

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM - EIGHTH FLOOR CITY HALL
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.**

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CUMULATIVE FROM 5/07 - 4/08</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
John Terrill, Chair	P	5	0
Barry Flanigan, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Rick Schulze	P	4	1
Eugene Zorovich	P	4	1
Michael Widoff	P	4	1
Ryan Campbell	A	3	2
Alec Anderson (arrived 7:10)	P	3	2
Bobby Dubose	P	4	1
Norbert McLaughlin	P	4	1
Stephen Tilbrook (arrived 7:07)	P	3	2
John Custer	A	4	1
Randolph Adams	P	5	0
John Baker	P	3	2
Bob Ross	A	4	1

Staff Present

Jamie Hart, Supervisor of Marine Facilities
Cate McCaffrey, Director of Business Enterprises
Andrew Cuba, Manager of Marine Facilities
Marlene Kimble, Dockmaster, City of Fort Lauderdale
Alexandra Grant, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

Joe Russo, River Taxi
Joe Rugare, Lady Lucille Cruises
Frank Herhold, Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF)

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Terrill called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – September 6, 2007

Motion made Mr. Schulze, seconded by Mr. Dubose, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2007 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Waterway Crime & Boating Safety Report

Officer Vincent Castillo reported the following incidents:

One vessel accident at 107 Royal Palm Drive due to excessive weight; the suspect vessel was located and cited.

One burglary of three Yamaha gauges and a GPS unit occurred at 2585 Riverland Terrace. Another burglary involving theft of a 17' Boston Whaler occurred at 2575 Riverland Terrace. Both incidents occurred in the same time range. Officer Castillo stated technicians are currently investigating fingerprints.

One vessel sunk in the Intracoastal Waterway; two subjects were rescued and the vessel was recovered by Towboat USA.

Chair Terrill thanked staff for providing follow up reports requested by the Board. He reminded Board members that the function of the Board is to provide recommendations to the City Commission and not to issue directives to staff. The correct procedure is to direct questions to the Chair who will seek clarification. Chair Terrill stressed that Board members should not confront staff or applicants if they are unclear about information provided.

IV. Commercial Application/Water Taxi License – River Taxi, LLC

Mr. Baker excused himself from this discussion due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Hart summarized the application and invited the applicant, Mr. Russo, to address the Board.

Mr. Joe Russo introduced himself and spoke of his experience as a captain over the years. He also showed pictures of vessels he has operated on the New River, including the Anticipation 5, the Jungle Queen, Blue Heaven 2, and Riverfront Cruises, his current employer.

Mr. Russo gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained the concept of the proposed River Taxi service. He explained that the photos depicted the vessel in its current condition but referred to a more accurate color sketch of the boat. Mr. Russo stated the vessel he plans to use is being completely rebuilt to brand new specifications. He is spending an additional \$16,000 above market value to offer a top-notch boat to service the City.

Mr. Russo stated River Taxi will provide door to door service using one-way tickets to give people more options. He will also provide rides for those unable to

drive home after late nights out. The service will specifically service residents of Fort Lauderdale as well as tourists.

Mr. Russo stated he is requesting the following stops: The area between the performing arts center and Symphony Condo; River House restaurant; Esplanade City condo dock; Las Olas Riverfront complex; Downtowner Saloon; Fort Lauderdale Marine Service office by the jail; SE 9th Avenue; Colee Hammock Park; the east and west sides of the 17th Street Bridge; and the fire station on A1A; and the Beach Place off the Las Olas Marina.

Mr. Russo added that River Taxi signage will be 8" x 5 ½" or half the size of a sheet of letterhead paper and will be placed only at City docks. He advised he is meeting separately with restaurant owners who wished to support his service.

Chair Terrill opened the discussion to the Board.

Mr. Schulze asked if the service will initially operate only one vessel. In response, Mr. Russo said yes but he expects to register a second boat within the next two weeks. One boat will serve the beach area while the other will serve the River area. Mr. Schulze commented that if River Taxi is to operate as a true taxi service, people will expect timely service.

Mr. Zorovich asked where the boats will be positioned. In response, Mr. Russo stated one boat will run from Little Florida to Colee Hammock while the other will cover the beach areas. He added that passengers may be transferred from one vessel to another in the interest of speedy service. Passengers will also be advised of estimated arrival times at their destinations.

