

# Memorandum



**Date:** April 10, 2013

**To:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", written over the printed name.

**Subject:** Directive 130232 – Miami International Agriculture, Horse and Cattle Show

At the February 11, 2013 Cultural Arts and Recreation Committee, Senator Javier D. Souto, Committee Chairman, requested a thorough inspection of Tropical Park be conducted before April 12, 2013, the start of the 2013 Miami International Agriculture, Horse and Cattle Show (MIAHCS) to ensure the grounds and facilities were clean and in proper working condition. It was also requested that dead trees be removed and replaced with new ones, adequate signage indicating direction and location be situated throughout the park, and that all restrooms and water fountains be fully operational.

A Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) certified arborist conducted a tree inspection at Tropical Park and found three royal palm trees in poor condition. These will be replaced with new trees during the rainy season which begins in May. Inspections of all restrooms, water fountains and signage were scheduled and completed; all were found to be in good repair.

Senator Souto also asked PROS to coordinate efforts with Mr. Kelvin Moreno, cattle show manager for the 2013 MIAHCS, in order to accomplish the following outcomes at Tropical Park in the future: 1) to equip the Mary Abreu Community Center (Center) with conference tables, chairs, and furnishings to accommodate conventions, auctions, and other large gatherings of agricultural industry members, particularly horse and cattle industry members (for a fee); 2) to consider including dairy cattle industry members in future park's activities and conventions; and 3) to make the center known to the world as the centerpiece of the park.

PROS is currently promoting the Center as a facility that is uniquely located to serve the cattle and equestrian industry. The Center is centrally located and easy and convenient to get to, just 20 minutes from Miami International Airport. The Center was completely renovated in June 2012 and is the perfect location for conventions, seminars, workshops and meetings for members of beef and dairy cattle associations as well as equestrian associations. It has 4,320 square-feet of meeting space, seats up to 250 people and has a small kitchen, an outdoor grilling area, restrooms, and parking. Podiums, stages, sound systems and assorted meeting equipment are available for rental. The Center is Wi-Fi equipped and can be used for internet sales of cattle and horse stock and genetic material.

Complementing the Center is the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center. Two new covered show rings are currently under construction (a warm-up ring and a practice ring) in addition to the existing covered show ring (50,000 sq. ft.). As a trio, the rings will create 150,000-square-foot of exhibit, competition and performance-ready arenas under 3.6 acres of covered roof. The improvements will complement the site's existing amenities, including its grand promenade, spectator seating, 267 stalls, vehicle hookups, restrooms, and concession area. Once construction is complete, larger events can be accommodated; this will increase the attractiveness of the Center for use by cattle and equestrian organizations.

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A promotional letter, signed by Senator Javier D. Souto and PROS Director Jack Kardys was sent to individuals in the cattle and equestrian industry to increase awareness of the Center. An informational brochure for marketing the Center is now available (attached). Additional information on the Center can be found on the PROS website at <http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/home.asp>. Mr. Moreno will continue marketing the Center to cattle and equestrian industry participants during the upcoming 2013 MIAHCS on April 12, 13 and 14, 2013.

If you need additional information, please contact Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, at 305-755-7903.

Attachments

c: Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor  
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department



miamidade.gov

Edwards Brahman Ranch  
P.O. Box 385  
Starke, FL 32091

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the residents of Miami-Dade County, I want to introduce you to the Mary Abreu Community Center at Tropical Park. Centrally located in the heart of Miami-Dade County, the Mary Abreu Community Center is surrounded by a vibrant hub of residential neighborhoods, shops and restaurants. It is easy and convenient to get to, just 20 minutes from Miami International Airport. This makes the Mary Abreu Community center the perfect location for conventions, seminars, workshops and meetings for members of beef and dairy cattle associations as well as equestrian associations. The Center has 4,320 square-feet of meeting space, seats up to 250 people and has a small kitchen, an outdoor grilling area, restrooms, and parking. Podiums, stages, sound systems and assorted meeting equipment is available for rental. The Center is Wi-Fi equipped and can be used for internet sales of cattle and horse stock and genetic material.

Also located within Tropical Park is the internationally renowned Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center. The new development currently under construction includes the addition of two new covered rings (a warm-up ring and a practice ring) to an existing covered show ring (50,000-sq. ft.) As a trio, the rings will create 150,000-square-foot of exhibit, competition and performance-ready arenas under 3.6 acres of covered roof. The improvements will further complement the site's existing amenities, including its grand promenade, spectator seating, two grass courses, 267 stalls, vehicle hookups, restrooms, and concession area.

