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**Commissioner Diana Wasserman-Rubin to Receive  
George Jimenez Award for More than 30 Years of Public Service  
-Third Annual Diamantes of South Florida Gala Honors Hispanic Men and  
Women-**

Broward County Commissioner Diana Wasserman-Rubin will be presented with the **George Jimenez Award for Public Service** at the Third Annual Diamantes of South Florida Gala, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The charity event will be held on September 14, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66, 2301 S.E. 17th St., in Fort Lauderdale and proceeds will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

“It has been a privilege to serve the people of Broward County for more than thirty years,” said Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin. “To be recognized with this prestigious award and at the same time help those with Cystic Fibrosis is an honor.”

Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin has been in public service for more than 30 years.

**First Mayor of Broward County**

She became the first Mayor of Broward County in 2002. She was also the first Hispanic-American elected to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners in 2000 and to serve as Chair in 2001. Her accomplishments are many:

**International Trade**

She became the County’s first International Trade liaison and under her leadership an International Trade Desk was developed. She was the first Commissioner to advance economic growth in Broward County through international trade and direct foreign investment. She successfully brought together representatives from Broward County and Manaus, Brazil to sign a mutual Memorandum of Understanding designed to encourage and promote formal trade agreements in Broward County. She has participated in

international trade missions to Mexico, Spain, Brazil, Jamaica and throughout the Caribbean.

### **Public Safety**

To ensure the public's safety, Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin became Chair of the Broward County Fire Rescue Council. Under her leadership, consensus-building relationships were formed to improve and enhance the delivery of vital fire rescue services countywide. Most notably she worked to achieve common communications, closest-unit response, development of regional specialty teams and system performance measures.

### **Champion of Children, the Elderly and Mentally Ill**

Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin has championed and developed programs and services that provide for children, the elderly and those with mental health needs. She created the Broward County Mental Health Coalition which is comprised of law enforcement personnel, members of the judiciary, consumers, and fund-raising activists. In less than one year, the Coalition has hired a full-time grant writer, obtained funds for an additional Mobile Crisis Unit to reach under-served communities in South/Southwest Broward and received up to \$3 million from the Children's Services Council.

This year, Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin co-sponsored an initiative that brought a prescription discount card program to Broward County. The unique program allows those who are uninsured or under-insured for prescription drug medications to save an average of 20 percent on medication costs.

In 2006, Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin unveiled Broward County's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin currently serves on the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Broward County Cultural Council, the HIV Health Planning Council and Workforce One.

### **More Than 30 Years of Community Service**

Her passion for community service began in 1974 when she became part of the decision-making process that was taking place in Pembroke Pines. She participated in civic groups and in the Voice of the Pines which promoted voter registration. She served as a member of the Pembroke Pines Board of Adjustments.

In 1981, she became actively involved in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the Advisory Council.

In 1984, she was appointed by the Governor of Florida to serve on the South Broward Hospital District Board of Commissioners. She was the first Hispanic-

American to serve on that board and the first female to serve as chair. The term was from 1984 to 1988, and she served as chair from 1987 to 1988.

In 1988, Wasserman-Rubin became the first Hispanic female elected countywide when she won a seat on the Broward County School Board where she served for 12 years. She was re-elected in 1992 and 1996. As a Board Member, she assisted in the development of policies, implementation of curriculum, and provided an educational environment capable of meeting the diverse multicultural needs of the fifth largest school district in the nation.

Commissioner Wasserman-Rubin represents Broward County's District Number 8 which includes Miramar, West Park, Pembroke Park, and parts of Hallandale Beach, Pembroke Pines, Southwest Ranches and Weston. District Number 8 is the largest and most populated commission district in Broward County.

Ten other exemplary Hispanic women and men will also be recognized for achievements in business support of charitable causes, leadership and positive impact on the community. They are: Carlos Buqueras, Director of Corporate and Community Relations at Broward County's Port Everglades who will receive a 2007 Diamantes Award along with community members Jorge Garcia, Fabio A. Andrade, Dr. Elio Coradin, Paul Finizio, Armando Rodriguez, Tony Chao, Madeleine Arritola, Maria Sanjuan and Jim Norton.

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic respiratory and digestive disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States. Currently, there is no cure, but through aggressive research efforts, the median age of survival has risen to 36.8 years. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has consistently been recognized for its efficiency and for its innovative approach to curing a genetic disease.

For more information, call 954-739-5006 or e-mail [vshahady@cff.org](mailto:vshahady@cff.org).

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