



City of Miami Commissioner Marc D. Sarnoff

News from District 2

July 2009

In This Issue

[Buying American](#)

[Photo Op](#)

[New Addition](#)

Going Green, Buying American



Photos by Jorge Perez (City of Miami)

I'm doing something which quite honestly, I never thought I'd do--and that's own an American car. Following my second "Go Green, Buy American" event at City Hall I finally made the plunge and I couldn't be happier. I was so taken with the Ford Fusion Hybrid, I traded in my Smart Car and purchased the Fusion Hybrid. At the event, I met a representative from Metro Ford Lincoln Mercury, which brought the cars to City Hall for the public to test drive and scheduled another test drive---just to be sure.

Greetings!

We have been warning for two years that the City and County budgets are unsustainable. This year's budget will require at the very least layoffs and zero based budgeting.

The City and County must learn to do more with less. The millage rate for property taxes should NOT be raised.

Both the City and County's core principle is to provide basic services to its citizens. Yet despite this principle, the County has commenced construction on the Marlins' Stadium while in the same breath proclaiming that it would cut back on its services for feeding our elderly, among other cutbacks. Priorities must be in order.

The County and City must be smarter with taxpayer money, refraining from negotiations that end up in bad deals that cost the taxpayers. If we can't afford it, don't buy it. Learn from the economic crisis we are in presently and what caused it----people financing what they cannot afford.

[Miami Today Article](#)

[Miami Herald Article](#)

Even national media outlets report our taxpayers are getting a raw deal:



Once I got behind the wheel of the Fusion Hybrid at the event, I knew I had to make the switch to Ford. The quality of the Fusion and the absolutely enjoyable experience at the Metro Ford dealership has made me a believer in Ford. With more than 100 patents on the Fusion Hybrid alone, Ford should now stand for Forging Our Research and Development (c).

"We are extremely proud that Commissioner Sarnoff made the decision to publicly trade in his Smart Car for one of our new Fusion Hybrids," says Metro Ford General Manager Lombardo Perez Jr. "This is a new era for Ford and we can clearly see that our vehicles match up against the best in the world." Believe it or not, other countries are taking notice--

Article from Great Britain

I'd like to thank Ford, General Motors, and everyone who attended the two "Go Green, Buy American" events. While I ended up buying the Fusion, I was also very impressed with what GM is offering in the way of hybrid vehicles. It's very clear that American automakers are stepping up to the challenge facing their industry and producing high quality and energy efficient cars.

Washington Post Article

How did we get here? \$2.4 BILLION in debt for a hard cost stadium of \$350 million? The county has effectively stated: "Damn the torpedoes its full speed ahead--a stadium at any cost." The Commissioners were first briefed that the hard cost repayment would come in at \$1 BILLION. The second briefing advised us that the County needed to refinance existing bonds (1998 series Bonds), make interest only payments on the front end (the first years of the bond), the repayment cost would be approximately \$1.2 BILLION. Then we were briefed that as a result of the failing Bed Tax revenues the County must further refinance existing loans (bonds), backload the repayments (paying principal on the back end, compounding the accrual of interest), causing the debt repayment to swell to \$2.4 Billion (not inclusive of fees and costs, let alone the diversion of City and County resources and attention to our urban decay, and today's economic realities that we are all facing in the private sector, only to be visited in this budget cycle).

What right minded home owner would borrow \$250,000 to purchase a home and agree to pay back \$1.5 million in 30 years. It would not happen because it is the homeowner's money and it is their sweat equity that earns the opportunity to repay the debt.

The "bill me now pay later" attitude has caused America's present day debt crisis and we are only in stage one. There will be two more stages to

Photo Op



Photos by Jorge Perez

Many of the pictures that you see in these newsletters are just a few of the shots captured by our City's ace photographer Jorge Perez.



For the first time ever thousands of beautiful and often historic pictures taken over the years are now available for purchase by the general public. During a time when the City is in a major financial crisis, our City's Department of Communications is actually raising funds and increasing traffic to our City website.

come and come they will. They say that those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it; apparently this will be a lesson for the history books for all of us to learn from. You do not borrow a dollar to pay back 6, some call it usury, in Miami-Dade it is business as usual.

If we do not see a profound rebound in economic tourist or convention revenues within the year, the general fund of the County will be invaded to pay the shortfall caused by the failing tourist and convention dollars. True the County Manager could attempt further refinancing however that would mean only borrowing \$1 and paying back \$7.

For those that say it's all about jobs, no matter the cost, well that cost is 2.4 million dollars per temporary construction job.

Thomas Jefferson put it best, "How can we create a debt for something consumed today that our grandchildren will be forced to pay-- it's immoral."

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Newest Sarnoff](#)



The online pictures are at the following link:

[City of Miami Photo Gallery](#)

The new site allows unprecedented access to the amazing photos taken by the Office of Communications. For people interested in having photos of the city skyline, an event, or commission meeting, this new site provides easy access and an affordable solution that has never been offered before.

I commend Jorge Perez, Communications Director Kelly Penton, Web specialists Manny Otero and Israel Vasquez, and Asst. City Attorney Barnaby Min, for working so hard to make this new online gallery a reality. You really need to check it out for yourself.

Quick Links

[My Personal Website](#)

[My Commissioner Website](#)

[Hometown Heroes](#)



Beau

The Sarnoff household has expanded by four furry paws with the addition of Beau, an 8-week old Bernese Mountain dog. Beau joins six year old Plugsy and Zena in our home and is quickly making his presence felt.

I am extremely proud to serve as your Commissioner and sincerely value this open line of communication with you. As many of you already know, I enjoy hearing from you. Please feel free to drop me a line at msarnoff@miamigov.com.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

Yours very truly,

Commissioner Marc D. Sarnoff
City of Miami District 2



Thomas Huntley



Alfredo Rodriguez



Alan Dozier



A quick thinking rescue crew is being credited with saving the life of a resident suffering from cardiac arrest. The team consisting of Lt. Alfredo Rodriguez, Thomas Huntley, and Alan Dozier arrived at the scene and found the patient was not breathing. After initiating advanced life-support measures, the crew started cooling the patient with the new Hypothermia Procedure which was recently added to the medical arsenal of the City this year. Basically, medical responders lower the core temperature of a patient to prevent damage to tissues due to insufficient blood-flow. Currently, 90% of patients who suffer cardiac arrest outside of a hospital die. Fortunately, in this case, the Miami Fire crew was able to save the patient's life. I join Chiefs William Bryson and Maurice Kemp in congratulating Lt. Rodriguez, and Firefighters Thomas Huntley and Alan Dozier for their heroic work!