The Equestrian Center currently hosts nearly 36 equestrian events each year, three state and local dog shows, as well as the annual Miami International Agriculture, Cattle and Horse Show, a three-day event which draws more than 60,000 visitors from around the world; and horse and cattle exhibitors from over 18 states including Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arizona, Arkansas, and Missouri.

Miami is the gateway to the Americas, with a world-class airport and seaport that can accommodate the shipment of cattle and equestrian stock and genetic material, and the Mary Abreu Community Center is uniquely located to serve the cattle and equestrian industry. For information on the Mary Abreu Community Center and how to plan your event or association's meeting, please contact Mr. Tim Byrnes of the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department at 305-226-8315.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Javier D. Souto". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Honorable Senator Javier D. Souto  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Commission District 10

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Kardys". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jack Kardys  
Director  
Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation  
and Open Spaces Department

**If you are looking for a location to hold your next meeting or event, the Mary Abreu Community Center is the ideal place.**

Managed by the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department, the Mary Abreu Community Center is located on the grounds of beautiful Tropical Park. It is complemented by the diversity of recreational activities underway daily at the park from competitive games by baseball and softball leagues, to pick-up basketball and tennis, even picnics underneath the park's pavilion-shelters. Regular activities and events also include concerts, open-air markets, and horse shows at the site's internationally renowned Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center. The park is a magnet for children, families and adults of all ages and abilities who love playing on its courts, fields and dog park. A regional park, it is one of the most popular parks in South Florida attracting users from throughout the tri-county area.



THE  
**MARY ABREU  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER**  
AT TROPICAL PARK

7900 SW 40TH STREET • MIAMI, FL 33155  
(305) 226-8316



The Mary Abreu Community Center is named after one of the Department's beloved leaders, the late Mary Abreu (1964-2011), a pioneering role model who championed the needs of working mothers and was instrumental in the development of the Tiny Tots program for pre-school children. A long-time Miami-Dade Parks administrator, she dedicated herself to improving the lives of citizens through its parks. The Center is named in her honor and serves as a celebration of her life and valuable contributions to the community.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS,  
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES**  
275 NW 2ND STREET • MIAMI, FL 33128  
[WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV/PARKS](http://WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV/PARKS)



To request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or sign language interpreter services (7 days in advance), call 305-755-7848.

THE  
**MARY ABREU  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER**  
AT TROPICAL PARK



**The Ideal Location for Events,  
Activities and Meetings**





## AMENITIES

- 4,320 square-feet of space
- Capacity for 250 people
- Podiums, sound systems, microphones, projector and screen, chairs, tables, and stage available for rent (includes professional set-up and breakdown)
- Miniature kitchen
- Outdoor grilling area
- Bathroom facilities
- Reserved parking space

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Centrally located in the heart of Miami-Dade County, the Mary Abreu Community Center at Tropical Park is surrounded by a vibrant hub of residential neighborhoods, shops and restaurants. It is easy and convenient to get to, just minutes from State Road 836 (Dolphin Expressway). It is also nestled between the three major connected roadways of State Road 826 (Palmetto Expressway), Bird Road (SW 40th Street) and Miller Drive (SW 56th Street), west of Coral Gables.

## HEART & HERITAGE

Tropical Park is a recreational jewel within the highly acclaimed Miami-Dade County park system consisting of 260 parks all managed and operated by the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department. The Department has been highly lauded for its diversity of facilities, services, and programs, and is renowned for its attention to the recreational needs of residents and visitors alike. The Mary Abreu Community Center is named after one of the Department's beloved leaders, the late Mary Abreu

(1964-2011), a pioneering role model who championed the needs of working mothers and was instrumental in the development of the Tiny Tots program for pre-school children. A long-time Miami-Dade Parks administrator, she dedicated herself to improving the lives of citizens through its parks. The Center is named in her honor and serves as a celebration of her life and valuable contributions to the community.

## DISABILITY SERVICES

To request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or sign language interpreter services (7 days in advance), call 305-755-7848.

## RESERVATIONS, RENTALS & MORE INFORMATION

To reserve your rental of the Mary Abreu Community Center or to learn more information, please contact Tropical Park Manager Tim Byrnes at (305) 226-8316.



## EVENT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS

The Mary Abreu Community Center is the perfect venue for small to mid-size events and is a popular venue commonly rented for a wide variety of activities. The most popular include:

- Business Meetings
- Group Meetings
- Training Seminars
- Instructional Classes
- Baby Showers
- Birthday Parties
- Bar & Bat Mitzvahs
- Family Reunions
- Quinceañeras
- Receptions
- Recitals