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NO. LTC # 115-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: May 15, 2007

SUBJECT: Children Trust Awards City \$100,000 for Service Partnership Planning Grant to Address Truancy

This LTC is to advise the Mayor & City Commission of a Service Partnership Planning grant recently awarded to the City by the Children's Trust.

The Children's Trust Service Partnership Program provides funding to address targeted geographic areas and to reach at-risk populations in Miami-Dade County. The purpose of the grant is to target resources to meet the more complex needs of the vulnerable children and families in the area. Funding will be used to plan a Service Partnership. The program requires a collaborative partnership of varied social service agencies that will work holistically with families to achieve desired measurable outcomes.

Miami Beach Senior High School has the second highest percentage of students in the region missing 20 days or more of school (10% of students), and the highest percentage of students missing 11 or more days a year (16% of students). In addition, Miami Beach Senior High has the greatest number of students with outdoor suspensions (21% of students).

The goal for the six-month planning period is to plan for the development of a service partnership that would reduce truancy and increase a child's commitment to attend school. The partnership, once implemented, would provide direct services to youth aged 13 to 18 years old and their families, residing in North Beach children. The City will also apply for an operational grant to implement the service partnership once the six-month planning phase is completed.

Consistent with the Interlocal Agreement among the City of Miami Beach, Miami Beach Redevelopment Agency, Miami-Dade County, and The Children's Trust, the City of Miami Beach, serving as fiscal agent and lead agency, will spearhead and plan the design of the partnership, in conjunction with the program partners. The partnership will include Miami Beach Senior High School, Miami-Dade Public Schools and service agencies including, but not limited to Ayuda, Boys and Girls Club, UNIDAD, ASPIRA, Teen Job Corps and Jewish Community Services. The Miami Beach collaborative will also engage key stakeholders including the Department of Children's and Families, Miami Dade Public Schools, State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Social Security Administration, and youth and their parents. Barry University, Florida State University and Miami-Dade College are committed to providing collaborative development, assessment, evaluation, volunteer recruitment, programming, curriculum, and technical and developmental support.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

c: Executive Staff and Management Team