



CITY OF DORAL

Office of the City Manager

Letter to Council

LTC No. 138-2017

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Edward A. Rojas, City Manager

Date: November 30, 2017

Subject: Miami Heat Experience (Mejia Family) on December 1st, 2017

This Letter to Council is to inform the Mayor and City Council of the Doral Police Department Neighborhood Resource Unit's (NRU) continued efforts to assist our community and our youth. The NRU has been working diligently to assist the Mejia family from Doral. Sebastian (6th grader/Homeschool) and Alejandro Mejia (5th grader at John I. Smith K-8 Center) were born with Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba, a rare genetic mutation with no cure. Despite their medical condition, the boys have faced it with courage and have excelled academically while pursuing their dreams.

One of the things the brothers truly enjoy is watching the Miami Heat play basketball. Speaking with the Mejia brother's parents, it was discovered that one of the best days of their lives was when the City of Doral Police Department arranged for the family to meet former Miami Heat Hall of Fame Basketball Legend (and DPD Reserve Officer) Shaquille O'Neal. Knowing the Mejia brothers enjoy watching Miami Heat Basketball, the NRU reached out to the Miami Heat organization to see if we could get the family to the American Airlines Arena to watch a game. The Miami Heat organization learned of the brother's situation and arranged for the family to attend a game on Friday, December 1st, 2017 versus the Charlotte Hornets (6 free tickets). The Mejia family, accompanied by the NRU (on own time), will arrive at 5:30 p.m. at the American Airlines Arena, in order to enjoy the Miami Heat Experience, where they will sit courtside prior to the game and interact with Miami Heat players during their warm-ups. The Mejia family will then have reserved seats in the ADA Wheelchair Accessible 300 level area for the 8:00 p.m. tip-off of the game.

Through the NRU's community policing efforts and other community policing programs, the City of Doral has generated goodwill and loyalty among its residents and developed effective working relationships with both residents and business owners.

EAR/LL/DWD/FN

c: Albert P. Childress, Deputy City Manager
Donald W. De Lucca, Police Chief