of El Portal that will reduce power consumption by replacing all the lights with LED lights. We do not have a set date yet from FPL as to when the conversion will begin.

Parks: The Manager is currently reviewing the five El Portal parks, and their need for renovations/refreshing's and is reviewing proposals.

Little Free Library #1257: For it's 5th anniversary, Mayor Cubillos donated a new Little Free Library structure to the Village of El Portal. El Portal's Little Free Library #1257 was first unveiled on February 14, 2015. Nicole Soden, our artist is currently designing and painting it and we hope to unveil late spring. Our Little Free Library will be moved to the opening of the Tot Lot; the Village Manger is working on the landscaping plans.

Neat Streets Matching Tree Grant: The Village of El Portal, once again through our grant's consultant, Robert Ruano was awarded a matching tree grant from Neat Streets Miami. This cycle will provide for 37 trees to be planted in various location in the Horace Mann Middle School and West side of the Village that will create a "Green Route to the School". The Village Manager will be meeting with Arbor Day Foundation's Community Canopy Program in February to discuss additional tree opportunities for Spring 2020.

2020 Tree Advisory Board Appointments: A resolution of the Village of El Portal Council was approved and passed appointing the 2020 Tree Advisory Board effective February 25, 2020. The Board is scheduled to meet once a quarter and the appointment to the Tree Advisory Board are made as follows:

- Chair of the Board: Councilperson Vimari Roman
- Members:
- Hugh Gladwin
- Adam Old
- Blair Walker
- Fernando Vazquez
- Amy Lebrun
- Congratulations to the 2020 Board!

The Tree Advisory Board will have their first official meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 6pm in the Village Hall.

Village of El Portal Transportation Shuttle and Transit Pilot Program:

The Village Manager is working with Miami-Dade County's CITT and TPO regarding use of the Village's surtax and CITT funds to utilize a pilot program for the Village residents to have free shuttle transportation access to and from Virgin/Brightline train station in downtown Miami. This pilot program was set to start November 2019 but has been pushed back by the County to early 2020.

HOME OF THE MONTH:

Congratulations to our Home of the Month winners for September 2019!

450 NW 91ST Street – Home of Shera Hanspal and Manvir Dhanjal



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Public Affairs (cont. from page 7)

Congratulations to our Home of the Month Christmas decoration winners for 2019! They all received Home Depot Gift Cards.

