Memorandum

19 West Flagler Street ◆ Suite 220 ◆ Miami, Florida 33130
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ◆ Fax: (305) 579-2656
visit our website at www.miamidadeig.org

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

The Honorable Chairperson Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella
Inspector General

Date: March 19, 2007

Subject: Criminal Conviction of Former Board of County Commission
Candidate Jorge Roque

On Friday, March 16, 2007, a Miami-Dade County jury returned a verdict of guilty in a case investigated by the Miami-Dade Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Jorge Roque (Roque) was found guilty of one (1) count of Grand Theft of $75,000 of Miami-Dade Campaign Financing Trust Funds, one (1) count of Making Contributions in the Names of Others and four (4) counts of Solicitation of Perjury.

Roque ran an unsuccessful campaign for the District 13 Seat of the Miami-Dade County Commission in 2004. His campaign was fraught with fraud uncovered by OIG investigators. So far, Roque's sister-in-law, Rita Picazo, Vanessa Bravo, a Hialeah City Councilmember, and now Roque have been convicted of fraud stemming from Roque's application and receipt of $75,000 in monies from the County's Campaign Financing Trust Fund. At the onset of the investigation the OIG and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office sought and obtained a warrant seizing any County funds remaining in the Roque Campaign account. Only $18,859.92 of the $75,000 remained in the account and has been frozen by order of the Court.

Roque's sentencing is set for May of this year. Roque's campaign manager, Nilo Juri, is pending trial on charges stemming from the same theft of Campaign Financing Trust Funds. The OIG is committed to targeting any fraud that affects the taxpayer's monies, especially fraud which rattles the foundation of our free and fair election system.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
    Ms. Alina Hudak, Assistant County Manager
    Mr. Lester Sola, Supervisor of Elections

Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)