

City of Miami Springs

## News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

City Officials: Councilwoman Jennifer Ator  
 Mayor Xavier Garcia Councilman Bob Best  
 Vice-Mayor Dan Espino Councilman George Lob

201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, FL 33166 • City Hall: 305.805.5000 • Police: 305.888.9711 • Water/Sewer Emergencies: 305.274.9272 • Fire &amp; Rescue: 911

FEBRUARY 2012

## FACT SHEET #1

## CONSIDERATION OF OUTSOURCING ADDITIONAL PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES

JUST THE FACTS

**Q: Has any decision been made yet to outsource additional Public Works services?**

**A:** No, absolutely not.

**Q: Why is the City considering outsourcing?**

**A:** In an ongoing effort to provide quality services at the lowest cost, the City Council and the Administration have the fiscal responsibility to examine every aspect of City finances and operations. This is in direct response to widespread resident demand for quality services and lower taxes and fees.

**Q: Has the city outsourced any services in the past?**

**A:** Yes, the city has been outsourcing certain services for years and has been very satisfied with the results, both from a financial and a quality of service point of view. The city is currently outsourcing the golf course maintenance staff, the fleet maintenance at public works, and the city's building inspectors.

**Q: How did this process begin?**

**A:** The Council and the Administration, fulfilling their financial responsibilities, engaged a Public Works consultant to estimate savings for outsourcing the tree trimming, sanitation (trash and garbage), and city-wide landscaping functions of our Public Works Department – services that have been successfully outsourced in other communities. The consultant's report summarized that the City could potentially save \$1 million each year by outsourcing these three Public Works functions. The recommendation may be viewed at: <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/recommendations.pdf>

**Q: How did the consultant arrive at the figure of \$1 million in savings each year?**

**A:** A savings of \$754,725 each year from sanitation services was projected by the Public Works consultant, resulting in a \$208 cost reduction each year for each of the 3,625 households that receive City sanitation services. Landscaping and tree trimming savings of approximately \$245,000 each year is based on contract prices that other cities are paying for similar services and the cost reductions from the reduction in staff and benefits, maintenance of vehicles, and other operating costs of the department. Finally, there would also be a savings in Fleet Maintenance of approx. \$30,000 each year since we could bring that function back in-house with one mechanic instead of the current contracted service.

**Q: How will this be done?**

**A:** The City will conduct a competitive selection process. This is the only way to determine the actual cost savings that preserve the existing high level of quality service.

**Q: Will the level of the City's Public Works services deteriorate through outsourcing?**

**A:** No. The City's competitive selection process will require that the level of service provided by any potential vendor has to be the same or better.

**Q: What other cities have successfully experienced outsourcing?**

**A:** The following beautiful cities currently outsource tree trimming, sanitation and landscaping, and are very satisfied with the level of service and quality of the work: Miami Beach, Aventura, Miami Lakes, Pinecrest, Surfside, Sunny Isles, North Bay Village, Homestead, Key Biscayne, South Miami, and Palmetto Bay.

**Q: Will residents have to deal with an outside vendor if there is a service issue?**

**A:** No. Miami Springs Public Works supervisors and employees will oversee the vendors to ensure that they perform their required services in accordance with their contract. Residents will still contact our Public Works Department whenever they have a service issue or suggestion.

**Q: Where is this process now?**

**A:** As of the first week of February, draft specifications for the competitive selection process have been developed, and are in the process of internal review. They have not yet been released. Once complete, they will be published for approximately 30 days.

**Q: What are the next steps?**

**A:** Upon conclusion of the competitive selection process, the Mayor and Council will make all final decisions based upon factors such as cost savings, quality of service, references and resident input. The Mayor and Council always retain the right to reject all competitive selection responses.

**Q: If the services are outsourced will the Public Works department be retained?**

**A:** Yes. The Public Works department will still remain an integral part of the city's operation and will continue to have many important duties to perform. In addition to monitoring the services provided by the outsourcing companies, they will continue to do street and sidewalk repairs, building maintenance, stormwater, setup and clean up of city events, and so on.

