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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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***For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, September 23, 2009  
Contact: Danette Perez  
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### **Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones and FIU Head Basketball Coach and NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony for Expansions at Charles Hadley Park**

***-Expansions will include Field House and Concession Building, Recreation Center and Gym-***

(Miami, Florida)—City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, District 5 will join city administrators, community leaders and area neighbors to break ground on expansions to Charles Hadley Park. The **groundbreaking will take place on Friday, September 25, 2009, at 11:00a.m at Charles Hadley Park located at 1300 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Street.** (on the west side of the park between the baseball and football fields) .Guests are advised to wear comfortable shoes to the groundbreaking.

Florida International University head basketball coach and NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas will join the commissioner to break ground on the new facilities, which includes a new field house and concession building, and future youth & recreation center and gym. The Commissioner is partnering with Coach Thomas and FIU to facilitate basketball camps for youth in the inner city communities. The camps which will take place at FIU will expose youth to team sports and college.

The first phase of the expansion will include the Charles Hadley Park Field House and Concession Building. The building will fulfill an important role in the operation of the current baseball and football field and includes: a concession stand, restrooms, a field house and storage for the local optimist club's sports equipment. The total square footage of the building is approximately 3,700 sq. ft. with an additional 1,100 sq. ft. of a covered terrace. In addition to the expansions, the surrounding area around the park will also receive improvements that include: a new youth center with a basketball gym, weight room, exercise areas, classrooms and site improvements that include enhancements to the baseball field and vita course. The estimated total cost of construction for the expansion is \$7,000,000 with funding provided by Sunshine State Financing, Homeland Defense Neighborhood Improvements Bonds and Impact Fees.

For more information, contact Danette Perez, Department of Capital Improvements at (305) 416-1286.

- WHO:** City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence Jones, District 5; Isiah Thomas, NBA Champion and Hall of Famer and Head Basketball Coach at FIU; city administrators; community leaders; and area neighbors.
- WHAT:** Groundbreaking Ceremony for Expansions at Charles Hadley Park
- WHEN:** **Friday, September 25, 2009, 11:00am**
- WHERE:** Charles Hadley Park, 1300 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Street (ceremony will take place between the baseball and football fields on the West side of the park)



*Where Community Comes First!*

