

# Memorandum



**Date:** April 19, 2022

**To:** Brian May, Chairman  
Members, Cultural Affairs Council

**From:** Michael Spring, Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs

**Subject:** Proposed Candidates for At-Large Membership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

In accordance with the Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, the following is a list of three (3) proposed at-large candidates for the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council for FY 2021-2022. This at-large Cultural Affairs Council appointment shall be made by the Board of County Commissioners. In filling the vacancy, the County Commission shall select the replacement Council member from a list of three (3) candidates, recommended by the Cultural Affairs Council.

## FY 2021-2022 Proposed At-Large Candidates - Cultural Affairs Council

Kareem Brantley  
Albert E. Dotson, Jr.  
Larry Spring

### Kareem T. Brantley, CFA

Kareem T. Brantley is a 4th generation Floridian, born and raised in Miami Dade County. After graduating with an electrical engineering degree from the University of Florida, Mr. Brantley relocated to Miami after a brief stint as a software programmer. After working for FPL as a power distribution utility designer for commercial and residential developments throughout Central Miami-Dade, in 2002 Mr. Brantley began to transition into real estate development and money management. Subsequently, Mr. Brantley began working for a regional broker dealer and a local real estate brokerage firm. Completing graduate studies at FIU with a degree in finance, Mr. Brantley transitioned out of core engineering into finance and real estate development. Kareem attained a CFA Charter from the Chartered Financial Analysts Institute in 2011 (formerly the Association of Investment Management and Research). Initially beginning his real estate career building single family homes throughout South Florida in developed neighborhoods, also known as infill, he subsequently added development of multifamily properties and managing property for others to his company's capacity. Through development he forged relationships with local and out of state vendors and contractors to scale development and reduce per unit material costs, while managing labor rates. In 2009, Mr. Brantley began to form a group to acquire, renovate and operate multi-family properties in Florida and manage property for others. Mr. Brantley focused on distressed and under-performing properties in need of better management. These early experiences helped him build competencies that have added to a skill set of project implementation, project management, financial forecasting and modeling, site plan layout and design, and negotiation. In 2015, Mr. Brantley was approached by a principal at Related Urban Development Group, a division of Related Group ([www.relatedgroup.com](http://www.relatedgroup.com)), to co-develop Liberty Square, an existing

709-unit Miami-Dade public housing apartment complex in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami, Florida, into a new 1,455 unit mixed income community. Mr. Brantley's past experience was sought to contribute to the development of the multifamily and single family aspects of the project. The project has many different community service centers and programs for residents, while providing much needed new housing options for long time and new residents of the Liberty City neighborhood in the City of Miami. In 2021, Mr. Brantley formed a partnership with The Integral Group ([www.integral-online.com](http://www.integral-online.com)) to develop commercial real estate and community development real estate projects in Florida and the Caribbean. As of 2020, the JV is currently developing several projects in Miami-Dade and Florida. Mr. Brantley maintains other business operations that include retail, real estate brokerage, consumer innovations such as the CapBox ([www.thecapbox.com](http://www.thecapbox.com)) and investments/partnerships in retail tenants within his properties. In addition to his business interests, Kareem serves on boards of local community based organizations and municipal boards that contribute to enhancing the local community. As he continues to develop both his professional and personal relationships in Florida, he aims for opportunities that allow him to serve his community where he can contribute to strategies or actions that promote desired outcomes for the betterment of community members.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS: Florida Blue Key; Trustee, Miami Foundation; Chair, Kappa Leadership Institute (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity); Miami Foundation Fellow (Class VIII); Chairman, City of Miami Beach Planning Board; Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Jackson Miracle-Building Bond Program.

Albert E. Dotson, Jr.

Al Dotson serves as Bilzin Sumberg's Managing Partner and in his role, he oversees the Firm's operations. By leveraging innovative technology and focusing on a multidisciplinary approach, Dotson leads the Firm's attorneys and professionals to provide a client experience that represents our pillars of trust, collaboration, preeminence, engagement, and community-mindedness. In addition to his role as Managing Partner, Dotson is nationally recognized for his work on public-private partnerships (P3). His experience includes rail and transit facilities, airports, marinas, sports stadiums, convention centers, healthcare/life sciences facilities, educational institutions, water and sewer facilities, and parking structures. Dotson was born in Detroit, Michigan, the oldest of four siblings. Values of self pride and community development were instilled in Dotson and his siblings at very early ages. Dotson's father, Albert E. Dotson, Sr., became the first African American store manager for Sears Roebuck & Company. Dotson graduated from Dartmouth University in 1984. He then received a full scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University's Law School in Nashville, Tennessee. During his academic tenure, Dotson was awarded the Bennett Douglas Bell Memorial Prize for academic achievement and high ethical standards. In 1987, Dotson completed his J.D. degree. He works in private practice as an equity partner with the Miami law firm of Bilzin Sumberg, specializing in land use and zoning, and federal and local government procurement contracts and compliance. In 1993, Dotson was the second African American to be voted on the Orange Bowl. Dotson's father was the first African American to serve in this capacity. Dotson served as Vice President of 100 Black Men of America in 1996, later becoming Chairman in 2004. In March 2006, Dotson was sworn in to serve as President of The Orange Bowl Committee for the 2006-2007 Orange Bowl Festival and FedEx Orange Bowl Game. Dotson is known throughout Florida for his work representing local, national, and international clients in responding to government contract solicitations and defending against, or prosecuting quasi-judicial and judicial bid protests. In

2021, Dotson was selected to be a member of the newly formed CEO Ambassador program, which is part of Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's RENEW305, an economic development plan intended to spark business investment and job growth across the County.

### Larry Spring

Mr. Larry M. Spring is the Managing Director of Achievement Consulting Group, a consulting firm that specializes in real estate development, government relations and financial and tax consulting services. He has over 25 years of experience across several industries including commercial banking, municipal government, real estate development, economic development, property management and health care. Mr. Spring is a Miami native and has been an active member of the Miami-Dade County community for over 40 years. Reared in the Coconut Grove and Richmond Heights neighborhoods, Spring has always embodied a strong sense of community. Spring served as City Manager for the City of North Miami. Prior to that, he was Corporate Director of Budget and Productivity for Jackson Health Systems for three years and prior to that was an Assistant City Manager with the City of Miami for nine years, serving in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer and Director of Budget and Strategy. In that role he focused his attention on identifying opportunities to better leverage value out of City owned assets and ensuring that the City was positioned to remain fiscally sound. During his tenure he established the first multi-year strategic plan utilizing the Balanced Scorecard methodology, led the issuance of over \$500 million in municipal bonds, negotiated the City's obligations under the new Florida Marlins Stadium agreement, and managed the process to expand the Omni and Overtown Community Redevelopment Agencies boundaries, setting for the framework for funding several transformational projects like the Miami Port Tunnel and Museum Park in downtown Miami. Before transitioning to government, Mr. Spring had a successful career in the commercial banking industry, serving in many capacities including internal audit, financial reporting, budget and accounting, treasury and investment portfolio management, credit and deposit product pricing. A Miami Fellow (Class II), Mr. Spring is actively involved in the community and has served on the board of the Miami Foundation, the Universal Truth Community Development Corporation, the City of Miami Bond Oversight Board, City of Miami Housing and Commercial Loan Committee. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Miami Parking Authority. Mr. Spring received his Bachelor of Science in Management with a major in Accounting from the Tulane University, A.B. Freeman School of Business and is a licensed CPA.