Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: January 16, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
And Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Scrap Metal Enforcement Report (Directive 141847)

The following information is being provided in response to Resolution R-782-14 adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) to provide periodic reports to the Board on the compliance and enforcement of the Junk Dealers and Scrap Metal Processors Ordinance.

Secondary metal recyclers are regulated under Chapter 538, Part II of the Florida Statutes. On April 4, 2011, the Board adopted Ordinance O-11-17 amending Sections 8A-203 and 8A-237 and creating Sections 8A-9 - 8A-9.6 of the Miami-Dade County Code relating to the Junk Dealers and Scrap Metal Processors. This Ordinance was primarily created to enable law enforcement authorities to impede unlawful activity by junk dealers and scrap metal processors, including the sale of stolen regulated metals property. The Ordinance: (1) requires that junk dealers and scrap metal processors maintain a legible record of all purchase transactions for a minimum of five years (including seller's name, address, and thumbprint); (2) prohibits cash transactions; (3) establishes penalties for any person violating sections of the Ordinance; (4) mandates training for every junk dealer and scrap metal processor on the requirements of the Ordinance 11-17 and Chapter 538 Part 11 of the Florida Statutes.

On October 4, 2011, the Board adopted Ordinance O-11-76 creating the Scrap Metal and Copper Wire Theft Task Force (Task Force). This Task Force, Chaired by Commissioner Audrey Edmonson and staffed by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), was established to formulate recommendations, amendments, and educate businesses and the community on the effect of illegal sales of regulated and restricted regulated metals.

The MDPD was tasked with conducting secondhand dealer and secondary metals recycler inspections to ensure compliance with the Ordinance. Metal theft has become one of the fastest growing crimes throughout the country. Copper, aluminum, nickel, stainless steel, and scrap iron are often stolen and resold for financial gain. Criminals often target metal sheets from rooftops, decorations from cemeteries, air conditioners (copper coils), wiring and piping from residences. Copper found in gutters, flashings, downspouts, water lines, and electrical wiring can be quickly stripped from vacant buildings, industrial facilities, commercial buildings, and construction sites. The metal is then sold to recycling companies and scrap yards for profit.

During calendar year 2014, from January 1 to June 20, the MDPD, along with support from other law enforcement investigative entities throughout Miami-Dade County, conducted approximately 50 scrap metal inspections, made seven (7) felony arrests, and recovered over

200,000 pounds of aluminum and copper stolen from Florida Power and Light (FPL) valued at over $2.5 million dollars. From June 21 to October 31, the MDPD conducted approximately 139 scrap metal inspections, made 20 arrests, and recovered over 40,000 pounds of batteries, aluminum, and copper valued at approximately $70,000.00.

The most notable enforcement of metal theft occurred on Wednesday, October 8, 2014. During a routine inspection at the Metal Movers Metal Recyclers, located at 3200 NW 68 Street, two (2) males were observed cutting a spool of brand new copper wire down into sections using a circular hand saw. The identification label, along with the job number on the spools, provided enough information for the MDPD to make contact with the company the spools derived from. This investigation revealed that the spools were taken during a burglary of a Miami-Dade County Transit facility job site the previous day and had a retail value of $55,020.00. Further inspection of the facility revealed 24 more spools of copper wire stacked up in a room ready to be cut. Inspection of the labels revealed that the wire came from Tri-City Electric and the spools were assigned to a Cleveland Clinic job site. MDPD contacted Tri-City Electric and was advised that the spools had been taken during a burglary of three (3) of their storage facilities in Weston, Florida. The total retail value of the 24 spools of cooper was $11,736.00. Thirty additional spools of wire that had been labeled as sold to HD Supply Power Solutions were located. This wire had been taken during a burglary of the business. The total retail value of the 30 additional spools was $2,443.00. Also recovered at the scrap metal yard in question was a small bundle of aluminum wire from FPL, which was clearly identified as FPL property.

The MDPD has conducted two (2) "Train the Trainer" sessions for all MDPD General Investigation Unit detectives. The sessions were held on August 6 and 7, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Northside Station. Each MDPD General Investigation Unit sent a minimum of two (2) detectives to become certified as instructors. Additionally, on November 3 and 4, 2014, MDPD conducted training for various personnel from municipal police departments within Miami-Dade County.

In accordance with the Ordinance, the MDPD will notify business owners in writing that they are mandated to schedule an eight-hour online training program within 30 days of issuance of a temporary registration or registration by the Department of Revenue, and must complete the online training program within 60 days of said issuance. This training will provide business owners information regarding the requirements of the Ordinance. Upon completion, a Certificate of Completion will be issued. If the business owner owns more than one (1) location, then one (1) employee from each location must receive training. MDPD will collect a $150.00 fee for training as established by Implementing Order 4-33.

Per Ordinance 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board of County Commissioners meeting agenda.

If you have any further questions, please contact J.D. Patterson, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department at 305-471-3272, or me directly.

c: Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
J.D. Patterson, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
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