CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 295-2004

To: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

Date: November 19, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

Subject: **ILLEGAL WASTE DUMPING**

As directed by the Commission on October 15, 2003 the Community Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) located in Middle Beach stopped accepting effective January 2, 2004, construction and demolition debris and bulk waste defined as: household furniture, household trash, remodeling and home repair trash, and white goods. The MRF was collecting an average of 132 tons of bulk waste per month, 87 tons of construction and demolition debris, and 89 ton of green waste. As I committed at the October 15, 2003, Commission meeting this letter provides information regarding the amounts of increased illegal dumping we have experienced in our City, especially in North Beach since the closure of the MRF.

In 2003, the Public Works Department Sanitation Division collected from City streets and alleys on the average around 140 tons of illegally dumped bulk waste per month at a cost of $12,200 per month. In the first 10 months of 2004, Sanitation has collected on the average around 217 tons of illegally dumped bulk waste per month at a cost of $21,450 per month. This represents an increase of about 85 tons per month of illegally dumped bulk waste, representing an increase of $9,090 per month or projected to be an increase in cost to the Sanitation fund of over $109,067 per year. In addition 4,100 cubic yards of hurricane debris was collected during the month of September.

As a way of mitigating the impact of closing the MRF the City partnered with Browning Ferris International (BFI) the City's residential solid waste collection contractor, and established a program called Neighborhood Pride Weekend. Under this program BFI and Waste Management of Dade provide 20 cubic yard containers in North Beach and South Beach, where bulk waste can be disposed free of charge on the first weekend of every month. The program started with one container at both location but the need of North Beach recently forced the program to expand from one to five 20 cubic yard containers at the 75th Street collection point. The South Beach location at 6th Street has remained fairly constant and only demands one 20 cubic yard container. The current total volume of bulk waste being collected on the first weekend of every month is around 120 cubic yards, equivalent to around 20 tons of waste by weight.

Other mitigating measures taken by the Administration include:

- Enhanced Code Compliance efforts;
- Increased Police enforcement;

- Partnership with Teen Job Corp; and
- Include in the current Request for Proposals for Residential Solid Waste Collection an add alternate bid item to provide a monthly bulk pick up vice the four pick ups a year provided under the current contract

For your information, in order to obtain a permit for the facility, as part of a consent agreement with DERM, the City just completed the screening of the existing berm soil at a cost of $161,000. In addition to the berm screening costs, the total estimated cost to permit and make construction improvements to operate a Green Waste Facility only, is $200,000.

Reopening of the MRF to accept bulk waste will require us to obtain a waiver from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). We anticipate incurring legal fees to obtain this waiver in the amount of $50,000. In addition, we expect to incur construction costs in the range of $500,000 to $750,000 to make modifications to the facility. This construction estimate is only an order of magnitude estimate based on previous discussions with the County Department of Environmental Management and FDEP, it is not an engineering estimate based on a basis of design criteria.

There is a demonstrated increase in illegal dumping that has occurred since the bulk waste option was removed from our waste facility. Efforts to mitigate have only been partially effective to date. We will continue to monitor and report back to the Commission on the growing illegal dumping issue. Further, we will continue to adjust our mitigation measures to address this problem.

Unless I hear from you differently and since the current direction from the Commission is to use the facility for green waste only, I intend to obtain an operating permit from DERM for a Green Waste Facility.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other concerns or questions.

JMG\RCM\FHB\II

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