



## SEIU HEALTHCARE FLORIDA LOCAL 1991

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August 22, 2013

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa  
Miami Dade County  
111 NW First Street  
Miami, FL 33128

Honorable Chairwoman Sosa:

On behalf of the dedicated healthcare givers that make Jackson Health System a medical miracle, I'm asking you to honor the contract with your Solid Waste workers in regards to the return of certain concessions due to end January 1, 2014.

Because your decision for AFSCME 3292 will set the bar for all other county workers, we stand in solidarity with them in seeking to hold Mayor Gimenez to the terms of the agreements we all made during the County's moment of need. It's worth noting that honoring that agreement would require only a 1.2 percent shift -- \$55 million in a \$4.4 billion budget. Last year, the Mayor's five-year plan included a provision to do just that. Why has the priority now changed?

We've kept our end of the bargain. Yours is to require the Mayor to stop the 5% payroll deductions, as agreed. As you know, the Mayor's proposed budget is not set in stone. It reflects a series of priorities for our community as a whole. Unfortunately, the Mayor's priorities this year have not meshed well with those of the community you serve. Attempting to back out of a good faith bargain with county workers is one more example of skewed priorities that need to be brought back into balance.

Thousands of county workers, including those at Jackson, are not asking for their money back. They are simply requesting – in light of compelling evidence that this concession is NOT needed to balance the budget – that the money stay in the paychecks of the people who earned it. That 5% will be spent directly on the families and businesses that sustain our community.

Jackson has made great strides toward financial stability, but the heart and soul of our public hospital will always be the nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals. We will fight side by side with you for Jackson and this community. Please keep us and the many sacrifices we've made in mind on August 29, as you weigh the merits of honoring the County's contract with its employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Baker RN".

Martha Baker, RN  
President