

MODEL CITY COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TRUST BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In developing the City of Miami's 1999-2004 Consolidated Plan, primary consideration centered around three goals:

Quality Housing Opportunities;
Quality of Life Enhancements; and
Economic Revitalization

That consideration was prodded by the fact that the City of Miami had been recognized by the 1990 Census as the fourth poorest city in the United States. As a result of the 2000 Census, the City of Miami is now recognized as the **poorest** city in the nation, and the need for revitalization has become even more pronounced. In focusing on those city neighborhoods with the highest rates of poverty and the most severe decline, the City designated seven (7) **Community Revitalization Districts** that reflected median income levels below 50 % of the Miami-Dade County average and homeownership rates of under 20 % in each individual **District**. Within each **District** a **Homeownership Zone** and an **Economic Revitalization Zone** were additionally identified.

The **Model City Community Revitalization District** has been selected as the pilot project for implementation. To ensure that the City's short-term, intermediate and long-term revitalization goals for the Model City neighborhood can be implemented expeditiously and effectively, the City Commission approved the creation and establishment of the **Model City Community Revitalization Trust (the "Trust")**, which is responsible for providing oversight and facilitating the revitalization efforts to be undertaken in the **District**.

The Board of Directors of the **Trust** consists of seven (7) individuals with experience in one or more of the following disciplines: residential construction, development, architecture and engineering, planning, zoning and land use law, economic development, historic preservation and restoration, administration, fiscal management, and community involvement. Six (6) members of the Board have been appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Commission. One (1) member is considered a Public Advocate for the community and is appointed by the District 5 Commissioner.

Because of the broad authority that is vested in the membership of the **Trust**, it was the Commission's direction that an in-depth members and interested parties orientation be held to delineate the goals and objectives of the **Trust**, along with the responsibilities and obligations of the Board. The orientation was scheduled June 13-15, 2002.

While the title of the **Trust** includes the homeownership goal, it is necessary to understand that the **Trust** bears responsibility for the entire **Model City Community Revitalization District** which is located at the contiguous area bounded by NW 71st Street to the North; NW 54th Street to the South, I95 (Interstate 95) to the East; and NW 17th Avenue to the West and the non-contiguous area of NW 17th to 19th Avenues between NW 58th Street and State Road 112.

Phase I is focused on the **Homeownership Zone**, which is located at the contiguous areas between NW 17th and 12th Avenues between NW 54th to 62nd Streets, and the non-contiguous area of NW 17th to 19th Avenues between NW 58th Street and State Road 112.

This massive revitalization effort is, however, designed to be more than just a simple housing program. While providing homeownership opportunities is central, the prototype design is multi-faceted and includes a comprehensive approach to literally transform an entire City neighborhood and provide an environment with quality of life standards to raise a family. The comprehensive strategy includes:

- State of the art infrastructure improvements (streets, sidewalks, lighting, water/sewer, and underground utilities)
- The creation of “green space”, including a neighborhood park and/or park improvements/expansion
- Establishment of a community center
- The revitalization of the commercial corridors
- Development of “Gateway” initiatives at the entryways to the District
- Creation of a neighborhood One-Stop Center to provide job training, placement assistance, homeownership training and counseling, and other available social services
- Establishment of a Magnet School in the technology discipline
- Construction of a Postal Facility
- Providing a full service Healthcare Facility
- Construction of a new Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) office

Homeownership opportunity for families who have been relocated out of the area prior to construction is a priority. A major goal is to assist Section 8 and other low-income residents to realize homeownership through programs that provide homeownership guidance along with educational and career

opportunities. A further goal is to provide rehabilitation assistance to current homeowners. An additional goal is to encourage and enhance historic preservation efforts in the area. Another key to the success of the overall project is attracting middle-income residents to return to the City to establish a multiple range of incomes community.

On April 26, 2002, the ***Trust*** held its inaugural Board of Directors meeting and is currently in the process of transferring the oversight and management of the project from the City to the ***Trust***.