— City Manager

The consultant recommendation may be viewed at:

<http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/recommendations.pdf>

## VERDAD #1

## CONSIDERACIÓN DE EXTERNALIZAR CIERTOS SERVICIOS DE OBRAS PÚBLICAS

JUST THE FACTS

**Q: ¿Qué es "externalizar servicios" (outsourcing)?**

**A:** Es el proceso de contratar a compañías privadas para que realicen ciertos trabajos en la ciudad que normalmente son hechos internamente.

**Q: ¿La ciudad ya decidió externalizar ciertos servicios del Departamento de Obras Públicas?**

**A:** No, absolutamente, no.

**Q: ¿Por qué la ciudad está considerando la externalización de servicios?**

**A:** En nuestros esfuerzos de proveerle a nuestros residentes la mayor calidad de servicios a los precios más bajos, el Concejo de la Ciudad y la Administración tienen la responsabilidad fiscal de examinar todos los aspectos de las finanzas y operaciones de la ciudad. Esta política es el resultado de las numerosas demandas hechas por los residentes de nuestra ciudad para que se mantengan los impuestos sobre sus propiedades lo más bajo posible al igual que los recargos que la ciudad impone sobre otros servicios.

**Q: ¿Ha externalizado la ciudad algunos servicios en el pasado?**

**A:** Si, la ciudad ha externalizado algunos servicios por varios años y hemos quedado muy satisfechos con los resultados financieros al igual que la calidad de servicios recibidos. Actualmente la ciudad tiene externalizado el mantenimiento del campo de golf, mantenimiento de vehículos en obras públicas, y los inspectores de la ciudad.

**Q: ¿Cómo comenzó este proceso?**

**A:** El Concejo y la Administración, cumpliendo con su responsabilidad financiera, contrató a un consultor en obras públicas para que les preparara un estudio de los posibles ahorros en externalizar los servicios de mantenimiento de árboles, mantenimiento de áreas verdes, y recogida de basura – servicios que otras comunidades han externalizado con grandes ahorros y sin pérdida en la calidad de servicios. El reporte del consultor concluye que la ciudad tiene el potencial de realizar casi \$1 millón de dólares en ahorros anualmente si externaliza estos tres servicios de obras públicas. El reporte lo pueden leer en la siguiente página web: <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/recommendations.pdf>

**Q: ¿Cómo concluye el Consultor que la ciudad se ahorraría \$1 millón de dólares anualmente?**

**A:** Un ahorro de \$754,725 anualmente viene de la recogida de basura, esto resulta en una reducción de \$208 anuales por cada una de las 3,625 residencias en nuestra ciudad que reciben servicios de recogida de basura. El mantenimiento de árboles y de áreas verdes en la ciudad resulta en un ahorro de aproximadamente \$245,000 anualmente y es basado en los contratos que otras ciudades pagan por los mismos servicios, las reducciones de costos al reducir salarios y beneficios, mantenimiento de vehículos, y otros gastos operativos en dicha operación. Finalmente, también logramos un ahorro del mantenimiento de vehículos de aproximadamente \$30,000 anualmente al cancelar el contrato con la compañía que ofrece estos servicios actualmente y contratar un mecánico certificado y un ayudante para reemplazar el contrato anterior.

**Q: ¿Cómo sería este proceso?**

**A:** La ciudad emplea un proceso competitivo para recibir ofertas de aquellas compañías que estén interesadas en ofrecer estos servicios. Esta es la única manera de determinar si verdaderamente hubiera ahorros reales y al mismo tiempo mantener la alta calidad de servicios que se les ofrece actualmente a nuestros residentes.

**Q: ¿Si la ciudad externaliza estos servicios se notara un descenso en el nivel de la calidad de los servicios?**

**A:** No. Durante el proceso competitivo para recibir ofertas, se impondrá un requisito a todas las compañías de que el nivel de calidad de sus servicios a la ciudad tienen que ser igual o mejor que los actuales!

