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Ms. Eileen Broton

Neighborhood Representative Appointed by Miami-Dade Commission

Ms. Theodora Long

Representative from Environmental or Civic Organization Appointed by the Governor

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Member at Large Appointed by the Governor

Mr. Luis Garcia

Designee: Mr. John Michael Cornell

Member at Large Appointed by Miami-Dade Commission

Ms. Sara Babun

Designee: Mr. Alvaro Coradin

Member at Large Appointed by City of Miami Commission

Mr. T. Spencer Crowley III

Managing Director

Mr. Brett Bibeau

Miami River Commission



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March 18, 2024

Mr. Jimmy Morales
Chief of Operations, Miami-Dade County
111 NW 1 Street, 29th Floor
Miami, Florida 33128

Re: Need to Remove Derelict “Borocho” Vessel on the Miami River in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County

Dear Honorable Mayor Cava,

On March 23, 2023 the Miami-Dade County Police Department tagged & stickered the “M/V Borocho” vessel as “derelict”, and charged the owner with violating the derelict vessel law on the Miami River at 3338 NW North River Drive.

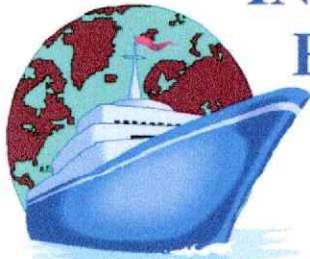
In the year that past since then, the “Miami Dade Reef Guard Association” non-profit, which funds the creations of permitted artificial reefs which benefit the natural environment, communicated with Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management (DERM) regarding The Reef Guard’ Association’s desire to fully fund making the subject derelict vessel a part of the Miami-Dade County Artificial Reef Program. The attached January 31, 2024 letter from DERM to the Miami-Dade Reef Guard Association stated, “Miami-Dade County is unwilling to take on the liability that accepting this vessel into its artificial reef program would entail.”

Please see the attached pictures of the 226 foot long “M/V Borocho”. How may we work together to explore any and all options to ensure this 226-foot derelict vessel is removed from the unincorporated Miami Dade County portion of the Miami River in a timely fashion?

I appreciate your time and support for the Miami River.

Sincerely,

Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chairman,
Miami River Commission



INTERNATIONAL BLUEWATER MARINE SERVICES, Inc

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A Member of INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CONSULTANTS LTD of Gibralt

IBMS Survey Number 2911/23

December 1, 2023

REPORT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT the undersigned Surveyor did, at the request of Miami Dade Reef Guard Association, 1 Grove Isle Drive, Apt 1007, Miami, FL 33133, survey the 226 foot steel hulled general cargo vessel



“BOROCHO”

to report on the suitability of the vessel to be towed and sunk as a reef

On November 29, 2023, the undersigned Surveyor proceeded to MIAMI IRON AND METAL COMPANY, 3338 NW North River Drive, Miami, FL 33142, where the vessel was found afloat and moored alongside the river bank:

Surveys of all Classes of Vessels for Classification, Underwriters, Owners, Charters, P&I Clubs, Hull and Machinery Surveys, Damage Surveys of all types, Cargo loading and discharge, On and Off Hire/Charter, Loss of Hire, Loss of Earnings, Owners Superintendency, preparation of Work Specifications, Overseeing of Repair Work, Marina and Naval Base Facilities, Training and Consultancy on Marine/Shipyard Fire Precautions and practical Firefighting, Expert Witness.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF "BOROCHO"



Photograph # 1: "BOROCHO" afloat at Miami Iron and Metal Company, on the Miami River, Florida, November 29, 2023



Photograph # 2: "BOROCHO" the pilothouse roof



Photograph # 3: "BOROCHO" hold hatch covers and foredeck from the pilothouse roof



Photograph # 4: "BOROCHO" interior of the pilothouse



Regulatory and Economic Resources

Environmental Resources Management

701 NW 1st Court, 4th Floor

Miami, Florida 33136-3912

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January 31, 2024

Mr. Nicholas Morrell, President
Miami-Dade Reef Guard Association
1 Grove Isle Drive, Apt. 1007
Miami, Florida 33133

Re: Proposed entry into the Miami-Dade County Artificial Reef Program of the M/V Borocho, IMO #7620809, 208-ft. derelict cargo vessel located on the Miami River at 3338 NW North River Drive, Miami-Dade County

Dear Mr. Morrell:

As agreed to in our December meeting, I have looked into the above-referenced matter and have discussed it with my staff. Staff's inspection of the vessel M/V Borocho, as well as the marine surveyor's report submitted to DERM on behalf of Reef Guard on December 4th, 2023, indicate that the vessel's level of deterioration make it an unsuitable candidate for acceptance into Miami-Dade County's Artificial Reef Program. Furthermore, Miami-Dade County is unwilling to take on the liability that accepting this vessel into its artificial reef program would entail.

In light of the above, I do not recommend that Miami-Dade Reef Guard Association expend additional resources in pursuing this option.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Spadafina".

Lisa M. Spadafina, Director
Division of Environmental Resources Management

c: LCDR Kimberly Glore, USCG Sector Miami