

# Personal Letters of Support

Updated 10-30-15

(Letters received after 10-22-15 are highlighted in yellow)

## Federal Elected

U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart

U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

## State Elected

Senator Jack Latvala, Chair, Senate Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee on Appropriations

State Representative Jose Felix Diaz, District 116; Vice Chair Miami-Dade Delegation

## Academic Partners

Broward College – President J. David Armstrong, Jr.

Florida International University - Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg, President

Florida International University, - Mohamad Alkadry, Ph.D., Director, Master of Public Administration Program & Professor, Department of Public Administration

Miami Dade College – Dr. Rolando Montoya, College Provost

Shaoming Cheng, Ph.D., Associate Professor, FIU Department of Public Administration

Steve Sauls, former Vice President of Governmental Relations, Florida International University

Thomas Gustafson, J.D., Director, Research Programs, Office of Finance & Administration, Florida International University

## Economic Development / Business Partners

Economic Development Board of Palm Beach County – Kelly Smallridge, President and CEO

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance – Bob Swindell, President & CEO; Ron Drew, Senior VP, Marketing and Communications

Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce – Anne T. Hotte, CEO & Executive Director

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce – Barry E. Johnson, President & CEO

The Broward Workshop – Kareen Boutros, Executive Director

Carla L. Coleman, Florida Director, Urban Land Institute

## **Municipal Partners**

Florida League of Cities – Michael Sittig, Executive Director

Florida Redevelopment Association - Carol Westmoreland, Executive Director

## **Transportation Partners**

Broward MPO – Gregory Stuart, Executive Director

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority – Jack L. Stephens, Executive Director

## **National Partners**

Denver Regional Council of Governments – Jennifer Schaufele, Executive Director

Metropolitan Area Planning Council – Marc D. Draisen, Executive Director

Metropolitan Council – Mark E. Vander Schaaf, Regional Planning Director

## **Additional Recommendations – State, Community-Based, Nonprofit**

79<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Initiative – Ron Butler, Executive Director

Antonio Fins – Sun-Sentinel Editorial Board Editor 2006 – 2012; Editorial Board Member 2002 - 2012

Broward Alliance for Neighborhood Development – Bonnye Deese, Executive Director

Charles G. Pattison, Policy Director, 1000 Friends of Florida

Florida Housing Coalition – Jaimie A. Ross, President & CEO

Good Government Initiative – Katy Sorenson, President & CEO

Jon Van Arnam, Deputy County Administrator

Jorge Guerra, E.D., Vice President of Business Development & Operations, eWorkx, Inc. ( former Executive Director of Workforce Education and Partnerships for Miami Dade College)

Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida – Arden Shank, President & CEO

New Urban Development / An Affiliate of the Urban League of Greater Miami – Oliver L. Gross, President

Norman E. Taylor and Associates – Norman E. Taylor, Managing Partner

CHAIRMAN  
Subcommittee on the  
Middle East & North Africa

Subcommittee on  
Western Hemisphere

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

[www.house.gov/roslehtinen](http://www.house.gov/roslehtinen)  
[www.youtube.com/ileanaroslehtinen](http://www.youtube.com/ileanaroslehtinen)



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**  
27TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

PLEASE RESPOND TO:  
2206 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515 0927  
(202) 225-3931  
FAX: (202) 225 5620  
<http://www.house.gov/roslehtinen>

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
4960 SW 72 AVENUE  
SUITE 208  
MIAMI, FL 33155  
(305) 668 2285  
FAX: (305) 668 5970

October 26, 2015

Executive Committee and Board of  
the South Florida Regional Council  
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140  
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Dear Executive Committee and Board Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my support of Isabel Cosio Carballo for the position of Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Council. I first met Isabel when she was working in the Florida Legislature nearly 25 years ago. She proved herself to be an intelligent, capable, and resourceful individual who is willing to work hard to accomplish her goals.

During her time working for the Council, Isabel has collaborated with my office on numerous public policy initiatives and legislation. She is a proven problem solver and has always conducted each task in a way that is both timely and comprehensive. Isabel's ability to administer and organize always stood out, as well as her skills for coalition building which have earned her much praise and commendation over the years.

Isabel's work and character are evident in her achievements throughout her career. A review of her curriculum vitae demonstrates that she is a qualified candidate for the position of Executive Director.

