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2012

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## **Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones Helps Mark the Start of Redevelopment of Mixed-use Building in Miami's Historic Overtown Folklife District**

**(Miami, FL February 3, 2012)** — City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, District 5, along with the Department of Community Development, the Southeast Overtown Park West (SEOPW) Miami Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Mt. Zion Developments, Inc. President Don D. Patterson, and its Board of Directors Chairman Dr. Ralph Ross, will mark the start of rehabilitation work on the Carver Apartments & Shoppes at 801 NW 3 Avenue on Friday, February 3, 2012, 10 a.m. The mixed-use project is being redeveloped by Mt. Zion Developments, Inc., a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) that has been active in South Florida since 1965. The Carver Apartments & Shoppes is an existing three-story building built in 1925, located in the Historic Overtown Folklife District. The building has been a vacant eye-sore in the community for several years, but will now undergo substantial rehabilitation.

The Department of Community Development's Housing & Commercial Loan Committee awarded \$626,400 in HOME (federal) funding towards the project which will ultimately offer 10 affordable rental units for low- to moderate-income persons – including one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Additionally, the project includes approximately 3,900 square feet of ground floor retail space. The project also received assistance from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and another \$670,000 in funds from the SEOPW Miami Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). Both the residential and commercial aspects of the building will be owned and operated by Mt. Zion Developments, Inc. for the benefit of creating local jobs and offering affordable rental apartments to households with incomes at 80% Area Median Income or below.

The federal HOME (HOME Investments Partnership) program is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households throughout the U.S. Mt. Zion Developments, Inc. is committed to assisting low-income individuals and groups to become self-sufficient through housing and economic development. The non-profit is an

affiliate of Historic Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, one of the oldest Black churches in Miami celebrating 115 years in the community. For more information, visit [www.mtzdevelopment.org](http://www.mtzdevelopment.org).

**WHO** City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, District 5, the City's Department of Community Development, the Southeast Overtown Park West (SEOPW) Miami Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), the Board of Mt. Zion Developments, Inc., and Overtown residents

**WHAT:** Will gather to mark the start of rehabilitation on a mixed-use building that will offer 10 affordable rental units for residents and commercial space for businesses

**WHEN:** **Friday, February 3, 2012, 10:00 am**

**WHERE:** 801 NW 3 Avenue, Overtown

Media Note: Public parking is available along NW 3rd Avenue adjacent to the site, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church (301 NW 9 St.), or by accessing the drive-up ramp along 9th Street into the CRA lot (276 NW 9 St.) directly behind the event location.

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