**Q: ¿Qué otras ciudades han implementado exitosamente la externalización de servicios?**

**A:** Las siguientes y bellas ciudades actualmente están externalizando los servicios de mantenimiento de árboles y áreas verdes de la ciudad al igual que la recogida de basura y están muy satisfechas con la calidad de los servicios recibidos: Miami Beach, Aventura, Miami Lakes, Pinecrest, Surfside, Sunny Isles, North Bay Village, Homestead, Key Biscayne, South Miami, and Palmetto Bay.

**Q: ¿Si los residentes tienen problemas con el servicio tendrán que ponerse en contacto con la compañía externa para resolverlos?**

**A:** No. Los Supervisores y otros empleados del Departamento de Obras Públicas de Miami Springs tendrán la responsabilidad de supervisar y monitorear a estas compañías para asegurarnos que están cumpliendo con su contrato y sus compromisos referentes a la calidad de servicios. Los residentes de nuestra ciudad seguirán llamando a nuestro Departamento de Obras Públicas cuando tengan un problema, queja, o para sugerir mejoras en el programa.

**Q: ¿Dónde está el proceso en estos momentos?**

**A:** En estos momentos, las especificaciones que se usaran para el proceso competitivo están listas y siendo revisadas internamente. Es importante reiterar que todavía no hay nada finalizado, cuando se completen estos documentos serán publicados por un periodo de 30 días.

**Q: ¿Cuales son los próximos pasos?**

**A:** Cuando concluya el proceso competitivo de obtener ofertas, el Alcalde y Concejo de la ciudad harán la decisión final basándose en factores como reducción de costos, calidad de servicios, referencias de las compañías, y las opiniones de los residentes. El Alcalde y Concejo siempre mantienen la opción de rechazar todas las ofertas recibidas durante el proceso competitivo.

**Q: ¿Si los servicios se externalizan, la ciudad mantendrá abierto el Departamento de Obras Públicas?**

**A:** Si. El Departamento de Obras Públicas seguirá siendo una parte integral de las operaciones de nuestra ciudad y mantendrá varias funciones importantes que cumplir como son: la supervisión de las compañías externas, mantenimiento de calles, aceras, y alcantarillados, mantenimiento de edificios gubernamentales, arreglos y limpiezas antes y después de eventos en la ciudad, y muchos más.

— Administrador de la Ciudad

La recomendación del Consultor se puede ver en esta página web:

<http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/recommendations.pdf>

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES COUNCIL MEETINGS

**MON., MARCH 12, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**MON., MARCH 26, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICK-UP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

## WELCOME

The City of Miami Springs welcomes the following new businesses to our City, and wishes them every success:

### Cikel America, LLC

700 S. Royal Poinciana Boulevard  
Sales Office

### Sunshine Medical Health Service

4471 N.W. 36th Street  
Medical Office

### The Frozen Drink Company

Out of City Business  
Food Truck

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
305.888.9711

**Tax Season, Scam Season**

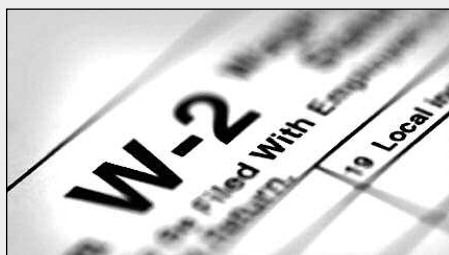
**How to Avoid Tax Preparer Fraud**

As the federal income tax season gets into full swing, the IRS warns taxpayers to beware of falling victim to paid income tax preparers who file fraudulent tax returns on behalf of their customers.

While most preparers provide excellent service to their clients, the IRS urges taxpayers to be very careful when choosing a tax preparer. You should be as careful as you would in choosing a doctor or a lawyer. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

**Helpful Hints When Choosing a Return Preparer**

- Avoid tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
- Use a reputable tax professional who signs your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records.
- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your tax return months, or even years, after the return has been filed.
- Review your return before you sign it and ask questions on entries you don't understand.
- Never sign a blank tax form.
- Ask questions. Do you know anyone



who has used the tax professional? Were they satisfied with the service they received?