In accordance with all applicable rule and regulations, I would once again like to offer my most enthusiastic support of Isabel Cosio Carballo. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



# Florida House of Representatives

*Representative Jose Felix Diaz*

District 116

**District Office:**  
7901 S.W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, FL 33155  
(305) 442-6800

**Tallahassee Office:**  
400 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300  
(850) 717-5116

Email: [Jose.Diaz@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Jose.Diaz@myfloridahouse.gov)

October 23, 2015

## **VIA ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE**

South Florida Regional Council  
Board of Directors & Executive Committee Members  
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140  
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Dear Esteemed Member of the Board:

First of all, I want to thank each and every one of you for your service to our State and our region. My name is Jose Felix Diaz and I am a state representative from Miami-Dade County. I write to you today to recommend Isabel Cosio Carbello for the position of Executive Director of your distinguished Council.

I first met Isabel more than a decade ago when I was a first year lawyer at the Akerman Senterfitt law firm. At the time, my firm was working on several Developments of Regional Impact and my bosses thought it would be good for me to go to the Council's main offices in order to get to know the DRI process from within. One of my colleagues at Akerman introduced me to Isabel and she spent a great deal of her time showing me around and telling me about her amazing experiences in government. Since then, I have counted on her counsel and have come to the same realization as everyone who meets her – namely, that Isabel is a superstar!!!

Isabel is a wonderful representative of the Council everywhere she goes. Her bubbly personality, amazing grasp of big issues, and great regional experience and perspective make her uniquely fit for this position. There would be no better ambassador for the Council than Isabel and I think that her appointment to this position would inject some amazing energy and enthusiasm to a region that is the epicenter of future growth in our State.

{36455195;1} **Regulatory Affairs Committee, Chairman, Local Government Affairs Committee,  
Appropriations Committee, Government Appropriations Subcommittee**

The challenges that our region will face over the next two (2) decades are very real. It is incumbent upon all of us to make sure that our institutions are led by our best and brightest. Isabel certainly fits that mold. She is a rising star in our community and she loves what she does at the Council. I cannot think of a better person for this very, very important job.

It is for all these reasons that I wholeheartedly and without reservation nominate and support Ms. Cosio for the position of Executive Director. I wish you luck in your deliberations and hope to hear from you should you have any questions regarding this communication.

I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose Felix Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jose Felix Diaz  
State Representative



Thursday, October 29, 2015

The Board of the South Florida  
Regional Planning Council

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I recommend Isabel Cosio Carballo for the position of Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Council. I have known Isabel for almost 30 years, dating back to her years in the Florida Legislature where she worked for Congressman Diaz-Balart.

Irrespective of the position of which she has held over the years, be it a position with the State of Florida, Broward County, or the South Florida Regional Planning Council, I have found her to be a strong supporter of cities, their elected officials, and staff. Over the last 19 years at the Council, as evidenced by Eastward Ho!, the Brownfields Partnership, and HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative, Isabel has meaningfully included municipalities in regional conversations, provided counsel and technical assistance, and supported community and economic revitalization efforts.

Isabel continues to be a friend and resource to the Florida League of Cities. She has attended and served as a panel speaker at our annual conferences over the years. Isabel is a person I know we can turn to for assistance at any time. Her thoughtful approach to public policy, leadership, and genuine interest in creating and supporting collaborative partnerships that create positive outcomes for all participants, will serve the Council very well.

I hope you will seriously consider her application for the position of Executive Director. And know that we are committed to serving as a resource to the Council moving forward. Please do contact me if I may answer any questions about Ms. Cosio Carballo.

Sincerely,  
  
Michael Sittig  
Executive Director



[www.redevelopment.net](http://www.redevelopment.net)

October 28, 2015

TO: Board Members, South Florida Regional Planning Council  
FROM: Carol Westmoreland, Executive Director, Florida Redevelopment Association

Honorable Board Members:

I am writing to support Isabel Cosio Carballo for the position of Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Council. I have worked with her for over 20 years, and through that time period, we lobbied together. When I got involved with the FRA, I was glad to find that we could work together on SFRPC projects. The FRA supported and worked with the SFRPC through Isabel on Eastward Ho!, the Brownfields Partnership, and HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative. Knowing about, supporting and working on these projects helped us help our members, which was invaluable to us.