1st Place: \$150 - 485 NW 87th Street – Eric & Casaundra Sweet



2nd Place: \$100 - 315 NE 88th Street – Gergory Walton & Marcos Andreos

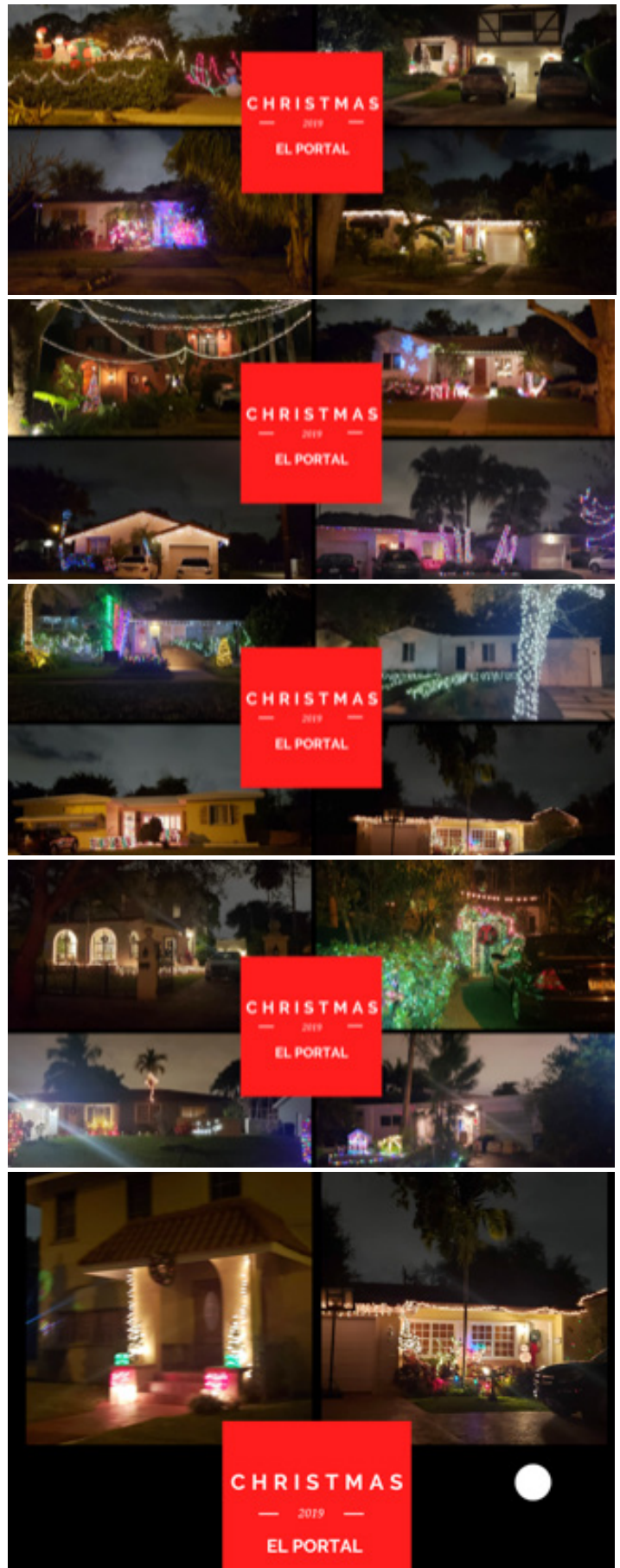


3rd Place: \$50 - 295 NE 88th Street – Robert Ventura & Victor Ospina



Congratulations to the three winners and thank you for participating!

The Committee would like to also recognize the following homes and thank them for contributing to the holiday spirit by decorating their homes:



Public Affairs (cont. from page 8)

Hopefully, we didn't miss any homes. We look forward to having many more homes participate in the upcoming 2020 holidays.

Due to vacancies on the committee we did not award a Jan or Feb Home of the Month. We will resume in March.

Committee Chair Needed: Are you a resident that is passionate about landscaping and architecture or just someone that wants to volunteer to their community? The Home of the Month Committee is in search of a Committee Chair. If interested, please email Councilperson Vimari Roman at vroman@villageofelportal.org.

Home of the Month Objective: Provide recognition to residents who have improved the exterior of the home and/or their front yards (curb appeal).

Program Sponsored by:
Councilperson Roman

2020 Committee of Residents:
Vice-Chair: David Ward, Member: Scott Russell, Fernando Vasquez & Councilperson Vimari Roman

Residents are welcomed to join the committee. If you would like to join the Committee please email Councilperson Vimari Roman at vroman@villageofelportal.org

Nominations:
All residents who are not members of the committee can nominate themselves or a neighbor for consideration for Home of the Month. If you have a home you'd like to nominate please send the committee an email with the address and pictures if possible to ElPortalHomeoftheMonth@gmail.com. Nominations are accepted up to the 5th of every month.

Additional Home of the Month program information and pictures of all the previous winners can be found on the Village website:
<http://elportalvillage.com/archives/home-of-the-month/>

UPCOMING VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL EVENTS:

MAY: (tentatively)
-

ANNUAL ARMED FORCES 5K RUN/WALK

Date:
Saturday, May 16, race begins at 7:00 am
Location:
Village Hall, 500 NE 87th St.
Registration:
Opens March 16, 2020

Artist Call: We are looking for a Village Resident Artist who is interested in an In-Kind donation to design the 2020 T-Shirt. Please email Councilperson Roman if interested: Vroman@villageofelportal.org

Sponsors Needed: Please email Councilperson Roman if interested in Sponsoring this event at Vroman@villageofelportal.org

Volunteers for Village Events: Events require many resources and manpower. If you are interested in volunteering and offering your talents towards Village events please contact Councilperson Roman at (305)395-2536 or vroman@villageofelportal.org.

It takes a Village - get involved!

Cheers,
Vimari
Councilperson Roman
Seat #2 – Elected 2016
305-395-2536
vroman@villageofelportal.org

Celebrating a new decade with thanks!

This winter there are numerous opportunities to change your lifestyle, whether this means moving up, downsizing or just plain old investing.

If you wish to explore opportunities in your own neighborhood, or list your property, please do not hesitate to call me, I am just a phone call away!







Robbie Bell
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Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices EWM Realty
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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COUNCIL'S LEGISLATIVE AND QUASI-JUDICIAL LAND USE DECISIONS?

