

Memorandum



Date: February 29, 2012

To: Joseph Centorino
Executive Director, Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Miami-Dade County Ticket Distribution Policy Review

Upon receipt of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust draft report, ***Guidelines and Recommendations Regarding "Public Benefit" Clauses in Certain Government Contracts***, I have determined that there is a need to review Miami-Dade County's current policies regarding the solicitation, receipt and distribution by public officials of complimentary tickets to arts, sports or other private events. I intend to conduct a comprehensive review of all current agreements that the County has entered into with entities (written or unwritten) that include the distribution of tickets to events. This review will include an analysis of the short-term and long-term ticket distribution policies for any facilities and/or events that currently have a partnership with the County for the greatest public benefit to the our residents.

To this end, my first step within this work will be to address the upcoming 2012 Sony Ericsson Tennis Tournament, which begins on March 19, 2012. This requires the development of a short-term solution for the current year's tournament, and a commitment to a long-term reformed approach which will require a negotiated contract amendment.

My Administration is recommending that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approve a policy with respect to the 2012 Sony Ericsson Tennis Tournament whereby Miami-Dade County will accept a cash payment of \$102,000 in lieu of the courtside boxes, tickets and passes (as noted within our current agreement) and approve a Letter of Agreement between the County and the International Players Championships, Inc. for the 2012 Tennis Tournament. This payment will be used to fund scholarships for approximately 150 children ages 6-14 in Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) department's afterschool programs at several park sites in under-served areas across the County for a 38-week period. Participants would be required to maintain consistent attendance or risk being dropped from the program in order to allow a child on a waiting list to participate.

We have requested that the agenda item recommending the proposed policy be heard at the March 6th, 2012 BCC meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor, at 305-375-2911.

c: Honorable Joe A. Martinez, Chairman,
and Members Board of County Commissioners
Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Courts
Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust Members
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff