



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

OFFICE OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS, Tel: 305.673.7575

Tonya Daniels, E-mail: tonyadaniels@miamibeachfl.gov

Melissa Berthier, E-mail: melissaberthier@miamibeachfl.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2018

Statement from Miami Beach City Manager Jimmy L. Morales

— *Regarding Former Employee Mariano Fernandez* —

Miami Beach, FL – Today, I was made aware that former employee Mariano Fernandez surrendered to face charges of unlawful compensation and conspiracy to commit unlawful compensation by the State Attorney’s Office.

In August 2017, I suspended Mr. Fernandez without pay, pending investigation into the allegations of potential criminal actions in his public duties. Subsequently, on November 9, 2017, upon being made aware that the State Attorney’s Office would likely bring charges against Mr. Fernandez, I terminated his employment, effective immediately.

Since my appointment as City Manager in 2013, I have worked tirelessly to promote a culture of high ethical standards in Miami Beach. I made it clear that I would not tolerate any unethical or criminal behavior. I set high standards of honesty and integrity for all city employees, especially my management team. When Mr. Fernandez was appointed as the Building Director in May 2013, I had extensive discussions regarding my expectations in regards to ethics.

As City Manager, I can provide all of the tools needed for an employee to make the right decision when faced with an ethical dilemma. Ultimately it is up to each individual employee to make the right decision themselves. It angers me to see something like this happen in a City that has made such important strides in making employees feel like they have the tools to handle these types of situations.

###

To request this material in alternate format, sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any city-sponsored proceedings, call 305.604.2489 and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then option 6; TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).