

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Marie Bertot, Media Relations Manager

Tel. 305.375.2274

mbertot@miamidade.gov

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RECEIVES 20 NACO AWARDS

(MIAMI, June 16, 2009) – Miami-Dade County was presented with 20 awards by the National Association of Counties (NACo). The 2009 Achievement Awards recognize innovative county government programs that better serve residents.

NACO took notice of improvements to public safety including the Mayor's Mortgage Fraud Task Force, which was recently adopted by Congress as a role model for the federal government's task force. The Gun Bounty Program also received accolades for significantly helping to solve crimes. In its first two years, Gun Bounty has recovered 315 firearms and made 188 arrests.

"I am proud to say, the success of our programs surpassed all expectations," said Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez. "I'm very grateful to the dedicated team of professionals who have made it more difficult to commit mortgage fraud and have gotten firearms and criminals off of our streets."

The Port of Miami was recognized for its state-of-the-art system Cargo Gate Vehicle Processing System which improves security, as well as innovative seaport berth planning, which expected to accommodate additional customers and improve customer service.

The County's Government Information Center was recognized for its 3-1-1 Answer Center, which is one of the nation's few multi-lingual, multi-municipal answer centers. The County's "Idea Machine" which continuously collects and evaluates employee ideas that save money and or improve services also received notice.

Other notable awards were given to the Water and Sewer Department and Office of Neighborhood Compliance (ONC). The Water-Use Efficiency Program was highlighted for more than doubling its projected water conservation efforts. ONC was recognized for: e-Ticketing which allows Neighborhood Compliance Officers to get more work done in the field.

Arts and historical preservation were highlighted for programs such as “Living Classrooms” that raise awareness of community environmental issues; the “Artist Village”, which created a hub for collaborative arts programs; and, “Paralympic Partners,” sports and recreation services for persons with disabilities.

“Dedication, hard work, and creative thinking are driving us to develop new and innovative ways of enhancing service delivery while maximizing resources,” said Miami-Dade County Manager George Burgess. “All of our winners have shown what can be achieved through a commitment to exploring creative and inventive methods of providing services to our community, and enabling us to continue *Delivering Excellence Every Day.*”

Miami-Dade County Agency	Program Title	2009 NACo Achievement Award Category
Capital Improvements	Economic Stimulus Package	Community/Economic Development
Cultural Affairs	The Economic Impact of the Arts	Arts and Historic Preservation
DERM	Consolidated Environmental Permitting and Evaluations	Environmental Protection and Energy
DERM	Environmental Plan Review Quality	Environmental Protection and Energy
General Services Administration	Health Care Cost Control Program	Personnel Management, Employee Training and Employee Benefits
Government Information Center	The Idea Machine	County Administration and Management
Government Information Center	3-1-1 Transit Call Center Consolidation	Civic Education and Public Information
Human Resources	Professional Development Clinics	Personnel Management, Employee Training and Employee Benefits
Office of Neighborhood Compliance	e-Ticketing Solution	Information Technology
Park and Recreation	Paralympic Partners	Parks and Recreation
Park and Recreation	P.R.I.D.E.	Parks and Recreation
Park and Recreation	The Deering Estate at Cutler - Artist Village	Arts and Historic Preservation
Park and Recreation	The Deering Estate at Cutler - Living Classroom	Parks and Recreation
Planning and Zoning	Electronic Signatures Management	Information Technology
Police	Gun Bounty Program	Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Police	Mayor Carlos Alvarez Mortgage Fraud Task Force	Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Seaport	An Integrated Solution to Seaport Berth-Planning	Information Technology
Seaport	Cargo Gate Vehicle Processing System	Information Technology

Transit	Train Tracker	Information Technology
Water and Sewer	Water-Use Efficiency Program	County Administration and Management

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.

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