

### **MetroForum Breakfast to Discuss Miami-Dade Special Election for “Strong Mayor”**

**Miami (January 10, 2007)**- Miami Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Metropolitan Center Director Dr. Dario Moreno will be the headline speakers at a breakfast entitled “The Aftermath of the Strong Mayor Vote: What Happens Now?” The panel will discuss the future direction of county government following the results of the January 23, 2006 special election to decide if the structure of the County government should be changed.

The **MetroForum** Breakfast, sponsored by Bellsouth Telecommunications, will take place on Thursday, January 25, 2007 from 8:00 am – 9:30 am, at the Havana Club at the Miami City Club in downtown Miami.

“I believe the ‘Strong Mayor’ form of government being proposed will bring about more accountability and efficiency by cutting through the bureaucracy,” said Mayor Carlos Alvarez. “I’m looking forward to sharing my views and personal experiences in county government, and dispelling the myths regarding this issue at the FIU MetroForum breakfast.”

In June 2006, the Metropolitan Center released a poll which showed that a majority of registered voters (62 percent) in Miami-Dade County supported a strong-mayor form of government. The center also released numbers showing that Mayor Alvarez was doing an excellent or satisfactory job according to 73 percent of voters polled.

“The Metropolitan Center was created to serve as high and neutral ground for issues of public controversy. We are pleased to host a discussion on how the strong mayor debate has reenergized Miami-Dade politics,” said Dr. Dario Moreno, Director of the Metropolitan Center.

The Metropolitan Center expects to release new results on January 15, 2007 based on a current poll Dr. Moreno is conducting assessing the attitudes of Miami-Dade County residents toward expanding the Alvarez’s mayoral responsibilities.

The breakfast forum is free of charge, but seating is limited. If you wish to attend, or have media inquiries, please contact Vanessa Brito at 305-349-1255, or via e-mail at [Vanessa.Brito@fiu.edu](mailto:Vanessa.Brito@fiu.edu). The Miami City Club is located 200 South Biscayne Blvd. on the 55<sup>th</sup> floor.

The **MetroForum** breakfast series provides neutral ground for the discussion of public policy. The breakfast brings academics, elected officials and business and community leaders together around issues of critical concern to South Florida.

**Bellsouth**, sponsor of the **MetroForum** Breakfast Series, is a Fortune 100 company whose core business is in wireless communication. BellSouth is the leading communications service provider in the southeaster United States. The company strives to provide high-quality data, voice and video communications and services. For more information on BellSouth, visit [www.bellsouth.com](http://www.bellsouth.com).

The **Metropolitan Center at Florida International University** is engaged in the study of the demographics, economics and politics of South Florida. The overall goal of the Center, as an “applied research” institute, is to provide decision-makers with the best possible information to forge solutions to the problems confronting South Florida’s urban areas. The Center provides research, training, and technical assistance to governmental and nonprofit institutions in South Florida. The Center provides usable knowledge to inform decision-makers on economic development, land use, housing and public opinion. It also provides organizational management planning and development to strengthen local area organizations’ ability to serve their client basis.

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