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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Miami Helps LEED the Way to Affordable, Green Housing**

*City, County Officials Join the Battle Family for the Ribbon-cutting of their New Home*



**(Miami, February 17, 2010)** – City of Miami Mayor Tomás P. Regalado, City of Miami Commissioner Richard P. Dunn, II, District 5, along with George Mensah, Director of the City’s Department of Community Development, Patricia Braynon of Miami-Dade County’s Housing Finance Authority (HFA), and participants in the Miami Partnership for Action in Communities Task Force (MPACT) program, will join Ralph and Seema Battle and family on **Friday, February 19, 2010, 10 a.m.**, for the official ribbon-cutting of the Battle’s new home in Model City at **1288 NW 55 Street**.

The home is the newest affordable, green home made possible with public subsidies and was built on a parcel conveyed by the City’s Department of Community Development specifically for affordable housing development, with additional mortgage assistance provided via the City’s First Time Homebuyer Program and a Green Mortgage from the HFA.

The three-bedroom, two-bathroom home spans 1,641-square-feet, has a sales price of \$220,000, and was developed by Palmetto Homes of Miami, Inc. (Palmetto), a minority builder that has completed over a dozen homes within the City of Miami since 2002. This latest home was built in adherence to strict benchmarks established by the nationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ from the U.S. Green Building Council, a non-profit organization committed to expanding sustainable building practices. Palmetto

completed its first affordable green home in 2008, achieving a LEED Silver rating. The developer is seeking a LEED Platinum rating on the Battle's home, the highest possible LEED rating available.

The new home's efficiency elements include: photovoltaic roof tiles that supply power to a solar power meter, two 200+ gallon cisterns for rain water collection and use, spray foam insulation, three built-in solar light tubes providing natural interior lighting, a tankless water heater, sensor-controlled lighting in all rooms, water-conserving dual flush toilets, and low maintenance landscaping. The home is also a Florida Power and Light (FPL) Net Metering member. Net Metering allows the homeowner to interconnect their renewable power system to FPL's power grid so that any unused energy generated by the home's system is sent back to the grid, thereby reducing the homeowners' electricity costs. The home is also seeking official recognition as a Florida Friendly Yard from the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program (FYN), which develops programs on how to help state residents create low-maintenance, environmentally friendly landscapes that conserve water and protect natural resources.

The home was built with the collaboration of the MPACT program, created by the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department in partnership with the school system and other organizations to help at-risk and gang-involved youths learn new skills. The participating youth received on-the-job "green" training while working alongside construction professionals who helped complete the new home.

**WHO:** City of Miami Mayor Tomás P. Regalado, City of Miami Commissioner Richard P. Dunn, II, George Mensah, Director of the City's Dept. of Community Development, Patricia Braynon, Director of the Housing Finance Authority of Miami-Dade, and the Battle family.

**WHAT:** Help cut the official ribbon on the newest affordable, green home in Miami, made possible by both public and private subsidies.

**WHEN:** Friday, February 19, 2010, 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** 1288 NW 55 Street

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