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SUNSHINE BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS

Partnership offers to help companies cut red tape

A downtown Miami business group is offering to help companies cut through red tape to set up shop in the central business district.

The Downtown Miami Partnership can help business owners who need information or advice on how to get permits and other approvals from City Hall, said Josie Correa, the group's executive director.

Partnership staff have been meeting with city officials to learn more about the procedures for obtaining building and zoning permits — which are usually among the biggest headaches when starting a new retail business.

The group's other projects include a grant program, in cooperation with the Downtown Development Authority, to replace old accordion shutters or roll-down gates with newer, see-through types. The partnership can also provide advice and information on the downtown market, Correa said.

The partnership is funded through member dues and a city grant. For more information, call (305) 379-7070.

— SCOTT ANDRON