Mr. McLaughlin asked about the service charges. Mr. Russo replied that he intends to charge \$6 for a one way ticket; he is also working out a river crossing ticket for a nominal courtesy price. This will be better determined once the service is up and running.

Mr. Tilbrook commented that there is already a water taxi operation posting signs on City docks and asked if there is a permit process or zoning implications for River Taxi. He voiced concern about the proliferation of signage on City docks.

Cate McCaffrey, Director of Business Enterprises, stated there will be a permit process but she is unsure about the specifics at the moment.

Mr. Flanigan commented that the Coast Guard inspection lists the Downtowner as the owner of the vessel. He asked whether a new inspection is needed. In

response, Mr. Russo stated the Coast Guard has to be notified of changes in ownership of vessels, after which the vessels are recertified. He stated he has already completed the wet inspection and is awaiting the hull inspection. Once these are done, he will forward the reports to Mr. Hart.

Mr. Adams asked what procedure will apply if business takes off and Mr. Russo wants to add more boats. In response, Mr. Hart stated the Code requires him to pay a licensing fee and relevant documentation.

Mr. Anderson asked if this fee covers a certain number of vessels. Mr. Hart responded that it does not and he can operate one or twenty vessels.

Chair Terrill asked where the vessel will be docked. Mr. Russo replied that he has contracted to use two docks at the Angeler Avenue Marina Center in Dania.

Mr. Zorovich asked about hours of operation. In response, Mr. Russo stated he intends to operate from noon to 10 p.m., Sunday – Thursdays, and 1 p.m. -11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday depending on need.

Chair Terrill referenced the MOAT Report and asked Frank Herhold, of MIA SF, to speak on this. Mr. Herhold stated the report was authored by Boat Marine Laboratory and examined speed zone compliance relative to the manatee protection plan. Mr. Herhold advised that per the MOAT report, speed zone compliance was very high with the exception of the water taxi service.

Chair Terrill voiced concern that River Taxi will comply appropriately with manatee safety and speed zone rules.

Mr. Russo explained that his vessel only causes a 2' draft; additionally the vessel has a piece of metal underneath to protect the propeller and prevent items from being chewed up. He assured the Board that he will observe slow speed rules.

Mr. Anderson asked how speed compliance was arrived at in the MOAT report. In response, Mr. Herhold stated graduate students sat at Colee Hammock and checked boats for speeding over a 3-month period.

Mr. Anderson spoke in favor of the River Taxi and stated the City needs a water taxi environment.

Mr. Schulze asked if the service will dispatch at a central location. In response, Mr. Russo stated the home office will do all dispatching. He explained there will be office personnel on shore, per Coast Guard requirements.

Mr. Dubose asked what type of partnerships River Taxi is pursuing with City restaurants. In response, Mr. Russo advised he entered into a partnership with the Downtowner whereby he will service patrons with a discounted ticket.

Chair Terrill opened the discussion to public comments.

Mr. Herhold asked whether River Taxi will charter for a small group. Mr. Russo stated he has to check with Mr. Hart on charter licenses.

Joe Rugare, operator of the Lady Lucille water taxi, explained that he has offered Mr. Russo his vessel for large groups and commended Mr. Russo's work for his business over the past ten years.

Mr. Terrill stated he supports this concept of enhanced water taxi service. Mr. Schulze stated he also supports this idea.

Chair Terrill closed the public comments.

Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve the application and send this forward to the City Commission.

In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old/New Business

Mr. McLaughlin commented that often, the Board requests reports from staff but these requests seem to get lost in the minutes. He asked whether future agendas can add an item for "Marine Advisory Board Requests" to keep these in the forefront.

Mr. Flanigan commented on Mr. David Bernier absence from meetings. Mr. Hart advised that Mr. Bernier had requested not to be reappointed and should be removed from future minutes. Mr. Hart said he will try to find out the status on a new appointee from the City Commission.

VI. Status Reports

▪ New River Floating Dock Project

Mr. Hart advised that the Phase 1 project, the prototype dock in front of the maritime museum, will be put out for construction bids on January 16, 2008 with bids to be received by February 13. He referred to attached sketches from Engineering showing pump out facilities.