**W-2 Blues**

Last Year, identity thieves tried a new tax trick by e-mailing a bogus IRS notice to taxpayers, warning them that they did not submit an updated W-2 form. The e-mail contained a link to a phishing website where taxpayers were instructed to enter their W-2 information, which included such information as social security number, address and wages. Do not click on any website links in e-mails, or attachments that claim to come from the IRS.

**A "New" twist: Dialing for Dollars**

Be wary of bogus text messages purporting to come from the IRS.

Where Do You Report Suspected Tax Fraud Activity?

If you suspect tax fraud or know of an abusive return preparer, you should report this activity to your nearest IRS office. You can contact the IRS by phone at 1-800-829-0433, or visit their website at www.irs.gov

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.**  
305.805.5075/76 1401 WESTWARD DRIVE

**FACILITY RENTAL:**

The Multi-Purpose room is available for rentals.

Contact the main office at the Community Center for availability and pricing. 305.805.5075

**Spring Break Camp**

The cost is \$20.00 per day and the hours are from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**GYMNASIUM:**

**Open Gym Basketball** is offered Monday- Friday 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 17 & under ONLY

Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. open play & Sundays 9:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. open play, 17 & under Free /18 & over \$4

**Open Gym Volleyball:** is offered every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. 18 & over \$4.00 / 17 & under are free.

**Walking Club:** Register Now! Members will be rewarded for miles completed. We'll not only walk on the Indoor Jogging/Walking Track in our Gymnasium, we'll also do different trails located throughout the Miami Springs area and field trips. For additional information, contact Caitlin Smith.

**ATHLETICS:**

**Adult Basketball League:** Registration is UNDERWAY! \$600 per team of 12, 8 teams max. Register early so you don't miss out! Games will begin on Tuesday March 20th.

**35 & Older Basketball League:** Registration is UNDERWAY! \$550 per team of 12, 8 teams max. Register early so you don't miss out! Games will begin on Thursday March 22nd.

**FITNESS:**

**Fitness Room & Jogging Track:** Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fitness Room Memberships are NOW AVAILABLE:

- Adults: 18 & over \$150.00
- Senior: 60 & over \$75.00
- Youth: 13 – 17, \$150.00 (must be accompanied by a PARENT)
- Family of 2: \$187.50
- Family of 3: \$262.50
- Additional family members \$75.00\*
- \*Immediate Family Members ONLY

**Yoga:** The next registration will take place on Monday March 5th at 6:45 p.m., at the Community Center; the session will begin on Monday March 19th. The class is hosted by certified yoga teacher and personal trainer, Natasha Salmon Cagno. Yoga is held Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:15 p.m.- 8:15 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 8:45 a.m. Yoga registration is \$95.00 for an 8 week session which consists of 24 classes.

We are now offering a Saturday drop in yoga class. The cost per class is \$5.00 and starts at 8:45 a.m.

**JAZZERCISE:**

Burn up to 600 calories in one fun and powerfully effective 60-minute total body workout. Every Jazzercise group fitness class combines dance-based cardio with strength



Members of our Teen Program help to keep City of Miami Springs beautiful by cleaning up the Ludlum Canal bank supervised by Recreation Specialist Albert Vargas

training and stretching to sculpt, tone and lengthen muscles for maximum fat burn.

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Monday through Thursday: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:05 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Jr. Jazzercise:  
Tuesday & Thursday: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

For information visit jazzercise.com or call 305.888.7625

**AQUATICS:**

**Pool Hours:** Monday-Friday: Lap Swimming 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Open Swim 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: Open Swim 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Swimming Lessons:** With certified American Red Cross Instructors, and an outstanding facility, the Miami Springs Aquatic Center welcomes all children, ages six months and up, to join our American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program.

Our sessions run every two weeks and swim classes are offered year round. Our prices are \$45.00 per session and we offer various types of classes.

