MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

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March 31, 2010

Cathy Grimes Peel
Director
Consumer Services
140 W Flagler Street
Suite 903
Miami, Florida 33130

Dear Ms. Peel:

CODI has been concerned with the latest incident involving the refusal of some Taxi Cab drivers to transport a person with a service animal. This seems to be an ongoing problem even with the continual attempts by your office to inform and train the drivers.

We believe only a very strong deterrent will improve this situation. At our March 24th, 2010 meeting an official opinion was unanimously passed to encourage the County to raise the fine and penalty for drivers who continue to break the law. It was our suggestion that the County consider these recommendations:

- 1st - refusal a fine of $500 and a 2 month suspension
- 2nd refusal – a fine of $750 and a 4 month suspension
- 3rd refusal – a fine of $1000 and a year's suspension
- We feel that a 12 month period is too short; we would like to see a 24 month period before citations are erased and if a driver has shown a pattern of refusals in any 6 year period, Consumer Services has the right to revoke their license.

This is a civil rights matter, we are asking for some significant action by the County. We are here to help support Consumer Services in your attempt to address this matter and will be happy to address the County Commission on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jose "Ernie" Martinez

Jose E. Martinez
Chair – Commission on Disability Issues