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Commissioner Suarez Competes for Swim Team Scholarship



Miami Commissioner Francis Suarez and eight students from the City of Miami Parks Swim Team participate in the competitive event

Miami, FL (February 8, 2011)- City of Miami Commissioner Francis Suarez dove into Shenandoah Pool on February 2, 2011, for the opportunity to give one lucky swimmer a one-year scholarship to the City of Miami Parks Swim Team. The scholarship, paid personally by the commissioner, will cover the monthly fees for the program.

Commissioner Suarez, who is a former lifeguard and competitive swimmer, recognized that

some families were having trouble meeting the monthly cost for their children to participate in the swim team program. The commissioner then issued a challenge: any swimmer who could beat him in a 33 meter freestyle race would win the scholarship.

Eight swim team members participated in the race. In the end, Commissioner Suarez barely managed to pull off a victory and awarded the scholarship to second place winner, Alex Vizcarra.



Students from the City of Miami Parks Swim Team compete for a one-year scholarship to the City of Miami Parks Swim Team

“Knowing the challenges that most families are facing during this difficult time, I am glad that I am able to provide a child with the opportunity to continue participating in programs in our parks,” said Commissioner Suarez.

In addition, since Grapeland's participants are currently using the Shenandoah Park swimming facilities, the Commissioner agreed to have another Scholarship Race at Grapeland with those participants (to be scheduled in March).

The City of Miami Parks Swim Team Program trains children ages 6 – 13 in the fundamentals and techniques of swimming on a competitive level. The swim teams practice at Shenandoah Pool, Jose Marti Pool and Grapeland Pool. The program operates year round and competes in intra-pool competitions and against other municipalities. The program is available to city residents for a yearly fee of \$540.00 or \$45.00 for the monthly fee. To find out more information about the swim team programs call (305) 856-9549.

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