Over the last year or so, the Village Council has considered several land use and zoning applications. Our Village is also in the process of considering the Cristo Rey High School and Kavista Residential Apartments applications. As such, I thought it would be useful to provide a general discussion of the Village Council's differing roles in the land use decision-making process.

Most people think of the Village Council simply as a legislative body that is responsible for the Village's taxation, ordinances, procurement, public works, public safety and finance. However, when the Village Council considers and makes planning and zoning decisions. Those decisions are either legislative or quasi-judicial. The fundamental difference between the two categories is that the Council's legislative decisions establish policies for future application while quasi-judicial decisions are, localized in their application, affecting a particular group of citizens more acutely than the Village at large.

The Council's legislative zoning decisions have Village wide impact. For example, the Council's policy decisions during the development of a comprehensive master plan and zoning ordinances affect all of the Village's residents. Other examples include the adoption of plans, ordinances, and passing budgets. Florida Courts have determined that there are certain types of matters, including variance and special exception applications, subdivision plats, zoning code violations, and site plan review that must be treated differently from other matters considered by the Village Council. The term quasi-judicial means *court-like*. Essentially, the Council is applying existing rules and policies to a factual situation and is

therefore acting like a judge or jury in a courtroom. Therefore, the Council's proceedings must be similar to those followed in court proceedings and must follow basic standards of due process. If the Council fails to provide an applicant due process, if challenged, a court could invalidate the Council's decision.

The Council's procedures for quasi-judicial hearings are as follows:

1. Anyone who wishes to speak at the hearing must be sworn in by the Village Attorney or Clerk; and
2. The hearing shall be conducted in an informal manner, which simply means that the rules of evidence are relaxed; and
3. The Village Attorney must first reads the title of the application or item the Council will consider; and
4. The Village Staff must present a brief overview or synopsis of the application and give the Council their recommendation; and
5. The applicant is also permitted to make a presentation; and
6. The Council must provide individuals in favor of and in

7. opposition to the application and opportunity to speak; and
7. The Village Staff, Village Council and applicant may question or even cross-examine any witness; and
8. A participant may request that a member of the Village Council ask questions of a witness; and
9. The applicant and staff may make concluding remarks and no further presentation or testimony shall be permitted and the public hearing shall be closed.

All quasi-judicial decisions of the Council must be based on competent and substantial evidence presented at the hearing. All back up materials presented at the hearing will automatically become a part of the record. Finally, the Council's approval will be subject to the Village Staff's recommended conditions unless otherwise stated in the motion for approval.

Respectfully,
Norman Powell
Interim Village Attorney



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CODE COMPLIANCE

By Emir King, Code Enforcement Officer

Mission Statement

The Code Compliance Division’s mission is to uniformly and consistently enforce the Village of El Portal’s Code of Ordinances and to promote and protect the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors of El Portal.

Vision Statement

- To maintain our neighborhoods and community’s quality of life
- To enforce land development regulations and all county ordinances in a timely and equitable manner; and
- To serve the public professionally, with integrity and respect.
- The Code Compliance Division responds to complaints and monitors residential and commercial zones for code violations. The Code Compliance Division is here to help. Working together will prevent blight in our neighborhoods and throughout the Village, and further influence and enhance the quality of life in our Village.

Common Code Violations:

- Bulk Garbage/Trash being left in the right of way or openly stored prior to the Bulk Waste thecollection period.
- Garbage Bins left out past the 12-hour grace period following garbage pick-up.
- Temporary Structures being placed onto a property without a proper permit.
- Construction or Repairs being initiated without obtaining a work permit.
- Abandoned, Derelict vehicles, or vehicles under repair parked in plain view, not screened, or covered **completely** with a vehicle tarp

- Recreational vehicles (Trailers, Boats, RV’s) being parked in the front setback and not screened from view behind a fence or hedge for more than 24 hours.
- Any wood, siding, shingles, roof covering, railings, fences, walls, ceilings, porches, doors, windows and screens, and other exterior parts of a structure must be maintained in a clean, weather tight, sound condition and in good repair.
- Animal Waste not being collected and disposed of by pet owner.
- Contractor work being done after 7pm, or on Sundays and Holidays. Construction or repair work is only permitted **Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm!**
- Failure to renew home Alarm Permits. If cited an immediate fine of \$100.00 will be assessed in addition to the normal permit fee.
- Overgrown lots (Hedges, Grass, Weeds etc.) including properties the about a right of way where vegetation (Bushes, Shrubbery, Plants,) overgrows said right of way causing a traffic obstruction.

