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The Alliance for Digital Equality Supports ELEVATE Miami, Launches Miami Digital Empowerment Council (DEC)

(Miami, FL) The Alliance for Digital Equality today announced the launch of the Miami Digital Empowerment Council (DEC) and offered its support for Mayor Diaz's ELEVATE Miami Program. The ADE, a non-profit consumer advocacy group formed to increase minority access to broadband internet, offers its financial support for the award-winning ELEVATE Miami program. The \$5,000 donation, part of The Alliance for Digital Equality's new initiative to support digital internet access throughout the City of Miami, will help support ELEVATE programs like eSeniors, eParks and Rites of Passage. These programs provide Miami citizens with access to the tools required to make Miami a truly 21st Century Digital City.

ADE Chairman Hollis was inspired by the Mayor's State of the City Address on April 24, 2008 and offered the donation as part of a new public private partnership between the City and the non-profit group.

"In order for Miami residents to earn a living wage and join a workforce that will attract economic investments, the City must address digital inclusion aggressively," said Mayor Diaz. "I thank Chairman Hollis and the Alliance for Digital Equality for recognizing the success of ELEVATE Miami and I look forward to partnering with them to further promote digital inclusion in the City of Miami."

The Miami Digital Empowerment Council (DEC) will examine the impact of broadband access on the local community. The Miami DEC is part of an ADE nationwide initiative that advocates for increased broadband access in urban and underserved communities. Previously, The Alliance has launched Councils in Charleston, Houston and Detroit.

The Miami DEC will be responsible for the Miami component of a national study, called *Affordable Broadband: Empowering Communities Across the Digital Divide*, that explores the relationship between access to broadband internet and better employment, health care and educational opportunities. The group hopes to use the findings to encourage a national agenda of keeping broadband internet access affordable for minorities.

The evening's events also included remarks by Julius H. Hollis, chairman of The Alliance for Digital Equality, Bill Diggs ADE Board Member and President & CEO of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Jabari Simama, author of the first *Affordable Broadband* study.

For more information about ELEVATE Miami, please visit www.ELEVATEMiami.com

For more information about Mayor Diaz's work to promote digital inclusion and access to internet services, including ACCESS Miami, please visit www.miamigov.com/mayor.

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