

Goodwill South Florida

Training, employing & placing
people with disabilities and
special needs in community jobs.

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September 30, 2010

Honorable Donald Slesnick, II
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mayor Slesnick:

It is with sincere pleasure that I congratulate you and the City Beautiful for your concerted efforts to support sustainability and environmental sensitivity through your green initiatives and the Green Task Force which becomes effective October 1, 2010.

At Goodwill Industries of South Florida, Inc., we believe that we demonstrate good corporate citizenship by contributing in many ways to the City's efforts. The purpose of this letter is to request an opportunity to address the City Commission at its meeting on October 12, 2010. We would like to ask the City Commission to allow the continued placement of a Goodwill attended donation unit within the City's parking lot number 43.

As you are well aware, Goodwill is Florida not-for-profit charitable organization operating within the strictures of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our mission is to provide vocational rehabilitation, training and employment for people with severe disabilities. In the first eight months of this year, Goodwill was able to serve 91 severely disabled residents of the City of Coral Gables and to provide opportunities and to open doors for them that otherwise would have remained closed.

We are able to serve your severely disabled residents, in part, through the generous donations of your citizens and residents. Goodwill has operated a temporary, attended donation unit in parking lot number 43, and the response of your citizens has been heart-warming. Thanks to the generosity of your constituents, we have achieved the following:

- Goodwill has received 20,536 individual donations.
- The Coral Gables' donations represent 821,360 pounds or 410 tons of donated materials.
- The Coral Gables' donations represent 574,900 pounds of merchandise recycled and sold, thereby diverting that material from landfills
- The Coral Gables' donations represent \$480,000 in revenues to support the mission of Goodwill.

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The Coral Gables donors are warmly enthusiastic in their support for the attended donation unit. Many have expressed their gratitude for making it convenient for them to recycle while at the same time enabling them to support an important cause. Seventy percent of the Coral Gables donors request a receipt for a tax deduction, demonstrating that our facility assists your residents in attaining tax deductions. We have not received any complaints about the attended donation unit. To the best of our knowledge, there has never been an incident of trash being deposited after hours at the attended donation unit; however, we will remain diligent in our efforts to ensure that the area remains neat and clean at all times. Further, Goodwill's insurance provides full protection for the operation of the attended donation unit at the site.

Goodwill will soon be embarking on another project to aid your City and its residents in their recycling goals. Beginning in 2011, Goodwill will be involved with Dell Computers in a program to recycle computers. Severely disabled Goodwill employees will process, disassemble and clean the hard drives of donated computers and, where feasible, re-assemble them for resale. With regard to unmarketable computers and computer parts, Dell will provide a vendor who will certify that disposal of those unusable components will be achieved in an environmentally appropriate manner. This program for recycling computers will provide another convenient benefit for your residents, while creating technology jobs for persons with disabilities and also generating revenues to support the overall mission of Goodwill.

Goodwill Industries respectfully asks that the City continue to allow us to serve your residents by providing (1) convenient recycling opportunities; (2) income tax deductions for your residents; (3) support for your ongoing green initiatives; (4) revenue savings through reduced trash hauling; (5) revenues to train and employ your severely disabled residents; (6) community goodwill as demonstrated through enthusiastic donations. If you deem it appropriate for us to address the City Commission to secure permission to continue operating our attended donation unit within parking lot number 43, kindly place us on the next available agenda, and we will gratefully and respectfully seek the approval and support of the Commission.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



Dennis Pastrana
President and CEO

cc: City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Assistant City Manager Maria Alberro Menedez
Joseph P. Lacher - Chair Board of Directors & Trustees
Alesia Mogul - Director Human Services & Human Resources
Mary Martin Young - Director Treasurer
Jim Barker - Trustees