If you receive a code violation:

Take prompt action to correct the violation. If you are not sure what needs to be corrected, how to correct it, or if you are working toward correcting the violation, but need additional time due to special circumstances, it is important that you call the Code Compliance Officer to discuss your issues. In most cases, additional time will be provided if the individual circumstances warrant such an extension. Failure to correct violations may result in a case proceeding to the Special Magistrate with the potential for fines being levied; costs incurred being charged and a lien being placed against the property. The Code Compliance Officer is of-

ten out in the field throughout the day, but will return voice mails and emails as soon as possible.

Don’t forget your Permit!

Avoid Code violations and fines by following our simple guidelines for obtaining a Building permit for construction. **Don’t start work without your permit card!**

Work That Requires Building Permits:

- Pavers /Slabs /Driveways
- Fences
- Patios and Covered Terraces
- Pergolas and Trellises
- Repair/Replacement of Windows/ Doors
- Sheds
- Screen Enclosures
- Shutters
- Pools, Spas and Decks
- Temporary Structures (Tents, Garbage Dumpsters, Moving Pods etc.)
- Additions and Interior Renovations (e.g. moving walls, electrical outlets, kitchen and bathroom remodels, etc.)
- Roofing Repairs and Reroof
- Electrical repairs and modifications
- A/C Unit Change out
- Plumbing repairs and modifications
- Septic work
- If you are starting a project and are not sure if a permit is required, please contact the Village of El Portal Building Department.

The goal of the Code Compliance Division is to gain compliance and maintain the Village of El Portal’s property maintenance standards and regulations. We do not wish to unduly penalize anyone.

Published quarterly at no cost for the Village of El Portal by Coastal Group Publications, Inc. Contact CGP at (305) 981-3503 or info@cgpnewsletters.com to advertise in one of our newsletters or to get a free newsletter for your property.

Miami Dade County League of Cities 2020 Legislative Summary

Every year we must navigate the shifting legislative sands of Tallahassee. Each legislative session presents new challenges to address and new challenges to overcome, as we collaborate to uphold Home Rule and ensure that local decisions are taken by local elected officials. As President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities (MDCLC) and Mayor of the Village of El Portal, it has been my privilege to serve the 34 municipalities of Miami-Dade County. During my tenure, I have collaborated with officials from all municipalities in advocacy of our collective interests. I have witnessed the colorful mosaic of cities, towns, and villages that allows us to draw on the strength of our unique diversity and harmonize our voices into one powerful force. It is in this spirit of unity that we must resolutely voice our legislative positions, positions which are expressed and outlined in this year's Legislative Action Agenda. In tandem with the Florida League of Cities and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the MDCLC has focused on the key developments emerging on the state level that are most likely to have an adverse effect on our communities. This year's League agenda is to serve as the framework for each municipality to continue to promote and protect Home Rule and ensure that we all speak with one united voice.

In closing, let it be our ode to shared resourcefulness and a true, joint effort made towards attaining greater resiliency - not just in our respective cities, towns, or villages, but in our Miami Dade County!

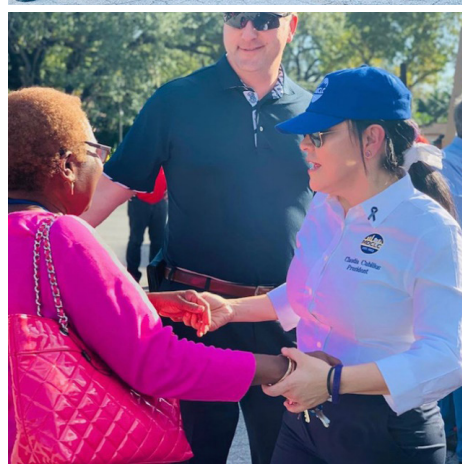
Yours in Service,
President Claudia V. Cubillos, Village of El Portal Mayor, 2014-Present



MDCLC President Cubillos and Vice President Hardemon attended the 5G Diversity Conference at Ericsson in Plano, Texas.



