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THE CITY OF MIAMI APPROVES THE FIRE/RESCUE AND FIRE ASSESSMENT SETTLEMENT

(Miami, FL.) – The City of Miami is very pleased to announce that it has negotiated a Settlement with the Class of City property owners in the Fire/Rescue Assessment and Fire Assessment class action litigation. The proposed settlement will be considered by the City Commission at a public hearing scheduled for July 26, 2007. If approved, the Class and the City will settle all claims the Class had, has or may have in *Masztal et al. v. City of Miami*, Case No. 98-11208 CA 31 and in *Masztal et al. v. City of Miami*, Case No. 05-2117 CA 22, for \$15,550,000, inclusive of all costs and attorneys' fees.

Both Parties have conducted substantial investigation, have determined that the issues presented in the above lawsuits are unlikely to be resolved without further extensive and costly litigation, and that such further litigation would cause inconvenience, distraction, disruption, delay, and expense disproportionate to the potential benefits of the continued litigation. Each took into account the risk and uncertain outcome inherent in any litigation. Also material was that the Parties were the City and its taxpayers who, in a manner of speaking, sued themselves.

If approved by the City Commission, the Settlement will be presented to the Court for Preliminary and then Final Approval, as is required by law. An approved and independent third party Administrator will oversee the claims administration process. If the Court approves the Settlement, the Administrator will calculate the amount owed to each Class member, and issue the appropriate refund checks. This process will take approximately 6 months.

This Settlement does not constitute a compromise of any claims the Class or the City has or may have against the Original Plaintiffs, their attorneys, or others. In March, 2006, the Class and the City convinced the Court to set aside the \$7 million settlement with the Original Plaintiffs. This ruling is on appeal. The City has recovered over \$2 million of the \$3.5 million paid out. The City continues to seek recovery of all money owed by the Original Plaintiffs. If the ruling is upheld on appeal, all money that is recovered will be for the use and benefit of the Fire Department.