Class Times: 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

**Water Aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00 for 8 classes, per participant

Pool Memberships are NOW AVAILABLE:  
Adults: 18 & over \$80.00  
Child: 17 & under \$40.00  
Senior: 60 & over \$40.00

**DRIVER LICENSE SERVICE:**

The Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles will be at the Community Center, 1401 Westward Dr. on March 8th. They offer full Drivers License services from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

*Art in City Hall*

The work of long time Miami Springs resident and award-winning artist Joan Cavalier will be the featured for the March "Art in City Hall Exhibit." Though Joan works in many media, most of her paintings are in oils. A favorite subject of hers is the Everglades, where she often paints en plein air.

You are cordially invited to meet the artist at a reception being held on Monday, March 5, 2012 between the hours of 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. If you are not able to attend the reception, you will be able to view the art exhibit during the month of March between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.



Royal Poinciana, Joan Cavalier, oil on canvas

**BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.**  
305.805.5030

Remember that you can access all of our City Codes free of charge online at our website. Simply type in <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov> in your browser's address window. At the top of the website, you will see a tab on the far right side that says "Online Services." Click on the tab and scroll down to "Online Municipal Code." This will take you to Municode.com, where you will see our entire Code of Ordinances.

**THE CODE COMPLIANCE PROCESS**

Remember, not all violations are handled in exactly the same way. Some violations of our Code are called Civil Infractions. These are generally violations that are somewhat more serious in nature, or need to be dealt with in a timelier manner. These violations are usually accompanied by the authority for the Code Compliance Officer to issue what is called a Uniform Civil Violation Notice (or a Civil Infraction Ticket). Please note that Civil Infraction fines are levied by the issuance of a ticket. However the Code states that the penalty can be imposed for every day that the violation exists, without the issuance of additional tickets! Some of the violations included in the Civil Infraction section, and the corresponding fines are: Inoperable Vehicles-\$100, Defacing City Trees-\$250, Operating a business without a License-\$100, Failure to obtain

a Building Permit-\$100. Illegally parked Recreational Vehicles-\$50.

**HURRICANE PROTECTION**

Hurricane season has been over for some months now. All hurricane protection should be removed, awnings raised, etc. If you are going to be out of town and wish to leave your hurricane protection in place, you may do so for up to 90 days per year by placing your home on the watch list with the police Department. Please contact the Police Department for information about the home watch list. Their non-emergency number is (305) 888-9711.

If you have any questions about Code Compliance, feel free to contact the Code Compliance Officer for your area:

Lourdes Taveras (786) 255-0995  
ALL COMMERCIAL AND MULTIPLE FAMILY ZONES

Awilda Rivera (786) 367-4956  
ALL AREA NORTH OF WESTWARD DRIVE AND WEST OF LENAPE DRIVE

Jose Sadin (786) 367-4962  
ALL AREA EAST OF LENAPE DRIVE AND SOUTH OF WESTWARD DRIVE

Tex Ziadie (786) 255-0497  
SUPERVISOR

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:



3/3	Thomas Kelly	3/8	Marilyn Newton
3/5	Florentino Vasallo	3/20	Robert Williams
3/7	Tomas Lopez	3/26	Noel Acosta
3/8	Leah Cates	3/28	Graciela Vázquez

**Recognizing long term employees:**

The following employees had their anniversary date in February:

Tom Cummings	completed 26 years of service
Harry Mayer and Charles Schubert	completed 23 years of service
Earl Williams	completed 18 years of service

**Thank you for your loyal service to the City of Miami Springs.**

# MARCH 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Board of Adjustment/Zoning: 7 p.m.	<b>6</b> Code Enforcement: 7 p.m.	<b>7</b> Architectural Review Board: 7 p.m. Curbside Recycling	<b>8</b> Board of Parks and Parkways: 7 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> City Council Meeting: 7 p.m.	<b>13</b> Recreation Commission: 7 p.m.	<b>14</b> Golf and Country Club: 7 p.m.	<b>15</b> Historic Preservation: 7 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Revitalization & Redevelopment: 7:00 p.m.	<b>20</b> Education Advisory Board: 6:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart Open House: 2:45 p.m. Curbside Recycling	<b>22</b> Code Review Board: 7 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> City Council Meeting: 7 p.m.	<b>27</b> Ecology Board: 7 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>