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March 24, 2008

Brett Bibeau, Executive Director  
Miami River Commission  
1407 N.W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite D  
Miami, FL 33125

Dear Mr. Bibeau:

After the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust issued opinion 08-08, you called my office requesting reconsideration of the opinion to give you an opportunity to explain the role of the Miami River Commission with respect to the Miami River Greenway project. I spoke to the Chairman of the Ethics Commission and he and I concur that the Cone of Silence does not apply to conversations and meetings held by the Miami River Commission or its staff with potential vendors on this project. As I understand it, the recommendation, award and oversight of this project is within the exclusive control of Miami-Dade County government. Given that the function of the Miami River Commission in this matter is limited to offering technical assistance and other forms of advice to potential bidders, the Cone of Silence was never intended to restrict such activities.

The rationale behind Ethics Opinion 08-08 was to establish the principle that under certain conditions joint development partners of Miami-Dade County would be covered by the Cone of Silence. The role and responsibilities of the Miami River Commission regarding this project are not that of a joint developer with Miami-Dade County. Therefore, as stated above, the Cone of Silence would not apply to Miami-Dade County's solicitation for a firm to provide architectural and engineering services for the Miami Greenway project.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers  
Executive Director

cc: Amelia Cordova-Jiminez, Office of Capital Improvements  
Esther Calas, Director, Public Works