



CITY OF DORAL

Office of the City Manager

Letter to Council

No. LTC# 004-2025

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Zeida Sardiñas
City Manager

Date: February 24, 2025

Subject: **Building Official Transition**

This Letter to Council (LTC) serves to provide an update on the Building Department's Building Official transition.

I am pleased to share exciting news regarding our Building Department's leadership. We have successfully recruited an outstanding professional to join our team.

Ms. Linda S. Blanco, CBO, CFM, MCP, will be joining the City as our new Building Official/Floodplain Administrator. This appointment follows Ms. Jane Decker's, CBO, AIA, CFM, dedicated service in this interim role from November 18, 2024, through February 24, 2025, while maintaining her position as Building Director.

Ms. Blanco's appointment represents our commitment to maintaining the Building Department's tradition of excellence. Her impressive credentials and extensive experience align perfectly with our goals of delivering superior customer service, ensuring consistent and fair building code interpretation, and fostering continuous professional development among our staff.

This transition complies with City Ordinance Sec. 2-7 and falls within my delegated authority as City Manager. I am confident that Ms. Blanco's leadership will further strengthen our Building Department's capabilities and service to our community. Her attached resumé highlights the exceptional qualifications she brings to this role.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Blanco to our City team.

Professional Experience

May 2024 – Present

Miami-Dade County RER Board and Code Administration Senior Code Officer

- Provide technical support to all Miami-Dade County building officials, plans examiners and inspectors. This includes municipal visits with BORA certified personnel as per the established SOP.
- Provide technical information and recommendations to the Miami-Dade County Board of Rules and Appeals
- Registration, certification, recertification and decertification of construction enforcement personnel
- Participation in the Florida Building Commission process and appointment to the Administrative Technical Advisory Committee
- Training and testing of building inspectors, plans examiners and building officials
- Conducting studies and investigations to recommend appropriate revisions to the Building Code and to keep abreast of new developments in building design, construction, and standards

February 2024 – May 2024

ECS Florida LLC Third Party Group Manager

- Supervise inspections and plan reviews pursuant to F.S. 553.791
- Insure that code compliance reviews are conducted pursuant to F.S. 553.791
- Oversee the inspection of buildings and improvements pursuant to F.S. 553.791

July 2015 – February 2024

City of Homestead Development Services Department Building Official

- Supervise inspection, plan review and permitting staff
- Insure that code compliance reviews are conducted for development projects
- Oversee the inspection of buildings and improvements within the City
- Serves on the Emergency Management Team and coordinates disaster assessment.
- Represents the interest of the City to the Miami-Dade County Board of Rules and Appeals
- Responsible for review and oversight of the City of Homestead Floodplain Management Regulations

Linda S. Blanco

March 2015 – July 2015

City of Homestead Public Works & Engineering Department Assistant Director

- Assists in planning and directing department activities.
- Serves as Public Works Project Manager for Capital Improvement projects.
- Reviews and analyzes reports, plans and specifications submitted prepared by consultants for competitive bidding to ensure compliance with prescribed standards and regulations.
- Management of assigned personnel.
- Prepares and maintains construction reports, records and correspondence.
- Responsible for review and oversight of construction pay applications, change order requests and direct purchase order requests.

March 2014 – March 2015

City of Miami Beach Building Department Assistant Building Director

- Assists in planning and directing department activities.
- Serves as the City's Building Official in the absence of the Building Director/Official.
- Reviews and analyzes budgets, reports, plans and specifications submitted from department staff and consultants to ensure compliance with prescribed standards and regulations.
- Instructs, trains, and evaluates the work of assigned personnel.
- Prepares and maintains reports, records and correspondence.
- Interprets regulations and standards and disseminates advice by responding to in-person and telephone inquiries from interested parties.
- Speaks at civic meetings on subjects such as, but not limited to, Building Department processes, policies and procedures, citizen outreach.

