



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and colleagues:

It has been a wonderful and productive year. This record setting year would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our Board of Directors, Officers, and our Executive Director and his staff. This year started with a "blast" and I am not only referring to last year's annual installation dinner at the Parrot Jungle, but to Hurricane Wilma which caused our November meeting to be canceled. We immediately regrouped and focused the League's attention on lessons we learned from the storm and helped to organize the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on FPL issues. In the following months the League formed committees to address the needs of the handicapped residents of our municipalities and other hurricane preparedness issues.

During the past year MDCLC was invited to participate on a host of committees sponsored by Miami Dade County including two of which I personally served on. The first was Building Better Communities GOB Program Economic Development Fund Project Review committee, and the other was CDBG Disaster Recovery Initiative Project Review Committee. By serving on these committees the League played a vital role in insuring that cities get their fair share of proceeds from these county and federal programs.

Our legislative committee headed by Second VP Richard Steinberg and Third VP Shirley Gibson was effective in keeping MDCLC members informed of proposed legislation which could effect all of us. Furthermore, they maintained a constant line of communication open with our legislators as to "our cities" position on key issues. With input from our board members we assembled our own list of Legislative priorities and brought it personally to Tallahassee. I want to also thank my First Vice President Eduardo Gonzalez, Secretary Manny Marono, and Treasurer, Michael Blynn for their successful efforts lobbying for cities in our State Legislature.

We close the year with excellent news of several new initiatives discussed when I was sworn in as President. The league has begun to organize our Past Presidents Unit which I will chair. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Board in order to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience our past presidents can offer. Next, our MDCLC website is under construction, and will be fully functional by late September. I am proud to announce that with the help of our General Counsel, our City Attorney Division has been active this year with various CLE luncheon seminars which have been well attended. Our participation on various committees and trusts has given the League an opportunity to participate in virtually all major decisions made by the County which affect our constituents. Finally, the League has begun to consistently have a positive cash balance which will enable future boards to flourish. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as your president.

Sincerely,

Isaac Salver, President
Miami Dade County League of Cities
2005-2006
Councilman, Bay Harbor Islands