



MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: August 30, 2005

TO: George M. Burgess
County Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos Alvarez", is written over the name in the "TO:" field.

FROM: Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: N.W. 97th Avenue Bridge (Project: PW671128)

The collapse of the 97th Avenue overpass over State Road 836 as a result of Hurricane Katrina exemplifies the importance of proper and continued oversight of our infrastructure projects. Being that this was a County-managed project, we should have been more vigilant in ensuring that the project was properly secured, regardless if a storm or hurricane was forecasted.

The safety of the residents of Miami-Dade County must be our top priority. Especially with the upcoming influx of projects to be funded by the Transit Surtax and the General Obligation Bond Program, we are accountable for doing everything possible to make certain that all County construction projects are carried out with adequate safeguards in place.

I am glad you have acted quickly and hired an experienced engineering firm to investigate this matter. The investigation should identify the cause of the collapse, what actions will be taken against the responsible parties, what additional safeguards will be put in place to prevent future mishaps, a revised project cost estimate, and the revised project timetable. Please forward this office an interim report within the next 30 days.

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