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miami-dade election reform coalition

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## **CITIZEN COALITION CHALLENGES COUNTY'S INTENT IN REORGANIZING THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

**Miami, FL** - In a letter issued today, the Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition (MDERC) called upon the County Commission to investigate the recent reorganization of top positions within the County Elections Department following the resignation of former Supervisor of Elections David Leahy.

The reorganization occurred at the same time as the national search for a new Supervisor of Elections and included the creation of a new Director of Elections post. The addition of the Director position makes it unclear whether the newly chosen Supervisor will indeed be the Department head and whether the new Supervisor will have the necessary authority to bring much-needed reforms to the administration of elections in Miami-Dade County.

"After the debacles of the Presidential Election of 2000, the Primary election of September 2002, and the enormously expensive elections of November 2002, we believe that the management of elections in our County needs new blood," the MDERC states in the letter to Commissioners. "It appears that the recent reorganization of the Department was intended to ensure maintenance of the status quo despite the ongoing search process."

The Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition asked the County Commission to initiate an investigation into the reorganization and its effect on the integrity of the search process for a new Supervisor of Elections, and then to provide a report to the Commission with time for public comment. MDERC will present its concerns to the County Commission's Elections Subcommittee at the Committee's meeting tomorrow, April 30, at 10:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers. The full text of the MDERC letter follows.