Isabel's skill set is impressive: effective leader, communicator, high energy level and an expert in relationship building. Combined with her experience with the agency, I believe she is the ideal candidate. She knows the inside and out for successful public policy discussions and decision making. She works in a constructive, positive way to overcome the challenges that are a natural part of every coalition, as coalitions are what Florida needs more than ever today. The results of her efforts have also spoken well, as a result of the relationships maintained over many years of coalitions. Isabel can get people of all kinds of backgrounds, experience and talents working together really well.

The FRA is proud to be a member of the SFRPC "coalition of partners," because of Isabel. We stand ready to assist in any way we can. Once again, I recommend her to continue and build on the foundations that she has helped the SFRPC to lay with us and other organizations like ours.

I am happy to provide more information if needed. Thank you for allowing me to register my support for her application.

Thank you,

*Carol Westmoreland, Executive Director*  
PO Box 1757, Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757  
850-701-3608

October 27, 2015

Executive Committee and  
Board of the South Florida Regional Council  
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140  
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Dear Board Members:

I very much hope you will give serious consideration to the application of Isabel Cosio-Carballo to become the next executive director of the South Florida Regional Council.

As background, I have served as the executive director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) since 2002. My agency serves as the regional land use and transportation planning agency for the 101 cities and towns in the Greater Boston region, home to 3.2 million people. Prior to 2002, I served in a number of public and private positions in the Greater Boston area, all related to land use, housing and economic development, and transportation. I was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives during the 1990s, representing parts of the city of Boston and the neighboring suburb of Brookline.

Ms. Cosio-Carballo and I have worked closely together over the past 12 years, ever since we first met at a meeting of the Alliance for Regional Stewardship in Fort Lauderdale. She is a passionate advocate for South Florida and for the value of regional collaboration across municipal and county lines. She truly recognizes the benefits that can be gained by local officials, business leaders, and community-based organizations working together to benefit the region as a whole. I have been impressed by her ability to work with all parties—regardless of their personal, professional, or political background—to forge consensus. This is clearly one of the most challenging aspects to an executive position on the regional level, and Ms. Cosio-Carballo has both the technical skills and the determination to bring people together to identify and pursue common objectives.

As you may be aware, both MAPC and SFRC received Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants from HUD several years ago. This three-year program allowed our agencies to become more closely connected and to collaborate on a number of projects. Specifically, Ms. Cosio-Carballo and other SFRC staff worked with the MAPC Data Services Department to expand and improve data services and mapping capability at your agency. This effort is a long-term project, and we are certainly ready to continue assisting SFRC in any way we can.

Ms. Cosio-Carballo and I have often discussed issues related to hiring and retention, professional development, and personnel management—issues that are critical to the success of a regional agency such as SFRC or MAPC. These issues are especially critical during the challenging budgetary times in which our agencies operate. I believe that Ms. Cosio-Carballo will work tirelessly and effectively to advance the caliber and morale of the SFRC staff. She has a great ability to make people feel heard and appreciated, and to help them to operate as a unified team.

Finally, I feel that Ms. Cosio-Carballo will be able to strengthen the funding position of SFRC through advocacy with key public leaders, private foundations, and business leaders. Over the past decade, MAPC



has diversified its sources of funding and pursued new objectives in fields such as energy, public health, and municipal collaboration. This not only benefits our member cities and towns, but also protects the agency from dependence on a single source of funds. I would be glad to share those experiences with SFRC. I know that Ms. Cosio-Carballo would be an excellent spokesperson for the agency in pursuing a more diversified base of support.

You have an excellent candidate in Ms. Cosio-Carballo, and I look forward to the prospect of working even more closely with her and with SFRC in the years to come. I wish you the best of luck in your decision-making process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 617-933-0701 or at [mdraisen@mapc.org](mailto:mdraisen@mapc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Draisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Marc D. Draisen  
Executive Director

October 29, 2015

Governing Board of the South Florida Regional Planning Council  
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140  
Hollywood, Florida 33021

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to strongly support the candidacy of Isabel Cosio Carballo for executive director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. The Council, and indeed efforts for smart regional policy, are at a crossroads in an era of tight budgets and distracted audiences. Isabel is exactly the type of leader this organization and community needs to promote effective inter-county public policy.

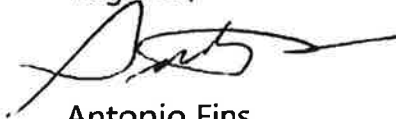
As a former editorial page editor for the South Florida Sun Sentinel, I often knocked on Isabel's door for insight and guidance on key public policy issues. Whether it was a question about local government, infrastructure or transportation, Isabel always knew the answer, or where to find it. That's no surprise given her nearly 20 years of service to the Council and to the cause of better governance for the citizens of South Florida.

