



**CARLOS ALVAREZ**  
**MAYOR**

## **OFFICE OF THE MAYOR** **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

May 15-16, 2008



Greetings!

As Mayor, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Juvenile Justice Summit sponsored by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Miami-Dade County.

Miami-Dade County is honored to be recognized as a model for juvenile justice. Efficiencies and innovations implemented over the past decade have reduced our juvenile arrest rate by 41 percent and the juvenile re-offender rate by 78 percent.

I am proud to say that as the former Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, I played a central role in the creation of the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) and have seen first-hand the benefits of the system. The JAC has since evolved into the Juvenile Services Department, but we remain more focused than ever on decreasing juvenile arrests and re-arrests, and most importantly, preventing arrests all together. True prevention is the best method of protecting our residents and providing the quality of life that our children deserve.

As you seek to be juvenile justice pioneers in your own communities, I hope the partnerships we have created, programs and services we have implemented, and lessons we have learned, will help you improve your regions' public safety and community health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos Alvarez".

**Carlos Alvarez**  
**Mayor**



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY**  
Washington, D.C. 20503

May 16, 2008

Dear Summit Participant:

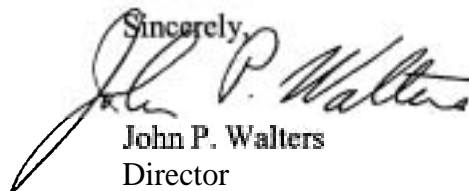
Welcome to the Juvenile Justice Summit convened by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Your dedication to America's youth is commendable, and we appreciate your involvement. Your participation here today is a testament to your commitment to keeping our youth safe and drug-free.

Recent surveys indicate that there has been a 24 percent reduction in youth drug use over the last six years – that's 860,000 fewer young people using drugs today than in 2001. This important progress will change the trajectory of dependence, addiction, and related juvenile crime for generations to come. But there are still far too many young people at risk for substance abuse.

Scientific research has determined that the brain is not fully developed in early childhood, as was once believed, but is in fact still developing into early adulthood. Inducing changes in the brain through the use of illicit drugs can have far more serious adverse effects on adolescents than on adults. Moreover, drug use disrupts the learning environment necessary for all students to succeed.

Juvenile arrestees pose an unusual challenge to state criminal justice systems, requiring segregated facilities and a host of specialized services, including drug treatment. Florida's Miami-Dade County takes a different approach, one that works well with the brief intervention approach. In Miami-Dade, all juvenile arrestees are sent to a central facility, which brings together specialists from law enforcement and social services to provide coordinated services to youth as they enter the juvenile justice system. Through careful screening, the officials are able to tailor their interventions accordingly to help break the cycle of drugs and crime among young people.

Today you will hear from experts in a broad range of fields who will be available to answer any questions you might have about these issues. We hope that what you learn today will provide you with information to begin a conversation in your community about addressing youth drug use and related crime as a means to achieving a healthier and more secure community. We wish you a successful conference, and look forward to working with you on drug policy topics that affect our Nation's most precious resource – our children.

Sincerely,  
  
John P. Walters  
Director



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Justice Programs

*Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

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*Office of the Administrator*

*Washington, D.C. 20531*

May 16, 2008

To Juvenile Justice Summit Attendees:

As Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), it is my pleasure to welcome you to this Summit on Juvenile Justice, which our Office is hosting with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Today, we will present findings and results from the National Demonstration Project that has resulted in the development of the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Justice Model, an innovative and comprehensive project to reduce juvenile arrests, recidivism, and detention.

I am a longtime advocate for the safety and welfare of children and their families, which increases my appreciation of the extraordinary work that the Juvenile Services Department in Miami-Dade County is doing. Charged with developing a model for the intake, assessment, screening, and diversion of juvenile offenders and intervention services and programs for at-risk youth, the Juvenile Services Department has created a program that stands as state of the art. Among its many accomplishments, the Juvenile Services Department has developed a number of innovative projects, such as diversion programs for minor offenders, job training programs for at-risk youth, violence intervention programs, and the Civil Citation Initiative to confront disproportionate minority contact within the local juvenile justice system.

Among the primary missions of OJJDP are the prevention of delinquency and the strengthening of the juvenile justice system while protecting children and enhancing public safety. I believe that these objectives can best be achieved with the participation, commitment, and creativity of local communities. By highlighting the unique process by which the Miami-Dade County unites the community, assesses and serves youth, and integrates change into its organizational structure, a new and demonstrably more effective model for juvenile justice has been discovered, a model that can be replicated in cities and towns throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Flores", written over a circular stamp or seal.

J. Robert Flores  
Administrator

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention