August 7, 2006

Sandy Wayland, President
Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition
3301 NE 5 Avenue #1103
Miami, Fl 33137

Dear Ms. Wayland:

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 1, 2006 regarding Miami-Dade County's Poll Closing Procedures. I appreciate your concerns and I assure you that under my administration, staff members have been instructed to maintain an "open process" at every voting location during Early Voting and on Election Day. Directives have been communicated during poll worker training that all interested members of the public are able to observe and record any and all elections processes. To that end, the Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition is welcome to observe and record the serial numbers from each iVotronic; individual iVotronic vote counts; inquire as to the number of authorization slips, certificates, and voter signatures; and total counts of any forms that are utilized during poll closing, so long as it is not disruptive and/or intimidating to our poll workers.

Please be advised that while poll workers have been made completely aware of your right to observe the opening and closing of the polls, they have also been instructed not to stop the voting process or end-of-day reconciliation activities in order to provide information to your members or the public. We would appreciate if you would submit request for copies of public records for any of the activities that you observe to my office rather than to the Precinct or Early Voting Clerks.

It is my pleasure to work with the Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition as I believe we have a shared goal in making the residents of Miami-Dade County feel secure that every vote is cast and accurately counted. It is simply a matter of striking a balance between having your members present while we work through our procedures and ensuring that there is no disruption or interference with the responsibilities of our poll workers. As long as all those involved in this activity understand the importance of this, I welcome their involvement in the electoral process.

Sincerely,

Lester Sola
Supervisor of Elections

c: George M. Burgess, County Manager
   Alina T. Hudak, Assistant County Manager