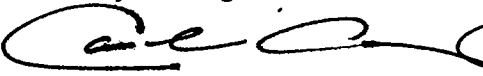




MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: August 29, 2005

TO: George M. Burgess
County Manager



FROM: Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: Emergency Distribution Centers

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of thousands of Miami-Dade County residents were left without basic, essential commodities. While various emergency crews worked around the clock to restore power and speed recovery, affected residents had limited emergency distribution centers to choose from to obtain ice, water and other assistance. This is unacceptable for a County that serves over two million residents and spans 1,945 square miles.

As I discussed with you, we need to designate distribution centers **Countywide** where the County, the National Guard, and other public agencies or philanthropic organizations can provide free food, water, ice, flashlights, and other supplies to those in need. Sites should be identified in advance so that they can be activated as needed, because storm tracks can shift unexpectedly at any time, such as what occurred with Hurricane Katrina in Miami-Dade County.

These sites must be strategically located countywide to ensure reasonable access for all residents. We cannot afford to put our residents at further risk by requiring them to drive from one end of the County to the other to reach a distribution center, especially when there are hazardous road conditions, no power at intersections, and limited supplies of gasoline. As such, we need to revamp our recovery assistance plans so that resources can be mobilized and deployed in the most effective manner. County personnel should be present at every site.

Due to the immediate priority that must be placed on this matter, I am requesting a plan within 10 days. We must be able to assure **all** our residents that there will be convenient access to assistance if the need arises.

c: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners
Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of Courts
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board