2019 ANNUAL MIAMI DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES TURKEY GIVEAWAY HELD IN EL PORTAL



Continued on page 13

MDCLC (cont. from page 12)



Kick off for World AIDS Day on behalf of Empower U organization. This event was hosted by City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and El Portal Mayor & President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Claudia Cubillos.



Mayor Cubillos, always supports local shops and restaurants! In December, she hosted her monthly MDCLC Board of Directors Meeting at Sherwood Bistro with over 130 members!



MDCLC Annual Toy Giveaway at Holtz Children's Hospital



Continued on page 14

MDCLC (cont. from page 13)



OUR COMMUNITY

As a Military Wife and Education Entrepreneur, Mayor Cubillos volunteers in a wide variety of organizations that benefit: veterans, seniors and the youth



Shout out to the Miami Dolphins Foundation and Rebuild Together Florida for taking care of our U.S. Veterans! This year they have painted and refurbished over 80 Veteran's homes in Miami-Dade County, of which 2 of those homes have been in our beautiful village. If you are a veteran or know of a veteran living in El Portal, please email the Mayor at: mayorcubillos@villageofelportal.org



For more than 12 years, empowering, educating and mentoring the next generation of leaders is the driving force behind Mayor Cubillos' passion.



Mayor Cubillos and Celeste (troop mom) arranged a Q&A session for the Boy Scouts from Pack 305 with El Portal's Chief Magnusson.

Office of the Mayor El Portal, Florida

Proclamation - Citizen of the Year HUGH GLADWIN

WHEREAS, the Citizen of the Year award is given in recognition of exceptional community service and volunteerism in an effort to make our Village - The Village Of El Portal the greatest place to work, live and play for generations to come; and **WHEREAS**, the Citizen of the Year shows commitment, support, respect, leadership, responsibility, a positive attitude, cooperation, and honesty; and **WHEREAS**, the Citizen of the Year consistently provides a positive image for the El Portal community, promotes the general welfare of the community and is committed to the greater good; and

WHEREAS, this year's Citizen of Year, is the Honorable Hugh Gladwin; a resident of the Village of El Portal since 1983; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Hugh Gladwin, a Professional Anthropologist, who worked at Florida International University, and was elected Village of El Portal Councilman in 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Hugh Gladwin, a key member of the Village of El Portal's 2014-2016 Tree Board; the 2011 Architecture, Landscape and Environmental Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Hugh Gladwin, in 2006 was appointed by County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson to represent the Village of El Portal on the County's Environmental Public Task Force Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Hugh Gladwin's, expertise during the aforementioned timeframe, contributed to El Portal's participation in the South Florida Regional Planning Council, resulting in funding for the "Revitalizing South Florida Urban Core" whereby identifying the Little River as a key feature, uniting neighboring communities, and; whereby, he identified and proposed that NE 87th Street needed adverse traffic calming, resulting in the tree planting and sidewalks El Portal now has; and, whereby this successful collaboration paved the way and contributed to El Portal's 2013 charrette, and; whereby leading to the Village of El Portal's current urban code; and

WHEREAS, these contributions have been identified as key components leading to the betterment of the Village of El Portal; therefore; and

WHEREAS, during the week of October 21-27, 2019 Florida City Government Week, the time to honor and recognize a citizen who has selflessly volunteered their expertise and time for the betterment of the Village; and

WHEREAS, during that week the Honorable Hugh Gladwin, was selected; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL, FLORIDA:

That the Honorable Hugh Gladwin is hereby selected and honored as Citizen of the Year of the Village of El Portal for 2019, in recognition of his many accomplishments and valuable contributions; and that the Mayor and Village Council of El Portal hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements and contributions; and does hereby express its heartfelt appreciation to the Honorable Hugh Gladwin.

PROCLAIMED and dated this the 19th of November 2019.



Office of the Mayor El Portal, Florida

Proclamation Tracy Young

WHEREAS, Tracy Young, an El Portal resident since 2016, is a pioneer for women in the music industry with over 60 #1 Billboard Club Chart Hits in her almost 3-decades long career, and;

WHEREAS, in this male-dominated world of DJ-ing, Record Remixing and Producing, Tracy Young has recently broken a glass ceiling, and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young has collaborated on remixes with over 100 great artists of our time, to include, but not limited to: Britney Spears, Beyonce, Stevie Nicks, Christina Aguilera, Gloria Estefan, Katy Perry, Demi Lovato, Cher, Shakira, Pink, Rhianna, Lady Gaga, and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young exclusively collaborated on 14 remixes for and with Madonna, whereby and which for she has been nominated for a 2019 Grammy Award, and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young, the first female artist to ever be nominated in the category of "Best Remixed Recording" since its inception in 1998, despite her having been eligible in previous years, and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young's Grammy Award