She is, without a doubt, encyclopedic on issues that cut to the core of government, society and economy in the South Florida. In a place that is transient, she possesses valuable institutional knowledge – that unique experience merging where we've been with where we are and where we need to go. I have no doubt that a veteran like Isabel, with her knowledge and experience, is the best person to lead the Council today.

In addition, the Council desperately needs an executive director that can connect with the public. Too much of the Council's work today flies under the radar of the very people whose lives it is trying to improve. Isabel is articulate, both in English and Spanish. She connects with the public. I've seen her do it. She can speak at forums, public events, to the media – all to get more of a spotlight on the critical work the Council performs. The more the public understands the role of the Council, the easier it will be for the organization to drum up support for policies and funding.

As a citizen of South Florida, and one who depends on clear-cut and effective regional policy, I urge the Council to hire Isabel as the next executive director.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Fins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Antonio Fins



## eWorkx, Inc.

October 24, 2015

Executive Committee  
Board of South Florida Regional Planning Council  
3400 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, FL 33021

Dear Executive Committee,

This letter of recommendation is on behalf of Ms. Isabel Cosio Carballo for the position of Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. I have known Ms. Carballo for approximately 5 years and during this time I have known her to be a consummate professional. I believe she is prepared and well suited to take on the leadership role for the Council with fresh ideas, inexhaustible energy and a "can do" attitude.

While serving as the Executive Director of Workforce Education and Partnerships for Miami Dade College, I had the fortunate experience to work with Isabel on multiple projects including economic development initiatives and the Seven50 project. Isabel demonstrated a commitment and resolve to the success of the ventures and was relentless in the pursuit of excellence throughout.

I have the upmost confidence that Isabel will lead the Council forward by being innovative and identifying the important issues facing our community and those who have the capacity to create solutions. South Florida is at a critical crossroads facing challenges in transportation, affordable housing, environmental stresses and economic development. We require an individual who can vision the future and execute effectively; Isabel Cosio Carballo is that leader. I urge you to make her the next Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council.

Should you wish to contact me directly, please call me at 954-275-7470. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jorge Guerra*

Jorge Guerra, Ed.D.

Vice President of Business Development & Operations

October 26, 2015

TO: The South Florida Regional Council Executive Committee and Council Directors

FROM: Norman E. Taylor, Managing Partner  
Norman E. Taylor & Associates, LLC

SUBJECT: Isabel Cosio Carballo, Candidate for Executive Director, South Florida Regional Council


I am pleased to commend to your attention and consideration this letter of Ms. Isabel Cosio Carballo, who has submitted her credentials for consideration by the South Florida Regional Council for appointment as Council Executive Director.

It has been my pleasure to know and work closely with Ms. Cosio Carballo for more than twenty years. Throughout that period, she has demonstrated her ability to lead, manage, influence, and achieve results. While not the pinnacle of her career, I join hundreds of citizens, elected officials, professional colleagues in recognizing the significant role that Ms. Cosio Carballo assumed in the success of the Southeast Florida Regional Strategic Plan encompassing a set of critical analyses in a wide range of regional issues, and providing the foundation for solutions throughout the seven county region.

Ms. Carballo Cosio is an articulate and effective advocate for the range of transportation, housing, land-use, environmental and climate-change issues presented to legislative bodies ranging from the Florida Legislature to local municipalities. She has supported multi-cultural and multi-ethnic inclusion in all major discussion and planning initiatives that affect the lives and well-being of all residents in South Florida. Among these programs supported and assisted by Ms. Cosio Carballo are the Miami 79<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor [Redevelopment] Initiative, SFRC Revolving Loan Fund Program, and support for the creation of the new Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc.

I have found Ms. Cosio Carballo to be an effective negotiator who does not hesitate to lend her skills to help resolve challenging problems by finding viable solutions and ultimately successful outcomes. I believe these characteristics demonstrate the kind and quality of leadership that the South Florida Council needs to continue its successful as one of the most important agencies in our region and the State of Florida.

Given this brief statement of my professional experience in working and collaborating with Ms. Cosio Carballo, I urge your consideration of her candidacy for the position of SFRC executive director, resulting in her appointment forthwith.

  
Norman E. Taylor