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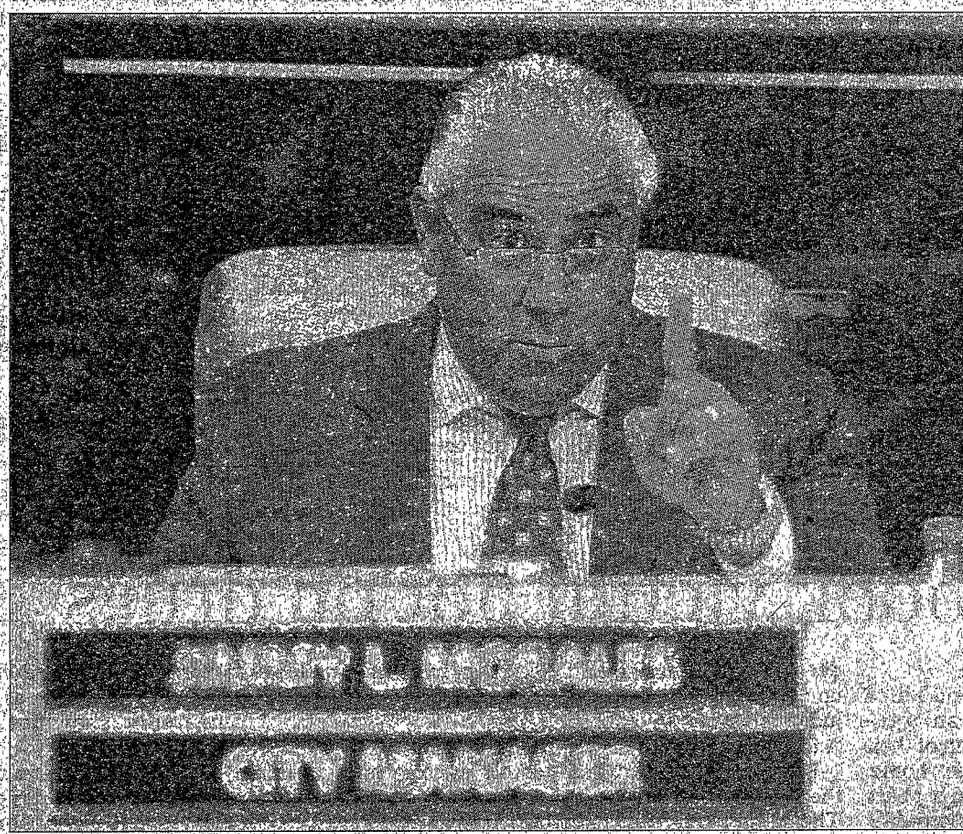
MIAMI BEACH



CHARLES TRAINOR JR./MIAMI HERALD STAFF

MAKING HIS MARK: Jimmy Morales, Miami Beach's city manager, makes a point at the city commission meeting Wednesday. His nominee for police chief was approved there.

A YEAR AT THE HELM

Miami Beach native **Jimmy Morales** wraps up his first year as city manager of his hometown with mostly high marks

BY CHRISTINA VEIGA
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Things are different today at Miami Beach City Hall since Jimmy Morales became city manager a year ago.

Departments that have faced corruption problems in recent years are under new management. City staffers feel more confident to make decisions. In general, there's been a change of attitudes in City Hall, Morales' supporters say.

The end of April marked two milestones for Morales: his 52nd birthday, and the conclusion of his first year at the helm of his hometown.

Those who work closely with the manager note his devotion to the city where he grew up, his continuation of ethics reforms and his pleasant style of handling even the most unpleasant tasks of city government.

And his bosses — six elected commissioners and the mayor — give Morales high marks.

"I trust him almost blindly. I know he has the utmost confidence of most, if not all, of my colleagues," said commissioner Michael Grieco.

Public controversies during Morales' tenure have been few, though there have been hints of friction with the police department and the city attorney's

• TURN TO MORALES, 2B