Nomination is for her original remix recording of Madonna's "I Rise" (Tracy Young's Pride Radio Intro Mix) off of her Madame X Album., and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young is a fearless advocate for LGBTQI and women's rights and she is proud to be part of this history-making moment and the legacy it will leave, and whereby, she is forever-grateful for the support of powerful women early in her career, and;

WHEREAS, given the opportunity to work with First Lady Michelle Obama on her 'This is for my Girl's' song which was written by Diane Warren

Tracy Young (cont. from page 15)

and featured Kelly Clarkson, Missy Elliot, among others, and whereby Tracy’s official remix of this single saw all proceeds from U.S. iTunes purchases go to the ‘Peace Corps Let Girls Learn Fund,’ and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young, who told Billboard Magazine of this dance tune—dubbed the ‘Tracy Young First Lady Remix Edit’: “Peace, education, love, respect, and all in the name of impacting women on a global scale - what could be better than this?” And;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young, right after high school, started her DJ career at a time when female DJ’s were almost unheard of; but even so she quickly rose up the ranks, from Mix Show DJ to Music Director on WPGC 95.5 FM in Washington DC, and;

WHEREAS, and thereafter it was Interscope Records that brought her to Miami, FL whereby she met Madonna in the mid-’90’s, and;

WHEREAS, this was Tracy Young’s tipping point, whereby her impressionable talent, undeniable skill, and empowering enthusiasm led her to being hired by this Music Legend to perform at her movie premieres, album releases, and even her wedding, and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Young, bestowed with Madonna’s “stamp of approval” and unprecedented talent has inspired

collaboration with other top performing artists, and; **WHEREAS**, Tracy Young, is now the top ‘go-to’ remixer and DJ; she has become a global electronic music celebrity – is in high demand in the LGBTQI Community for her live performances at various Pride events worldwide, and; **WHEREAS**, Tracy Young, Composer, DJ, Producer, and Remixer has completed 7 musical compilations on her own label, FEROSH Records and ‘Officially Remixed” for over 100+ musical artists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL, FLORIDA:

That, El Portal Resident, musical artist Tracy Young, is hereby honored with the Key to our Village in recognition of her accomplishments and groundbreaking honor that will hopefully inspire future generations of female Producers/Remixers in this field. The Mayor and Village Council of El Portal hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements, and also do hereby

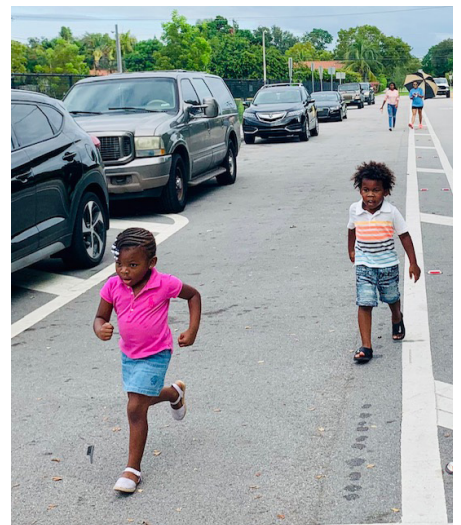
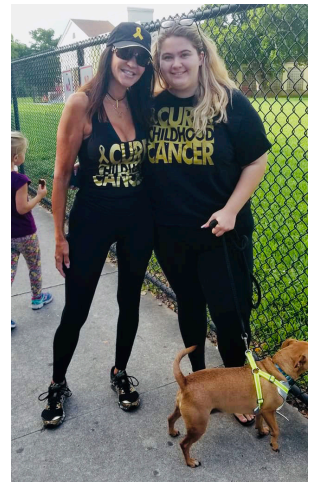
PROCLAIM the 17th of December, 2019, as:

***TRACY YOUNG DAY
in El Portal, Florida.***



EL PORTAL'S COLORS OF CANCER WALK

'Community leadership is the courage, creativity, and capacity to inspire participation, development, and sustainability for strong communities.' El Portal's Colors of Cancer Walk hosted by Mayor Cubillos and Miami Garden's Vice Mayor Felicia Robinson





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