March 2012 – March 2014

City of Miami Beach Building Department Quality Assurance Coordinator

- Assists in planning and directing department activities.
- Assigns subordinates to investigate and resolve complaints received regarding alleged code violations. •
- Serves as the City's Building Official in the absence of the Building Director/Official.
- Reviews and analyzes budgets, reports, plans and specifications submitted from department staff and consultants to ensure compliance with prescribed standards

Linda S. Blanco

and regulations.

- Instructs, trains, and evaluates the work of assigned personnel.
- Prepares and maintains reports, records and correspondence.
- Interprets regulations and standards and disseminates advice by responding to in-person and telephone inquiries from interested parties.
- Give presentations at civic meetings on subjects such as, but not limited to, Building Code issues, clean streets, minimum housing, maintenance standards, noise abatement, and abandoned buildings.

August 2011 – March 2012

Village of Pinecrest Building and Planning Department Permit Clerk

- Permit intake and issuance
- Inspection scheduling
- Plans Processing
- Records maintenance and retrieval
- Cashiering

September 2010 – August 2011

City of Coral Gables Building and Zoning Department Plans Processor/Special Projects

- Expert level in Microsoft Office applications – Excel, Word, Outlook, Power Point, etc.
- Expert level in EDEN software application.
- Collate data and develop reports used as management tools that monitor departmental performance objectives.
- Evaluate FY revenues and expenditures to project budget requirements. Monitor cost and asset allocations as well as ensuring optimization of resources.
- Special projects as assigned by the Department Director..

November 1991 – August 2010 Plans Processor / Threshold Coordinator

City of Coral Gables Building and Zoning Department

- Coordinates Building Department activities with other divisions, departments and agencies.
- Applies knowledge of applicable codes and laws to parcels of land and structures for compliance.

Linda S. Blanco

- Researches, interprets and explains code requirements and methods of compliance to property owners, contractors, business owners and others.
- Management of all threshold building projects and alternative plan review and inspection projects conducted in the City of Coral Gables.

August 1988 – November 1991 Assistant to the Public Works Director

City of Coral Gables Public Works Department

- Coordinates Public Works activities with other divisions, departments and agencies.
- Applies knowledge of right-of-way construction standards, easements and utilities to review permit applications and plans.
- Review and manage subdivision improvements as per City Code.
- Management of administrative personnel..
- Participate in special projects and programs as assigned.

Education

- UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI – CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering

Licensing

- Engineer Intern
- Certified General Contractor CGC059880
- Standard Inspector BN2982
 - BLDG
 - COMM ELEC
 - PLMBG
 - MECH
- Standard Plans Examiner PX1392
 - BLDG
 - PLMBG
 - MECH
- Certified Building Official BU1828

Certifications

- ASFPM Certified Flood Plain Manager US-13-07114

Linda S. Blanco

- ICC Certifications
 - Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner
 - Building Inspector
 - Building Plans Examiner)
 - Certified Building Code Official
 - Certified Building Official
 - Certified Mechanical Code Official
 - Certified Plumbing Code Official
 - Commercial Combination Inspector
 - Commercial Electrical Inspector
 - Commercial Energy Inspector
 - Commercial Energy Plans Examiner
 - Green Building Residential Examiner
 - Master Code Professional
 - Mechanical Inspector
 - Mechanical Plans Examiner
 - Permit Technician
 - Plumbing Inspector
 - Plumbing Plans Examiner
 - Residential Energy Inspector/Plans Examiner
 - Zoning Inspector
- International Accreditation Services (IAS) Lead Evaluator – Building Department Accreditation Team

Interests/Other

- Air Force Reserves – Honorable Discharge
- President, Greater Miami Chapter, Florida Women in Government, 1996 – 1998
- Membership Chairman, Florida Women in Government, 1999 – 2001
- Treasurer, South Florida Building Officials Association, 2006-2008
- Vice President, South Florida Building Officials Association, 2008-2009
- Building Official of the Year , SFBOA, 2007
- Presidents Award, SFBOA 2008
- Girl Scout Troop leader 2005 - 2019