



JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 04-145

WHEREAS, the Haitian-American community residing within Florida has a strong interest in the changes and events taking place in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, due to the geographic proximity of Haiti to the State of Florida, the people of Florida may experience a significant and sustained impact in the areas of immigration, healthcare, commerce and tourism as changes in Haiti occur; and

WHEREAS, the interests of the State of Florida in promoting commerce, healthcare, culture, tourism and economic development in the state are inextricably tied to the promotion of democracy and economic development among the neighboring nations of the Caribbean basin; and

WHEREAS, due to the changes and events taking place in Haiti, there exists new opportunities to make significant positive contributions to promoting democracy, security, transparency, the Rule of Law, environmental management, education, healthcare, job creation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Florida as well as local, state and national officials would benefit from receiving a broad base of information regarding developments in Haiti and their importance to the State of Florida as well as the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian-American community residing within Florida has among its members professionals, educators, business leaders and others who have unique talents and who can provide state, local and federal officials, non-profit agencies, business entities and others with information, advice, outreach and guidance regarding the most critical needs of Haiti and its people as it transitions to a stable democratic government; and

WHEREAS, the success of any efforts to aid the people of Haiti and its government will require coordination of many different groups, identification of critical needs, prioritization of efforts, collection of resources and verification of information; and

WHEREAS, there is a compelling need for identifying persons in the State of Florida who have the necessary knowledge, expertise and interest in providing such information, coordination and advice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JEB BUSH, Governor of the State of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Laws and Constitution of the State of Florida, do hereby promulgate the following executive order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

The Governor's Haiti Advisory Group ("Advisory Group") is hereby established to identify critical short-term and long-term needs of Haiti in specified areas, assess recommendations for meeting such critical needs, develop a work plan for supporting volunteers who desire to provide assistance to Haiti, act as an information liaison with Florida's communities as well as local, state and federal officials, sharing pertinent information on Haiti and US/Haiti policy, act as a clearinghouse for information on initiatives and resources available from the private and public sectors.

Section 2.

The Advisory Group will consist of 11 members appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure. Members will represent a cross-section of professionals (which may include doctors, nurses, lawyers, engineers, and scientists), business interests (which may include business leaders, bankers, and investors), academic organizations, law enforcement, human resource specialists, natural resources management and conservation experts and humanitarian organizations. To the extent that any appointees are members of the federal government, such appointees shall serve as ex officio members.

Section 3.

The Advisory Group shall focus its efforts on identifying the critical short-term and long-term needs of Haiti in the areas of: stimulating economic development and job creation; promoting infrastructure development; promoting effective management of environmental resources; strengthening Haiti's preparation for and response to natural disasters; improving healthcare; improving educational opportunities; and promoting the administration of justice and adherence to the Rule of Law, including combating corruption at all levels.

In addition to these areas, the Advisory Group is empowered to examine any other relevant issues as directed from time to time by the Governor.

The Advisory Group shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor by March 1, 2005.

#### Section 4.

The Advisory Group shall serve as an "information liaison," communicating to officials at the federal, state and local level its findings and recommendations as to the critical needs identified by the Advisory Group through a variety of means, including written reports, oral presentations and briefings coordinated through the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development and the State of Florida's Washington Liaison Office. In addition to briefing government officials, the Advisory Group shall assist in heightening awareness in Florida and the United States of the situation in Haiti and its importance to Florida and the United States.

#### Section 5.

The Advisory Group shall further identify and assess opportunities for Floridians and others who wish to provide volunteer services in Haiti, and shall prepare a directory of appropriate organizations and agencies offering, coordinating or funding such volunteer opportunities to be made available for distribution by the most efficient means identified by the Advisory Group for such purpose. In furtherance of this goal, the Advisory Group shall determine the feasibility of providing an information facility to willing volunteers, containing

relevant information such as contact information, housing information, and travel information that will facilitate the rendition of volunteer services in Haiti.

Section 6.

Members of the Advisory Group shall not receive remuneration for their services but may be compensated for travel or per diem as provided in Section 112.061, Florida Statutes, if funds are available for such purpose.

Section 7.

Administrative support to the Advisory Group shall be provided by the Executive Office of the Governor - Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development.


Section 8.

All executive agencies are directed, and all other state agencies are requested, to render such aid and assistance as needed by the Advisory Group to the end that the purposes of this Executive Order may be accomplished.

Section 9.

The Advisory Group shall continue in existence until March 1, 2005.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 14th day of July, 2004.

  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY OF STATE