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**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Suzy Trutie  
(305) 375-1545

## **MIAMI-DADE MAYOR CARLOS ALVAREZ PLEDGES SUPPORT OF MIAMI-DADE HIV/AIDS PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

(MIAMI, September 13, 2005) – At the September 12, 2005, Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership meeting, Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez pledged he would assist the Partnership by acting as an advocate in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

“Despite all of the medical and technological advances, there are still too many people living with HIV/AIDS who are not receiving care,” said Mayor Alvarez. “In our community alone, there are close to 4,000 people who are not receiving treatment. We must do everything in our power to bring them into care.”

In Miami-Dade County, more than 23,000 residents are living with HIV/AIDS and know their diagnosis. In 2004, the number of newly reported AIDS cases rose by one-third (33%) over 2003. At the same time, because of lower mortality from the disease, the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS continues to rise.

### **Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership**

The Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners created the HIV/AIDS Health Services Planning Council in 1994 to meet federal funding requirements for HIV/AIDS service planning. In 1998, the Commission revised the ordinance to reflect an expanded mandate and create the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership. The Partnership serves in an advisory capacity to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and other governmental entities with respect to HIV/AIDS issues. Areas of responsibility include medical care and support services, HIV prevention and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS.

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### **OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW 1st Street, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor Miami, Florida 33128  
(305) 375-5071