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**Richard P. Dunn—SEOPW Chair**  
**Marc D. Sarnoff—Omni Chair**  
**Francis Suarez—Midtown Chair**  
**Frank Carollo—Board Member**  
**Wifredo “Willy” Gort--Member**

## Media Advisory

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**Miami, FL**

### **Miami Residents and Businesses are Focus of New Initiative to Ensure Port of Miami Tunnel Construction Jobs Stay within the Community**

*--Miami Access Tunnel, LLC and the Miami Community Redevelopment Agency Team up to announce “Operation 305” Local Hiring Initiative—*

**(Miami, FL)**—Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, Omni CRA Chairman Marc D. Sarnoff, and Southeast Overtown/Park West CRA Chairman Richard P. Dunn joined Midtown CRA Chairman Francis Suarez, CRA Board members Wifredo “Willy” Gort and Frank Carollo, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, CRA Executive Director Pieter Bockweg, Miami Access Tunnel Vice-President Chris Hodgkins, and local business owners to announce a new initiative aimed at ensuring local residents and businesses are hired for the landmark Port of Miami Access Tunnel project.

“The Miami CRA has been working closely with the Tunnel leadership team to ensure this project is a reflection of the community which is contributing to this project,” says SEOPW CRA Chairman Dunn.

The 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. “There must be a clear commitment to our residents and local businesses that jobs and opportunities will stay in our community,” adds Omni CRA Chairman Sarnoff.

“Operation 305 is expected to fill hundreds of positions for Miami residents and award contracts to local firms in Miami-Dade County,” says Project Vice-President Hodgkins. “So far more than 50 local firms have been awarded contracts to work on the project and we are looking to increase the number specifically from within the CRA boundaries,” adds Hodgkins.

The Miami CRA will be co-sponsoring the “Operation 305” program.

“The Port Tunnel is a billion dollar project. It is important that our residents and local firms have access to all job and business opportunities within Miami-Dade County,” says County Commissioner Edmonson.

The MAT Team will hold a local contractor and supplier expo on November 19<sup>th</sup> to educate local companies about available opportunities. For more information, visit [www.operation305.com](http://www.operation305.com)

For more information, please contact David Karsh at (786) 299-0597.

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