

FNG
04-125

To: File
From: Robert Meyers
Subject: Use of Letterhead
Date: October 21, 2004

I spoke to Commissioner Luis Garcia from Miami Beach and Jean Olin and we discussed whether it was appropriate for the Mayor to use his official letterhead to advise residents how he believes they ought to vote concerning the Baylink ballot question. I advised him that the Mayor, as an elected official, has the right to speak out on matters of public concern that impact Miami Beach, and this issue is certainly one of them. Additionally, he has the right to use his title in his communications with the residents, but he should be clear that when using official city letterhead the views he is expressing are his alone, not the official position of city. Furthermore, I advised Commissioner Garcia that he would have the same right or prepare and send out a similar letter on his letterhead taking the opposing view.



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
1700 CONVENTION CENTER DRIVE
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33139

DAVID DERMER
MAYOR

October 14, 2004

Dear Resident: *Barry*

I respectfully urge the voters of Miami Beach to vote NO on the straw-ballot proposal for the rail/hanging wire track construction project known as "baylink". This is not the right public transportation system for our built out, historic, barrier island.

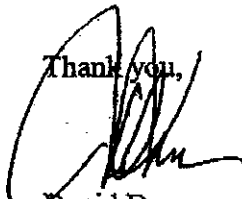
No evidence has been presented to show this rail/wire track construction project will alleviate traffic. In fact, the proposal calls for trains which share lanes with automobiles.

A more reasonable, effective, and rational system is one of medium sized buses on rubber wheels which look like trolleys. This alternative would link all the coastal communities over all the bridges to the mainland. The system can feed into a county rail system which is scheduled for the North East corridor. Coral Gables has had great success with their trolleys on rubber wheels.

It is absurd to embrace expensive and disruptive rail construction which limits the route of service when viable alternatives are available at a fraction of the 485 million dollar current projected cost.

Further, the recent hurricanes have spurred a new awareness of the need to underground electric wires. The proposed rail system would run on overhead electric wires. The baylink rail/wire system is wrong for Miami Beach. We have alternatives which can be implemented effectively and efficiently. Please Vote NO on Miami Beach straw ballot question number 1 this November 2, 2004.

Thank you,



David Dermer
Mayor