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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY APPROVES FIRST SOURCE FOR HIRING REFERRAL PROGRAM

(MIAMI, May 4, 2012) — Miami-Dade County (MDC) Commissioners approved First Source for Hiring Referral program, an initiative that seeks to ensure residents have the first opportunity for employment consideration from businesses, who receives a contract with Miami-Dade County.

The First Source Hiring Referral Program was spearheaded by MDC Commissioner Barbara Jordan, the MDC Attorney's Office, People Acting for Community Together, Inc. (PACT) and South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB). The program establishes South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) as a first source job registry and referral system for employment through Miami-Dade County (MDC). Businesses, who receive a contract with the County, are required to post their openings with First Source and offer qualified County residents the first opportunity for referred to those positions.

“The First Source for Hiring not only maximizes employment opportunities for area residents, it better connects workforce and economic development to be mutually beneficial and reinforces the overall economic growth and sustainability of Miami-Dade County,” said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

SFWIB will be charged with compiling and maintaining a registry of unemployed persons qualified to fill jobs created to satisfy the requirements of MDC contracts. While the ordinance does not require an employer to hire a specific candidate, it does require that businesses make a good effort to fill a minimum of 50% of the number of entry-level job openings with candidates from First Source.

ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

South Florida Workforce is a public-private partnership that establishes state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Additionally, South Florida Workforce services and resources are available to everyone at no cost through a network of career centers located throughout the region.

For more information on the First Source for Hiring Referral Program, contact SFWIB at 305-594-7615 or visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

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