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Commissioner Frank Carollo

Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones

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Statement from Chairman of the City of Miami Commission, Francis Suarez, on the recently published comments of Marlins Manager Ozzie Guillen:

(Miami, FL April 9, 2012) — “I was surprised and saddened by the statements and actions over the past several days surrounding Mr. Ozzie Guillen and the Miami Marlins. First and foremost, Mr. Guillen’s expressed admiration for Fidel Castro is completely unacceptable. Mr. Guillen’s admiration for a dictator who has destroyed the lives of so many and who has violated the basic human rights of millions is shameful. Additionally, Mr. Guillen’s cavalier attitude about the serious issue of alcohol abuse is reckless and not suitable for a public figure in a position of leadership in our community.

Equally disappointing is the silence and tepid response from the Miami Marlins organization. It is time, once and for all, for the Marlins to recognize the seriousness of these issues and of the Marlins’ woeful inaction. Our community has been overly generous to the Marlins, and we cannot allow them as an organization to continue to treat us, the residents of Miami, with disdain or be dismissive of our concerns. The Marlins’ three sentence statement, lacking an apology or even addressing the alcohol abuse, exhibits a lack of understanding or sufficient respect for our community. Now, on behalf of many angry residents, **I’m calling for real action to be taken and for the removal of Mr. Guillen.**”

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