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MIAMI DDA LAUNCHES 2008 FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

MIAMI (April 8, 2008) – The Miami Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has announced that it has launched the Façade Improvement Grant Program to support its mission to beautify downtown. The Façade Improvement Program helps businesses located within the historic district of downtown Miami improve their exterior façades in order to mitigate code violations and beautify property.

Improvements, reimbursed up to 75% through grants, include masonry, security, gates, awnings, paint, window/door glazing, signage, lighting and electrical repairs and upgrades. The program also pays 100% of the costs for qualifying businesses to replace metal shutters with see-through grates to minimize the act, and eyesore, of graffiti. The Miami DDA spearheaded and funded the program with the support of the Downtown Miami Partnership and the City of Miami Police Department.

Proposals for the program are currently being accepted for review on an ongoing basis until program funds are exhausted.

Neisen O. Kasdin, chairman of the Miami DDA Economic Development Committee, noted, “The façade and shutter replacement program will dramatically improve the appearance and perception of safety on streets in the Central Business District. We want to focus our efforts on Flagler Street first since it is the most important retail street and will have the greatest impact.”

Other Miami DDA programs that contribute to the aesthetic improvement and enhanced safety and security of Downtown Miami include the Ambassador Program, the DET Team and several capital improvement projects.

The Miami Downtown Development Authority, founded in 1965, is a public-private, non-profit business organization that strives to develop Miami's downtown area. It is governed by a 15-member Board comprised of three (3) public appointees and

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twelve (12) downtown property owners, residents and / or workers. Through its own programs and services and partnership with the City of Miami and other governmental entities, Miami DDA is dedicated to making Downtown a more livable community and improving the quality of life for employers, employees, residents, property owners, and visitors. For grant inquiries, please contact the Downtown Miami Partnership at (305) 379-7070. For additional information, please call (305) 579-6675 or visit www.miamidda.com.

The Miami DDA in partnership with the Miami Downtown Partnership also publishes the DWNTWNR Newsletter, a quarterly update on what's new and happening in Downtown. The colorful informational piece is distributed to 15,000 residents, businesses, corporate centers and the Welcome Center. For more information on Downtown Miami, please visit the online version of the DWNTWNR Newsletter at www.dwntwnr.com.

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