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**Office of the Inspector General
Miami-Dade County**

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

The Honorable Chairperson Joe Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From:  Christopher Mazzella,
Inspector General

Date: August 19, 2005

Re: Additional Charges Filed in Campaign Trust Fund Fraud Case

Additional charges were filed today against Nilo Juri, who is pending trial in connection with a fraud regarding the August 31, 2004 Miami-Dade County Commission race for the District 13 seat, currently held by the Honorable Commissioner Seijas.

The joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and the State Attorney's Office resulted in the arrest of Nilo Juri and two other individuals for providing indirect contributions to the Jorge Roque Campaign in the names of friends and others. The false contributor information allowed the Roque Campaign to receive funds from the County's Campaign Trust Fund.

Rita Picazo, Roque's sister-in-law, has already been sentenced in connection with her part in the scheme to obtain funds from the County's Campaign Trust Fund. Also charged and sentenced was Vanessa Bravo. As part of her plea, Ms. Bravo resigned her post as Councilwoman for the City of Hialeah. This morning, Juri was arraigned on an Amended Information, adding two counts of Solicitation to Commit Perjury in connection with the fraud uncovered in the Roque Campaign. The Solicitation to Commit Perjury charges stem from a request that the alleged contributors lied to investigators and prosecutors in an attempt to conceal the fraud.

The investigation into further improprieties associated with the Roque Campaign's application for the County's Campaign Trust Fund monies is on-going and additional arrests are expected.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Mr. Murray Greenberg, County Attorney
Mr. Lester Sola, Supervisor of Elections
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services

Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)