

MIAMI TODAY



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DOWNTOWN DOWN: Miami's Downtown Development Authority got initial approval from its board for a reduced 2008-2009 budget, \$5.6 million compared to last year's \$7 million, said **Meredith J. Nation**, interim deputy director. "We are making efforts to trim our budget by reducing costs, administrative expenses and using the best practices," she said. Most of the money is to go to enhancing services such as the Ambassador program, a group that assists with safety and hospitality services, and the enhancement team, which helps with landscaping and keeping streets clean. The board is to review and vote on the final budget proposal July 18, she said. Then, on Sept. 11, the budget goes to the City Commission for final OK.