

Official Press Release

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Senior Partner Manny Diaz' Miami 21 Awarded American Planning Association's Highest Award for Innovative City Planning

During his tenure at the City of Miami, former Mayor Manny Diaz, spearheaded the planning initiative known as Miami 21. Miami 21 serves as the blueprint for the "Miami of the 21st Century," and has recently been awarded the prestigious 2011 National Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice by the American Planning Association (APA), the profession's highest honor. The Best Practice award is given for a specific planning element or process that advances the role of planning.

"For the first time ever in a major US city, Miami 21 uses a form-based code- a method of regulating development to achieve a specific urban form that improves the relationship between streets and the public realm. The code addresses the relationship between buildings and the public spaces that surround them, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks," reads the APA website.

"We are honored and humbled that Miami 21 has received this prestigious award from the APA," said Former City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz. "It serves as recognition of the fact that in order to remain environmentally and economically sustainable, cities must embrace form-based, pedestrian friendly land use planning."

Miami 21 is also geared to ensure sustainability, predictability and efficiency in development, growth and planning. One of the key strengths of *Miami 21* is incorporating responsible environmental stewardship. It will also make neighborhoods more pedestrian-friendly.

In the past 10 years, Miami has experienced unprecedented growth. The city needed to address sprawl, automobile-dependency and segregated communities. The new plan presents a solution for continued growth without infringing upon established neighborhoods, while encouraging walk ability and better interaction between the public and private realm

Mr. Diaz currently serves as Senior Partner of Lydecker | Diaz, a 60-attorney full-service Florida law firm serving clients across the State with offices in Miami, Orlando, West Palm Beach, and Bonita Springs. Attorneys of the firm have extensive litigation experience and practice in the areas of business and corporate law, commercial litigation, insurance defense, environmental law, labor and employment, bankruptcy, trademark, and intellectual property. Mr. Diaz manages the Firm's corporate/transactional department.