



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, June 28, 2010  
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**MIAMI TOPS PETITION SIGNATURE LEADERBOARD WITH OVER 58,000 IN SUPPORT OF USA'S 2018/2022 FIFA WORLD CUP™ BID**

MIAMI (June 28, 2010) – The USA Bid Committee announced today that Miami is now leading the other 17 cities included in the USA 2018/2022 FIFA World Cup bid in online petition signatures for the first time since the initiative was implemented in August 2009.

Miami took over the top spot from Houston, growing its support 185 percent to jump from third place to first.

“We have said all along that we wanted to be the first city to reach 50,000”, said Sports Commission and MIAMI/Host City Bid Committee Chairman Jose “Pepe Diaz, “and we knew we would get there because of the passion that this community has for the sport and the World Cup.”

The petition drive was implemented by the USA Bid Committee as a way to demonstrate grassroots support for soccer and the 2018/2022 FIFA World Cup™ bid. The original goal was to have each bid city collect 50,000 petition signatures, and for the USA Bid Committee to be able to present FIFA with over 1 million petition signatures from USA supporters.

“This is a great milestone, but our effort will continue through December,” added Mike Sophia, Executive Director, “we want to be on top of the leaderboard when the bid is awarded in December.”

To sign the online petition to support Miami’s bid or to learn more about the USA’s World Cup bid, click [www.gousabid.com/miami](http://www.gousabid.com/miami). You can also text MIAMI to “22442” to show your support of the bid. Text as often as you like, message and data rates may apply.

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## ABOUT MIAMI-DADE SPORTS COMMISSION

The Miami-Dade Sports Commission was created by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners in 2003, and opened for business in April of 2004. The Sports Commission promotes sports in Miami-Dade County, and works to secure sports events that will generate economic impact for the community.

For more information about the Miami-Dade Sports Commission, please visit [www.MiamiSports.org](http://www.MiamiSports.org).

## ABOUT MIAMI/HOST CITY BID COMMITTEE

As a part of and in support of the USA Bid Committee's effort to bring the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup™ to the United States, and Miami, the Miami-Dade Sports Commission created the MIAMI Host City Bid Committee to lead the local bid efforts. Under the leadership of the organization's Chairman, County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, the Sports Commission assembled its own "dream team" to mirror the prestigious group selected to lead the USA Bid Committee. Members of the committee include:

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz - Chair, Miami-Dade Sports Commission and MIAMI Host City Bid Committee

Facundo Bacardi, Chairman of the Board, Bacardi Limited

Marcelo Claure, Chairman, President & CEO, Brightstar

Teofilo "Nene" Cubillas, Soccer Legend

Mike Dee, CEO, Miami Dolphins/Dolphins Enterprises

Peter Dolara, Senior Vice President, American Airlines

Emilio Estefan, Grammy Award Winning Producer & Songwriter

George Feldenkreis, Chairman/CEO, Perry Ellis International

Alonzo Mourning, NBA Legend / Chairman, Alonzo Mourning Charities

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Jorge Perez, Chairman, The Related Group

Stephen Ross, Founder/Chairman/Owner, The Related Companies and Owner, Miami Dolphins/Dolphins Enterprises

William Talbert, CEO, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of Courts and Chairman of the County's Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF)

Tony Villamil, Principal Advisor for the Washington Economics Group (WEG)

Mike Sophia - Executive Director, Miami-Dade Sports Commission and MIAMI Host City Bid Committee

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