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PRESS RELEASE

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Caption: With her family by her side, Tangelia Sands speaks to those who attended the ribbon-cutting of her new home in Liberty City, the first "green" home made possible by public subsidies.

CITY AND COUNTY CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF FIRST, AFFORDABLE GREEN HOME IN MIAMI MADE POSSIBLE BY PUBLIC SUBSIDIES

(Miami, FL) – City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz joined Miami-Dade County officials including Patricia Braynon, Director of the Housing Finance Authority (HFA) of Miami-Dade County, and Opal Jones, Director of the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Foundation, Inc., to celebrate the completion of the *first affordable, green home* in South Florida made possible with public subsidies. Officials joined new homeowners, Tangelia Sands and family, to cut the ceremonial ribbon at the home located along NW 61st Street in the Liberty City area.

The three-bedroom, two-bathroom home was developed by Ario Lundy of Palmetto Homes of Miami, Inc., and designed by architect Steven Luria, while adhering to strict benchmarks established by the nationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ from the U.S. Green Building Council, a non-profit organization

committed to expanding sustainable building practices. Built on a parcel conveyed by the City of Miami to the developer specifically for the creation of affordable housing, the home was priced at \$225,000. The Sands family qualified as moderate income (120% average median income (AMI) or below) and received financial assistance from the City of Miami, Housing Finance Authority of Miami-Dade County, and Florida Housing Finance Corporation towards the purchase of the home.

In order to be LEED-certified a home must meet minimum criteria under a points system, with credit given for specific energy-efficient features. The Sands' home is in the process of registering to become a LEED Silver home and will become certified within the next year. Green building practices and standards have demonstrated the ability to save homeowners and renters from 25%-65% in utility costs every month. Green building is the practice of: increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use and harvest energy, water and materials. It reduces the building's impact on human health and the environment through improved construction, operation, maintenance, and waste removal.

Under Mayor Manny Diaz's leadership, the City of Miami is actively promoting green buildings and the LEED certification process. If you're a developer/builder interested in building green, please contact the Housing Finance Authority at **305-594-2518 Ext. 246** or the Miami Office of Sustainable Initiatives (MSI) at **305-416-1539**. For additional information on the LEED Green Building Rating System, please visit <http://www.usgbc.org>.

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