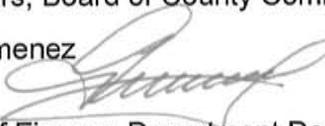


# Memorandum



**Date:** October 2, 2012

**To:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** Retirement of Finance Department Deputy Director

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As the Board may already know, Finance Deputy Director Grace Cespedes has decided to retire from County service after 34 years. Grace has given exemplary public service and will be deeply missed as a professional and a member of the County family.

While I have not known Grace as long as many of the other professionals in this organization, the respect she has earned from her colleagues is a testament to her dedication, work ethic, and treatment of everyone as family. She begins a new chapter in her life and will spend much deserved time with her family and loved ones.

Please join me in wishing Grace much success and fortune in her new endeavors.

Deputy Mayor Edward Marquez will continue to lead in the role of Finance Director and Blanca Padron will serve as Deputy Director. Blanca's years of experience as the County's Controller and knowledge make her the right person for the job and will allow her to transition seamlessly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deputy Mayor Edward Marquez at 305-375-1451, or me directly.

## Attachment

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts  
Honorable Pedro Garcia, Property Appraiser  
Carlos Migoya, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jackson Health System  
Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney  
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff  
Department Directors and Agency Heads  
Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General  
Joe Centorino, Executive Director, Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor

July 10, 2012

Mr. Edward Marquez  
Deputy Mayor/Finance Director  
Miami-Dade County

Dear Ed:

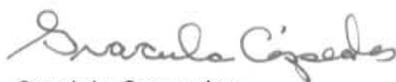
Thirty four years ago, I started my career with Miami-Dade County. I was hired as an Accountant I by the Finance Department to help balance our then new general ledger "FAMIS". Since then, working my way up the career ladder, to my current position of Deputy Finance Director, I have helped in two upgrades to FAMIS, both of which were extremely successful, with all funds being in balance from inception. I have also been an integral part of implementations of other County systems.

I have helped wherever the County has needed me, for example: Working the midnight shift in Rumor Control after the McDuffy unrest; assisting with Hurricane Andrew and every hurricane since then, both in the field distributing food as in the EOC handling calls from around the world; helping staff the P.I.O Office at Fire Department after 9/11; coordinating Finance staff to help after disasters with everything from doing traffic control to distributing ice, water, and food; being part of the Seaport Transition Team for eight (8) months; supervising the Development and Loan Administration Division for the Housing Agency for six (6) months as part of the Housing Management Transition Team; acting as Tax Collector for several months during a vacancy when some ethical issues came to light; helping respond to FTA requests and Transit concerns. I traveled to Washington to defend the County's claim after ValuJet; I have been a witness on behalf of the County in various court cases. During my tenure I have been strongly representing the best interest of the County with FEMA and the State's DCA. In 2003, I was honored with the first Jose Bacallao Award for employees with 20 years or more tenure, for distinguished service. I have always made certain that the ethical and correct path was the one followed by our staff. These are some of my career accomplishments of which I am very proud, all accomplished thanks to the support of our wonderful Finance team, and the patience and understanding of my family.

My entire 34-year career has been with the Finance Department. Finance is not a department, we are a family. Our staff, at all levels, is hard-working, ethical and dedicated, always delivering excellence with a smile. Our staff is second to none. I have served as Deputy Finance Director since 1996. Now, it is time to retire and move on to new experiences. This has been a very difficult decision, but I think the right one for my family and me.

Please accept my resignation from County service effective September 30, 2012. I wish everyone continued success, and I will definitely miss my friends and co-workers very much.

Sincerely,



Graciela Cespedes  
Deputy Finance Director