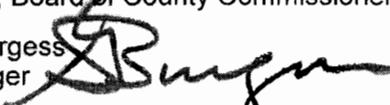


Date: March 4, 2008

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager 

Subject: Miami International Airport Animal Relief Areas

Agenda Item No:
12(B)3

As requested via Resolution No. R-1341-07, sponsored by Commissioner Moss and adopted by the Board at its December 4, 2007, meeting, this report addresses the feasibility and potential costs of improving the animal relief areas as well as improving access to additional pet services at Miami International Airport.

Current Status

The Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) currently provides "no frills" animal relief areas in the public grounds throughout the Miami International Airport (MIA) adjacent to the Terminal Building. The current four locations (map attached) provide a place for owners to take their animals to relieve themselves. Due to the site constraints around the terminal building, the current locations are the most suitable options at this time.

Arrival Level: Location 1: This animal relief area is centrally located across from Concourse E (Central Terminal) and is accessible from the Central, North and South terminals. Location 2 was added in 2007 and is conveniently located across from the Concourse C-D area (North Terminal). With the opening of the South Terminal, two new animal relief areas (Locations 3 & 4) have been added; both are located across from Terminal J.

Surfaces: All animal relief areas on the arrival level are currently scheduled to have dual surfaces (grass and gravel), to better address animal needs. Currently, the areas at Concourses E (Location 1) and C-D (Location 2) have the dual surface. The Terminal J (Locations 3 & 4) areas are expected to have dual surfaces by the end of February 2008, barring any procurement delays. All locations have walking surfaces for owners and are either already signed or will be properly signed by the end of February 2008. All areas have bag dispensers for waste collection and trash receptacles.

Feasibility of improving current pet friendly areas at the Miami International Airport

Due to the current observed usage of the relief areas by passengers traveling with pets, MDAD believes that three pet parks and two general pet relief areas should be provided to meet current and future needs of passengers and their pets. This arrangement should more than adequately serve the public need and generally is in excess of what is currently being provided at the other airports surveyed that average one to two relief sites. MIA currently offers four sites as noted above and will ultimately offer five when the North Terminal site is opened.

MDAD is currently upgrading Location No.1 from a pet relief to a pet park area (see attached proposed layout), with completion anticipated by May 2008. All pet park sites are expected to have generally the same features. The pet park will provide:

- 4 ft. wood picket fence around a 2,077 sq. ft. area, which is sufficient for pets to stretch their legs
- Benches
- Water

- Sod and crushed red brick mulch
- Trees and landscaping
- A red fire hydrant, bag dispenser and trash receptacles

Existing pet relief areas at Locations No. 2 and 3 will remain unchanged for now. Following the inauguration of the first pet park at Location No.1, MDAD will create a second pet park at the South Terminal by the existing animal relief area Location No.4 (see attached proposed layout). A future site in the North Terminal area (Location No.5) will be developed toward the 2010 time frame as that portion of the terminal is currently closed to passenger use and not scheduled to open until then.

Plan to promote MIA as a Pet Friendly Airport

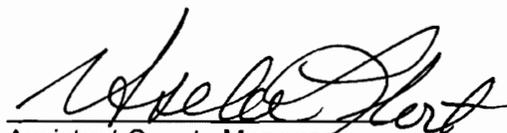
Though MDAD currently has pet relief area information posted on the MIA website and on airport maps and has received no documented complaints through the comment card system, it will seek to better disseminate pet friendly information through the media and expanding the visibility on the MIA website in order to better alert airport users on the availability of this amenity. MDAD will query passengers on the next airport survey in order to obtain comments from pet owners. In the meantime, the website will be expanded to provide helpful pet travel tips. The updating of the website will be accomplished concurrently with the opening of the first pet park in May 2008. The information counter staff and the 24-hour Operations Control Room personnel are trained to provide helpful tips to the traveling public. New upgraded signage to and from the pet park and relief areas will be provided concurrent with the opening of the pet park at Location No.1 by May 2008.

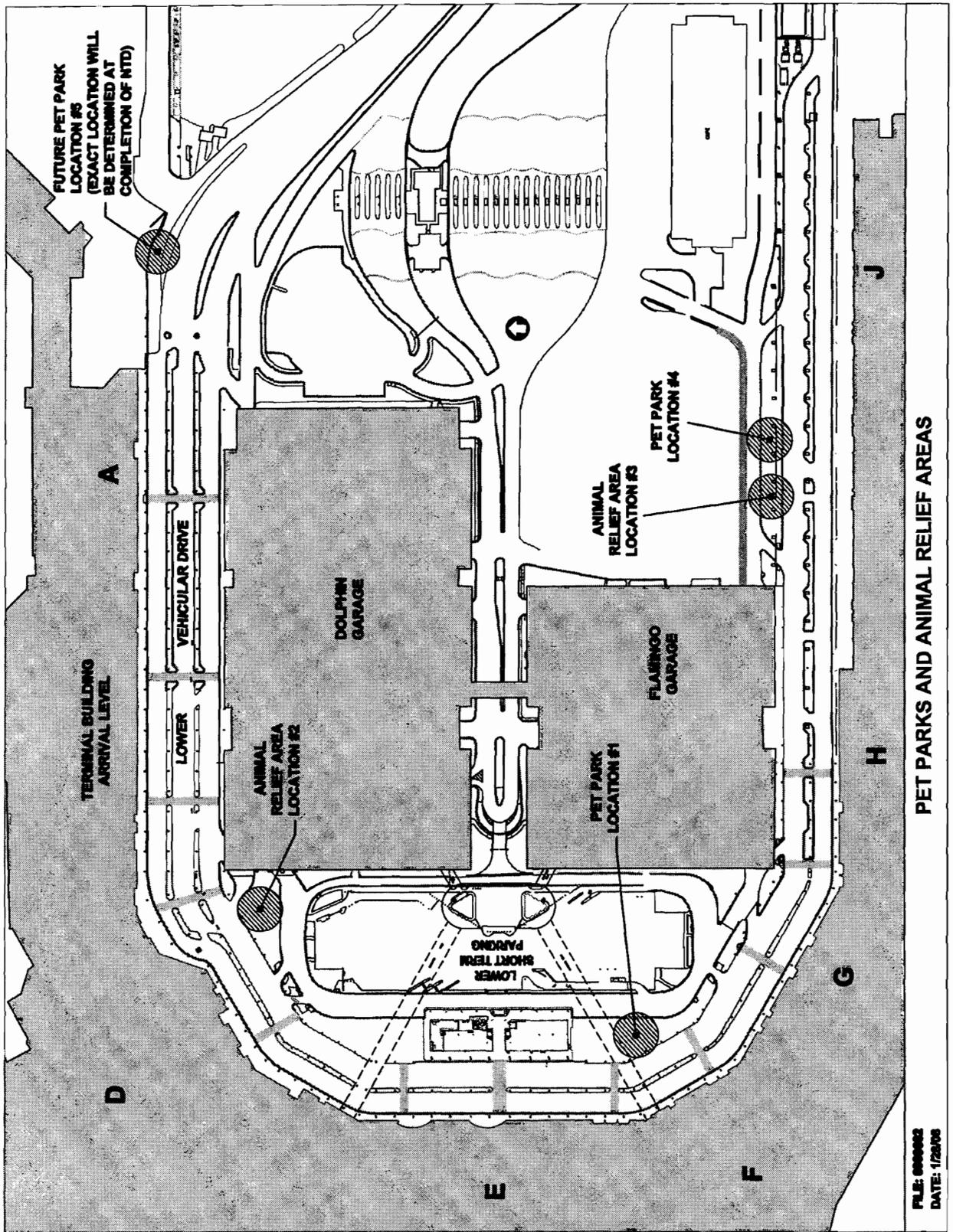
Availability of pet-related items

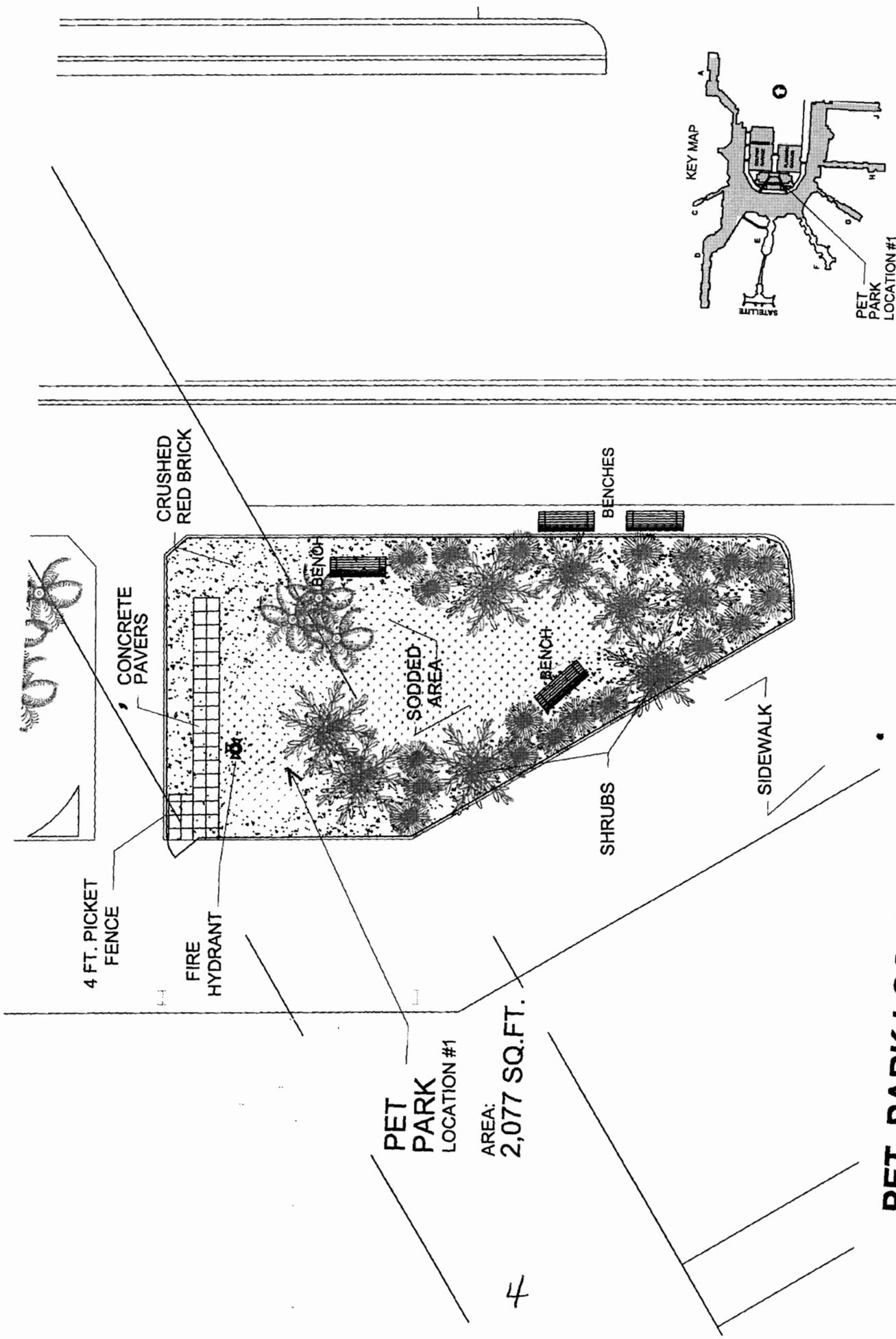
Currently the only pet related items available at MIA shops are leashes, collars and carrying bags for small dogs. MDAD will pursue making additional pet related items available at stores, such as water bowls, pet food, diapers and pet treats, throughout the airport. Information regarding availability of these products will also be added as part of the website update.

Cost and Budget

The upgrading of the pet relief areas (Locations No.1 and 4) to pet parks is being funded from the current operational budget at minimal costs because these sites are existing. The cost of developing a pet park with a water source is approximately \$20,000, as in the NTD future park recommended at location No.5. MDAD does not currently have a budget for these expenditures but will seek approval to obtain the funds from future operational budgets.


Assistant County Manager



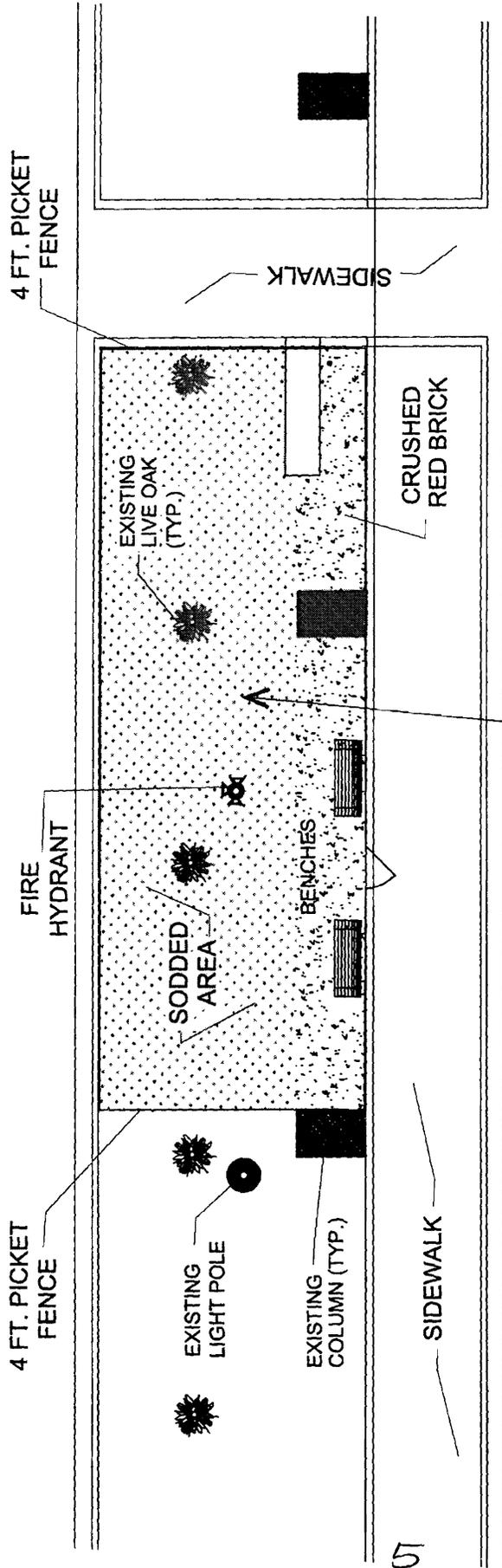


PET PARK LOCATION #1
 AREA: 2,077 SQ.FT.

PET PARK LOCATION #1 CENTRAL TERMINAL AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT-LOWER VEHICULAR DRIVE

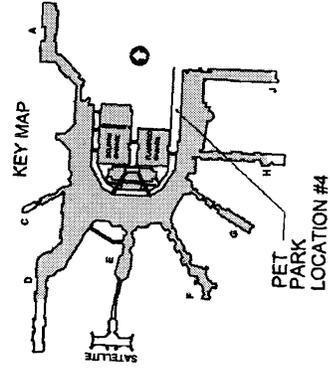
PROJECT: 60331

JANUARY 25, 2008



PET PARK LOCATION #4

AREA: 1,523 SQ.FT.



PET PARK LOCATION #4- SOUTH TERMINAL AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT-LOWER VEHICULAR DRIVE

PROJECT: 60332

JANUARY 28, 2008