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PRESS RELEASE

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City of Miami Beach Clears a Path to Citizenship for Employees – Ten Employees & Families to be Sworn In by USCIS Director –

Miami Beach, FL: In 2014, the Miami Beach City Commission approved a partnership with New American Workforce, a project of the National Immigration Forum, to provide citizen-eligible city employees with free citizenship assistance. The city also fully funded the application process for each employee — making it the first municipality in the nation to sponsor the fees in full through this program.

On Tuesday, March 22 at 11:00 a.m. this collective effort will now be celebrated with a naturalization ceremony presided by Miami Beach native, son of immigrants and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez. Employees from Sanitation, Public Works, Parking, Ocean Rescue, Community Services and Tourism, Culture & Economic Development will come together to be sworn in as citizens at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. The ceremony will also feature an all employee chorus, national anthem singer and the Miami Beach Police Honor Guard. Naturalized employees will also be leading the pledge of allegiance.

“My number one priority is this city, including the employees who make it thrive,” said City Manager Jimmy L. Morales. “I am excited to have helped our citizenship-eligible employees with the application process so that they can become full participants in their workplace, community and economy.”

Over the past few months, the city has hosted various citizenship workshops. Participating employees received one-on-one assistance to complete the naturalization application, as well as instruction in preparation of the citizenship exam.

“Very few people are lucky enough to be employed by an organization as supportive as the City of Miami Beach,” said 16-year employee veteran Carmela Chiovaro who will be sworn in on Tuesday, along with her husband. “I committed to living in the United States 33 years ago, and until now have been unable to finalize my citizenship process. Because of the city’s efforts, I will finally be able to apply for citizenship.”

The city will continue to work with the New American Workforce to help more citizenship-eligible employees contribute fully to the community as citizens.

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We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.