




MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: March 16, 2007
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members,
Board of County Commissioners
FROM: 
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County
SUBJECT: Appointment of Interim Miami Dade Transit Director

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Harpal Kapoor as interim Miami Dade Transit director, as detailed in the attached memorandum from County Manager George M. Burgess.

CA/dg
Attachment

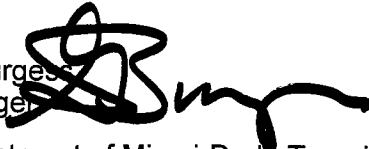
c: Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts
Honorable Joseph P. Farina, Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Honorable Kathy Fernandez-Rundle, State Attorney
Honorable Bennett Brummer, Public Defender
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney
George M. Burgess, County Manager
Denis Morales, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Assistant County Managers
Department Directors
Marvin O'Quinn, President Public Health Trust
Robert Meyers, Executive Director, Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor

Memorandum



Date: March 16, 2007

To: Honorable Carlos Alvarez
Mayor

From: George M. Burges
County Manager 

Subject: Interim Appointment of Miami-Dade Transit Director

Roosevelt Bradley, Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) Director, has retired from County service effective immediately. I wish to thank Mr. Bradley for his many years of service to Miami-Dade County and wish him much success in his future endeavors. A national search will be coordinated through the Employee Relations Department to find a successor. I recommend that the current Deputy Director for Operations, Harpal Kapoor, assume Mr. Bradley's responsibilities in the interim.

Mr. Kapoor has over 28 years of professional experience, with 22 of those years in transit. He rejoined MDT in February 2006 after having worked as the Assistant Manager of Bus Engineering at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for six years. Mr. Kapoor had worked at MDT from 1985 – 1999 in various roles, having ascended through the ranks to Assistant General Superintendent. He has expertise in heavy rail, development of technical specifications for buses and direct maintenance operations.

Over three years ago, I made significant management changes at MDT to move the department in a direction I felt was necessary at the time. These changes have resulted in some successes. During this time, however, I have also had many other important directives and expectations that have not been achieved. These expectations relate to the department's management, finances and budget. They must and will be met.

MDT is again at a critical juncture as the County moves ahead with its multi-billion dollar People's Transportation Plan (PTP) capital program, a program that will impact this community for years to come. Successful implementation of the PTP will depend on MDT's ability to meet its annual budget targets, close the departmental deficit, and effectively administer its contracts. Mr. Kapoor will be faced with serious challenges, and I am charging him first and foremost with the creation of a proactive atmosphere in the department in all elements of his administration. I want each and every employee in the department to feel the urgency about the mission of improving our transit system; to understand the importance of accomplishing the goals of the PTP; and the significance of keeping our commitment to the public.

Mr. Kapoor's enthusiasm for Transit is infectious, and I am confident that he will be able to advance these goals. I have discussed with Mr. Kapoor my expectation that budget adjustments should not be made at the expense of customer service. Resources must be utilized as efficiently as possible in order to meet current performance goals without jeopardizing the fiscal health of the department long-term. To this end, I expect to see immediate, tangible results in the coming months in the following areas:

- A tightening of the department's fiscal belt for the coming budget year through adjustments in administrative expenditures and positions that have no impacts on service;
- Implementation of service adjustments recommended through the Comprehensive Bus Operations Analysis to optimize operating resources and meet annual budget targets;

- Aggressive implementation of long and short term PTP capital projects;
- Completion of land sales to finally close the \$54 million departmental deficit;
- Completion of the Metromover Phase II Cars "Facelift" to improve interior and exterior appearance of the vehicles and reduce performance failures related to A/C units and vehicle doors;
- Aggressive pursuit of on-time bus and rail performance goals to improve transit reliability and customer service.

As congestion levels increase, the effective and efficient operation of our transit system is paramount. I share your high expectations for this department, and am confident that Mr. Kapoor will execute his charge with energy.

c: Denis Morales, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Alex Munoz, Assistant County Manager
Susanne Torriente, Assistant County Manager