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**THE MIAMI DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WELCOMES FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Largest Number of Applicants in Miami DDA History; Board Members Represent
all Districts of Downtown Miami**

MIAMI (September 16, 2008) – The Miami Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has announced the addition of four new board members. Twenty-six applicants applied for five positions. In a formal selection process, Alan Ojeda, Danet Linares, Dr. Rolando Montoya, and Hank Klein were nominated for new appointment; and existing board member, Oscar Rodriguez was reappointed for another term. All candidates were recommended by a Nominating Committee, unanimously approved by the Board of Directors and then approved by the City Commission. The Miami DDA expects all new board members to be serving at full capacity by October’s board meeting.

“We are extremely pleased with the quantity and, more importantly, the quality of applicants this year. All of these new board members have impressive background experience and show a strong passion and commitment to Downtown Miami,” said Loretta Cockrum, outgoing Miami DDA Board member and chairman of the Nominating Committee. She added, “We want people that will do more than simply attend meetings. The new board members have demonstrated that they want to be very active, provide feedback and lend significant ideas and experience to the organization”.

Alan Ojeda is CEO of Rilea Group, a real estate development company in Brickell. Ojeda serves on the Board of Directors of Carrfour Supportive Housing, a not-for-profit entity dedicated to creating homes for the homeless; Colonial Bank of South Florida; and the Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation.

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Danet Linares is Senior Vice President and Director of Real Estate Services for Forum Group, also in Brickell. She has numerous community affiliations serving as President-Elect for CREW-Miami; Board of Governors for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; and Board Member of the Brickell Area Association. Linares is also a member of U.S. Green Building Council; Urban Land Institute; and NAIOP.

Dr. Rolando Montoya is Campus President of the Wolfson Campus at Miami-Dade College. Prior to becoming Campus President, Montoya was Dean for Academic Affairs at the Kendall Campus. He is a frequent guest speaker at conferences and seminars at Harvard School of Government and Harvard Graduate School of Education. Montoya was recently acknowledged as The Carlos Arboleya/Barnett Bank Endowed Teaching Chair for Miami-Dade College and is a member of the Executive Board of New World School of the Arts and on the Advisory Committee for the City of Miami Streetcar Project.

Hank Klein is currently the Executive Director of Business Development at Cushman & Wakefield of Florida. Active in civic and community affairs, Klein was Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade College for eight years, and he is immediate past Chairman of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Klein serves on the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, and the Board of Governors' of the Dade Community Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Fiduciary Trust International of the South, a Franklin Templeton Company. Recently Mr. Klein joined TransAtlantic Bank as a member of the Board of Directors. He is a fifty year Miami resident.

“We were very focused on garnering equal support from all districts in Downtown Miami and the large number of applicants is a strong testament to the Miami DDA,” added Joe Sanchez, City of Miami Commissioner and Chairman of the Board of the Miami DDA. “We look forward to the new members enhancing the Board of the Miami DDA and furthering our mission.”

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The Miami Downtown Development Authority, founded in 1965, is a public-private, non-profit business organization that strives to develop Miami's downtown area. It is governed by a 15-member Board comprised of three (3) public appointees and twelve (12) downtown property owners, residents and / or workers. Through its own programs and services and partnership with the City of Miami and other governmental entities, Miami DDA is dedicated to making Downtown a more livable community and improving the quality of life for employers, employees, residents, property owners, and visitors. For more information, please call (305) 579-6675 or visit www.miamidda.com.

The Miami DDA also publishes the DWNTWNR Newsletter, a quarterly update on what's new and happening in Downtown. The colorful informational piece is distributed to 15,000 residents, businesses, corporate centers and the Welcome Center. For more information on Downtown Miami, please visit the online version of the DWNTWNR Newsletter at www.dwntwnr.com.

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