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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Miami Beach's South Pointe Park Re-Opens *- Grand Opening Ceremony will be Illuminating -*

Miami Beach, FL – Come back to where the beach begins. After a two-year, \$22.4 million (construction cost) renovation, Miami Beach's South Pointe Park has been transformed from a neglected space into a spectacular destination point. The new 17.5-acre green space is a remarkable place that promises a remarkable visit.

"The rebirth of this park is a symbol of the ongoing renaissance of our city," said Miami Beach City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez. "Every aspect of South Pointe Park represents a combined effort of the City and our residents. It's a gift, really, to residents and visitors alike."

Visitors who arrive at the grand entrance on Washington Avenue can immerse themselves in the experience of walking under the fountain jets on their way toward the cutwalk, an expansive promenade along Government Cut that must be experienced when cruise ships pass by. By night, this 20-foot wide walkway is illuminated by 18 light towers that are unique to South Pointe Park. Because the park is situated on coastal land, the impact to turtle nesting areas is a major concern for development and placement of lighting. The towers were specially designed with lighting that would not attract turtle hatchlings but would provide sufficient illumination for a safe evening stroll. The towers glow in different colors – so each visit to the park is different. The walkway itself is constructed of a tabby-shell aggregate with natural keystone banding.

"The park is a completely different experience day and night," said Dr. Bruce Horten, a South Pointe resident who has watched the construction of the park from his window. "When those beautiful tower lights come on after sunset, it is one of the most magnificent promenades I have seen in the world!"

Other features include serpentine landforms with meandering pathways that allow for breathtaking vistas. A path that takes visitors to the top of one of the landforms also leads to the rooftop

observation deck at the top of the park pavilion. The deck's structures are reminiscent of cruise ship chimneys. You will swear you are on the Lido Deck of your favorite vessel.

The park pavilion, designed by Miami Beach architect and resident William Lane, holds park offices and can be rented out for small events. The multi-purpose room and roof top deck each accommodate fewer than 50 people. Two children's playgrounds feature one-of-a-kind play structures with an Oceanside theme. Where else can a child take a ride on a sand dollar spinner? Remember to bring bathing suits for the kids, too. Adjacent to the tot lots is an interactive water spray area that is sure to bring squeals of glee from the little ones as parents sit high and dry on the observation "bleachers" carved into the side of one of the landforms. This is also a great spot to read and relax, perhaps have a picnic.

Inspired by the proximity to the sea, visitors to the park will enjoy sweeping palm lawns, a native beach dune area and beautiful flora. Landscapers planted 25 different species of trees; various palm species and 34 different types of shrubs, accent plants and ground cover. Spacious lawns are covered with Paspalum grass, the same salt-tolerant grass planted in Miami Beach's world-famous golf courses. All of this is supported by a new irrigation system to keep it emerald green all year.

The City contracted world-renowned landscape architecture firm Hargreaves Associates and contractor MCM known for its 25 years of building excellence. Primary funding for the project included RDA funding, Miami Beach Resort Tax and Miami-Dade County General Obligation Bond funds.

"I am so proud, once again, for creating a thing of beauty for all to enjoy," said Mayor Matti Herrera Bower. "We chose the best team possible and the result is a place of grandeur that also respects our environment and compliments our tropical urban setting."

Park hours are from sunrise to 10:00 p.m. and the Cutwalk is open from sunrise to 2:00 a.m.

The grand opening is Sunday, March 22, 2009 from 3:00 p.m. to sunset. Events for the entire family include free entertainment, refreshments, and official ceremonies (3:30 p.m.). Activities for the event include kite flying, yoga, fitness walk, an historic overview of this storied location, and more.

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