

# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # *421-2013*

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: November 27, 2013

SUBJECT: Community Outreach Project: Code Compliance Division

The purpose of this LTC is to inform you of the Community Outreach Project recently initiated and completed this past weekend through efforts made by the City's Code Compliance Division. This project was to aide a resident/property owner that was identified as being financially and physically unable to bring her home into compliance with a property maintenance violation.

Ms. Olga Reyes, the property owner who is 57 years old, lives on disability with a fixed income, has resided at 1440 Lenox Avenue since 1998. While the property has a short code history, there is one property maintenance case that remains open. She has been able to clean up the property and maintain it; however, the pending issue preventing her from being in compliance was the scraping and painting of her home.


Code Compliance Officer (CCO) Michael Coakley and Code Compliance Administrator Kenneth Varela met with Ms. Reyes as she pled for more time. She was very distraught, sharing her plight as to her financial and health issues. She has been trying to find assistance through different avenues but so far, had been turned away without resolve.

In the spirit of spreading goodwill, enhancing the division's morale, and ultimately achieving compliance, CCO Coakley requested to initiate this community outreach project as a team effort with fellow staff of the Code Compliance Division. Through the division's efforts, materials and labor were donated and the painting permit fees were waived.

Volunteers pressure cleaned, scraped and painted the single-family residence and its perimeter fence. The lawn was mowed, landscaping was trimmed back. Children of some staff members were also there to lend a hand. Neighbors came outside and thanked the team for cleaning up the property. Code employees and family members that worked through the rain included Mercedes Carcasses, Gianni Cardeno, Hernan Cardeno, Gregory Del Favero, George Castell, Michael Coakley, Beatriz Dooley (Building Dept.), Elizabeth Gonzalez, Jorge Hernandez, Jorge Rios, and Kenneth Varela. Sanitation staff included Michael Andrews, King Choute, Lamar Cobb, and Derrell Perry.

The yard was cleared of debris, Sanitation staff did a bulk pickup and then grabbed paint brushes and stayed awhile because "they like to paint." Parks Department provided mulch and Sanitation staff helped spread it. Public Works Department provided the team work-type gloves to "get the job done". When the job was complete, feeling humbled and gratified for helping out, the team met back at the office for pizza and drinks. There were no bosses that day, only a team of grateful people working hand in hand giving back in a small way to our community for someone less fortunate.

This was one example of an incredible undertaking by some of the really good people that work for the City of Miami Beach. (See pictures attached).

  
JM/JMJ/HC

**BEFORE**



DURING













**and AFTER**

