



MEDIA ALERT

LEMON CITY CEMETERY CELEBRATES LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION

State Representative James Bush, Mayor Tomas Regalado, Commissioner Richard P. Dunn II and Commissioner Audrey Edmonson to Attend

Tuesday, February 16th @ 10am

WHAT: The Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation, in conjunction with The African-American Committee of Dade Heritage Trust, will host a special celebration in honor of the historic designation of the Lemon City Cemetery.

Government officials, including Florida State Representative James Bush, City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Richard P. Dunn II and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson will join Florida State Archaeologist Dr. Ryan J. Wheeler, community leaders and members of the local business community to dedicate Miami's latest historic landmark. The Miami Northwestern Marching Band and "The Singing Angels" led by Dr. Richard Strachan will provide music for the celebration.

The Lemon City Cemetery was deemed a historic site by Miami's Historic and Environmental Preservation Board in November 2009, a process which began earlier that year after human bones and pieces of caskets were discovered during the initial construction phase of Village Carver, a new affordable housing development being built by Biscayne Housing Group and Carlisle Development Group on land owned by the YMCA of Greater Miami.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

WHERE: Behind the Hampshire Engraving Building
285 NW 71st Street
Miami, FL

INTERVIEWS: Enid Pinkney, chair of the African-American Committee of Dade Heritage Trust and chair of the Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation

Alfred Sanchez, president and CEO, YMCA of Greater Miami

Oscar Sol, senior vice president of development, Carlisle Development Group

Michael Cox, CEO, Biscayne Housing Group

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About Biscayne Housing Group

Based in Miami-Dade County, Biscayne Housing Group is a real estate company that builds affordable housing for the elderly, families, homeless and youth aging out of foster care. BHG currently has more than 500 affordable apartments under development in Miami.

About Carlisle Development Group

Founded in 1997, Carlisle Development Group is a fully integrated real estate company which has developed, leased and managed affordable housing developments throughout Florida totaling over 7,500 residential units and more than one billion dollars in total development costs. For more information, visit www.carlisledevelopmentgroup.com.

About Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation

The Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation started out as the African American Committee of Dade Heritage Trust, which later became the Lemon City Cemetery Task Force and now has been incorporated. The first meeting was held on May 25, 2009 at Jefferson Reaves Park to discuss strategies to deal with the discovery of the Lemon City Cemetery. Finding family members of the deceased, applying for historic designation, inviting elected officials to our meeting and getting the community involved were strategies suggested to deal with the situation. All meetings have been open to the public. The developers, the YMCA and the LCCC have discussed how to resolve the situation. The LCCC adopted a resolution which was presented to and passed by the Historic Environment Preservation Board of the City of Miami in July. The LCCC prepared and presented a preliminary historic designation report for the September meeting of the HEP Board. That report was accepted unanimously by the Board in October. The LCCC looks forward to working with the developers and the YMCA to memorialize the persons who are buried in the Lemon City Cemetery.

About YMCA of Greater Miami

Founded in 1916, the YMCA of Greater of Miami is one of South Florida's oldest and largest not-for-profit organizations. With branches throughout Miami-Dade and upper Monroe County, the Y is committed to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. Its scope of services includes youth sports, aquatics, after-school, preschool and child care, summer camp, teen clubs, health and fitness programs, and membership. For more information about the YMCA of Greater Miami, call toll free 1-877-WOW-YMCA or visit www.ymcamiami.org