



For Immediate Release

MS Leisure Company expresses deep concern over Miami-Dade County's baseless and politically motivated lawsuit, which jeopardizes the welfare of all species under our care.

Miami, FL – June 25, 2024 – MS Leisure Company, the operator of the Miami Seaquarium, strongly denounces the continued actions taken by Miami-Dade County against our Company, as unfounded, politically driven, and detrimental to both the community and the animals in our custody.

"It is offensive and disconcerting that Miami-Dade County has abruptly filed a baseless lawsuit, despite the pending federal civil rights lawsuit against them, showing disrespect for the legal process. We have demonstrated that allegations regarding animal care no longer reflect USDA non-compliant items identified during inspection. The recent inspection at the Miami Seaquarium confirmed full compliance, validating our federal licenses. Our lawsuit is thoroughly documented and addresses all claims," said Attorney Hilton Napoleon II, Litigation Counsel for MS Leisure.

"It is clear that the County is disregarding due process and good faith negotiations. We will allow the courts to reach a resolution and refrain from litigating this in the media or political arena, as the County seems inclined to do."

"My client is extremely disappointed to see that certain individuals within the County are clearly motivated by ulterior economic and political motives rather than genuine concern for animal welfare or community interests."

In reality, the Miami Seaquarium occupies prime real estate that MS Leisure's effective management has significantly enhanced in value. Mayor Danielle Levine, when questioned, indicated that this land will no longer be used for family recreational purposes. However, they have not yet decided on its future use but have definitively stated it will not be used by our company, despite the lease approved by the Miami-Dade Council, which has now been terminated without the consent of the same authority that originally approved it.

Following Lolita's passing, the Mayor abruptly changed her previously friendly relationship with the Company and now seeks to reclaim this land for an undisclosed purpose, evading questions about its future use.

Clearly, financial and political interests in redeveloping this valuable 38-acre waterfront site for more lucrative ventures are influencing this lawsuit, rather than a genuine concern for the animals or respect for federal authorities who granted MS Leisure its necessary licenses to operate.

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"Mayor and Commissioner Regalado have completely ignored our Company's federal licenses and the commendable work of our staff. They claim to prioritize animal welfare, yet have not personally visited the Miami Seaquarium since MS Leisure took ownership to observe the animals or to receive reports directly from our caretakers. It is outrageous that they have disregarded USDA's final reports confirming our full compliance, while also insisting we remove animals they allege are not properly cared for and leave the land vacant for an undisclosed use.

We urge the public, legal authorities, and the press to fully investigate these apparent conflicts of interest and to stand with us in defending our rights. We have even requested all communications related to MSQ between Miami-Dade County and the USDA in the last six months, based on the FOIA request. This request has been completely ignored and remains unanswered by the County," said Eduardo Albor, CEO of MS Leisure Company.

"We are confident that the public and courts will see through this charade and recognize the true nature of the County's actions. This lawsuit distracts from real issues and attempts to exploit our business for political or financial gain. We will not be intimidated by such tactics and will vigorously defend our reputation and the integrity of the Miami Seaquarium"

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