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Applicants for Future Miami Port Tunnel Jobs Are Being Recruited During Upcoming Overtown Folk Life Friday Event

*---Miami’s Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is Partnering with Miami Access Tunnel to
Ensure Locals are Hired for Port Tunnel ---*

(MIAMI, FL)--- SEOPW CRA Chairman Richard P. Dunn, Omni CRA Chairman Marc D. Sarnoff, and Midtown Chair Francis Suarez, join Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, CRA Board Members Wifredo “Willy” Gort and Frank Carollo, Miami-Dade Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, CRA Executive Director Pieter Bockweg, and Miami Access Tunnel Vice President Christopher Hodgkins to welcome applicants to an open Tunnel job recruiting session sponsored by the Miami CRA. Representatives from the University of Miami Life Science and Technology Park will also be on hand focusing on skilled trade construction positions like roofers, drywall, and electric. **The event is set for Friday, September 3rd 2010 at 11:30 AM on the 9th street Pedestrian Mall in Overtown at 919 NW 2ND Ave as part of the CRA sponsored Folk Life Friday event, an event designed to promote businesses within the CRA boundaries. Friday’s event is to specifically collect applications.**

The Miami CRA is facilitating the financing of \$50 million dollars toward the construction of the tunnel which will connect the Port of Miami to Watson Island. At the peak of construction in 2011, more than 300 new jobs will be created. “It is vital to the CRA that the new jobs are a mirror of the community which is contributing to this project. “Once the construction is complete, many more new job opportunities will be created when the new tunnel is combined with the arrival of larger ships made possible by the port dredging project,” says Southeast Overtown/Park West CRA Chairman Dunn.

So far, a dozen local residents have already been hired, with many more to come. “These employees will also be fully trained by the project management team, which means once the construction is complete they will be experienced and able to embark on a new stage to their careers,” says Omni CRA Chairman Sarnoff.

Several of the new hires will be attending the event. “We are absolutely committed to training residents within the CRA community and putting them to work on this landmark project,” says Miami Access Tunnel Vice-President Christopher Hodgkins.

“During these hard economic times, people from this community need jobs more than ever. I am pleased that the residents will have greater opportunities for meaningful employment within our community,” adds Miami-Dade Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.

“Any project that the CRA funds must provide tangible results for the community, such as long term job opportunities,” says CRA Executive Director Pieter Bockweg.

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