



MEMORANDUM OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: January 13, 2010

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
Members, Board of County Commissioners



FROM: Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: Haiti Relief and Recovery

We are beginning to see the tragic aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, and all of our hearts go out to the victims, their families and the Miami-Dade Haitian community. We have begun mobilizing resources, both for the island and for our own neighbors with friends and family in Haiti.

My office has been in touch with the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti and the Consul General who have informed us that the earthquake caused widespread casualties and damage. At the request of the federal government, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Urban Search and Rescue Team has been activated and is deploying to Haiti.

We have also been in contact with Catholic Charities and the American Red Cross. At this time, these organizations are accepting cash donations only. Donations to the American Red Cross can be sent to American Red Cross, PO Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013 or by phone at 1-800-REDCROSS. Donors should designate their gift to AP 2885 Haiti Relief and Development.

Until relief agencies and government officials on the ground can determine exactly what kind of relief is needed, we are holding off on food, clothing and supply collections. Because of the complex logistics involved in getting supplies to the island, it is crucial that we target our efforts to meet the specific needs of our neighbors. I am echoing the requests from government and humanitarian agencies to please limit donations to cash for the time being.

Later today, we will also be setting up an information and communications hub for the Haitian community at the Edison Little River Neighborhood Center located at 150

Northwest 79th Street in Miami. The hub will share information with our community, as well as coordinate with our Department of Emergency Management to provide up-to-date information about developments on the island. Translators and Creole-speaking social workers will also be on site.

c: George M. Burgess, County Manager
County Executive Office Senior Staff
Department Directors