

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Commission on Disability Issues

April 22, 2008

Honorable Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
Members, Board of County Commissioners
Cathy Grimes Peel, Director of Consumer Services

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The Miami-Dade County Commission on Disability Issues (**CODI**) is mandated by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (**BCC**) to advise it on issues which will have an impact on the lives of people with disabilities: an estimated half a million voters in Miami-Dade County.

Miami-Dade County introduced its wheelchair accessible taxicab program in 2002. Since then, 65 accessible cabs have been issued through the lottery process. However CODI continues to receive complaints about the unavailability of wheelchair accessible taxi cabs. After studying this issue with industry representatives and with the Department of Consumer Services, CODI sees this valuable service as a service in need of fixing. People with disabilities deserve a better system than the system that is now in place.

There are five recommendations that CODI would like you to support.

- One Central phone number to obtain an accessible cab
- Radio dispatched calls
- Encouraging the various parties to work together to achieve a 24/7 availability
- Greater promotion of wheelchair accessible taxi cabs

CODI encourages the County Commission to recognize that taxi cab service isn't equitable and would like the Commission to support these recommendations. Some of these recommendations came directly from a taxi cab study done in 2007 by the Tennessee Transportation & Logistic Foundation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McNally
Chairperson