

# Memorandum



**Date:** May 15, 2007

GOE  
Agenda Item NO. 7L

**To:** Honorable Chair Natacha Seijas and Members,  
Governmental Operations and Environment Committee

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**Subject:** Progress Report No. 1: Activities Sponsored on Behalf of the "Water for People" Organization

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's (MDWASD) primary mission is to provide clean, safe drinking water to the residents of Miami-Dade County. MDWASD's commitment is clearly visible in the everyday services it provides to the community as well as in the work it performs as a member of outside professional organizations also dedicated to providing and improving the quality and supply of drinking water on a worldwide basis. MDWASD is a member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) which is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world. In 1991, AWWA established the "Water for People" organization whose major role is to provide potable drinking water to areas throughout the world in need of safe drinking water. On January 25, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution R-67-07, sponsored by the Chair of the Governmental Operations and Environment Committee, which directs MDWASD to develop and spearhead an outreach plan to recruit and educate County staff and to host fundraising activities for the "Water for People" organization in coordination with the AWWA.

Efforts have been made and will continue to be made to enlist county-wide support, beginning with MDWASD staff, which has held four meetings to lead by example and to make known the most important goal of the "Water for People" organization which focuses on raising funds. In addition, department directors are being contacted to schedule meetings with the "Water for People" Team to encourage county-wide participation. Progress reports on these meetings will be provided to the Governmental Operations and Environment Committee on a semi-annual basis.

A major fundraising event will be organized to take place during the first week in April 2008, as directed by Resolution R-67-07, the "Water for People" Team will be identifying a specific project for the County to sponsor and plan accordingly to meet the funding goal which has yet to be set.

Safe drinking water, basic health and hygiene education and sanitation facilities are not available to many people, especially children, in developing countries throughout the world. It is our commitment to help alleviate this situation one project at a time.

Assistant County Manager