Mr. Hart stated the City is moving forward with the consultant on design and permitting for the Phase 2 project. Mr. Hart added that Broward County has formally reinstated the \$450,000 grant for this project.

Mr. Hart thanked Ms. McCaffrey for her help on these reports.

Mr. Schulze stated he has been a skeptic of the museum dock project from the start and pointed out there have still been no further update. He pointed out there is still no funding for the museum project.

Mr. Cuba said staff can look into this further and provide a status report. He stated that the City has an obligation to build the dock in conjunction with the museum.

Ms. McCaffrey stated this is a good example of a situation where staff may not be able to get relevant information to the Board as staff is not in control of this project.

Chair Terrill requested that staff bring any kind of usage agreement for this dock before the Board.

Mr. Tilbrook asked if there are more facilities on this dock as opposed to others. In response, Mr. Hart stated there are electric and sewage pump out facilities because of the City's commitment with the Antique Boat Museum. Mr. Tilbrook questioned whether public funds should be spent on pump out facilities when it is unclear how viable the museum will be. Mr. Hart stated he is not aware of any information indicating the museum will not be operating. He added that staff will look into this issue further.

Mr. Tilbrook suggested that if there is not a demonstrated need, the City can bid this project out with the pump out facilities as an optional item.

- **Las Olas Moorings**

Mr. Hart stated there are six mooring buoys ready with hardware intact and ready for use. Out of caution, staff is following up with another review by the Engineering Department. Also, staff is also working on opening the remaining four, in order to have all ten moorings available in time for the Boat Show.

- **Las Olas Marina Electric Upgrade Project**

Mr. Cuba stated this project is scheduled to begin in January following the bid process and award of the contract.

▪ **Canal Cleaning**

Mr. Hart stated that per an email dated September 27 from the Maintenance Supervisor, five options had been considered by the Canal Cleanup Committee. These were:

1. Using the skimmer boat currently being used by Miami-Dade.
2. Replacing the existing skimmer
3. Outsourcing the entire operation
4. Outsourcing a portion of the canal's operation and cleaning the remainder in-house.
5. Selling the skimmer and hiring additional in-house crew.

Mr. Hart advised that the Committee had chosen option 5.

Mr. McLaughlin stated he was at all the meetings. He stated that to his understanding, the Committee already had a budget of \$300,000 to buy another skimmer but opted not to do so as the cost of getting a pontoon boat with two additional workers would be less than \$100,000. Mr. McLaughlin stated that with this budget, the Committee could put two additional pontoon boats out and do away with the skimmer altogether. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the pontoon boat can pick up more debris than the skimmer. These boats could be put on call and be maneuvered into different areas.

Mr. Hart stated this item is still under review.

▪ **Stormwater Study**

Mr. Hart stated that one of the City's most impaired areas is the north fork of the New River and the study will focus on and start at this point. Mr. Hart stated he will find out when Chris McFadden is available to attend a meeting.

Broward County Marine Advisory Committee – Randolph Adams

Mr. Adams reported that at the recent meeting, the Committee discussed the following matters:

1. Funding for police patrol for manatees.

Mr. Adams stated the Committee recommended that fees be applied to builders and occupants of new slips.

2. Floating dock funds.

Mr. Adams stated these funds are now available but there are problems paying for the project done at George English Park. He stated that this project was funded by the county but the docks were installed incorrectly. There is currently a stalemate concerning who should correct this project.

Mr. Hart stated he will speak with the person handling this.

Mr. Herhold provided the following MIAF updates:

- Docks are starting to go in the water and everything is on schedule for the October 25 Boat Show.
- The Bahia Mar is scheduled for inspection on Monday followed by the Largo Marine Center; the Colee and Las Olas Marinas are scheduled for future inspections to be determined.
- The *Broward Safe Boating Guide* will be delivered this month.

Regarding Mr. Adams' update on the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee, Mr. Herhold clarified that the user fee proposed is to fund mitigation efforts including police personnel, signage, manatee research and aerial surveys. Mr. Herhold stated there will be developer impact fees on new slips and user fees on existing slips.

Mr. Herhold advised that one week ago, the MIAF acquired a 52-year-old fishing tournament and that more details will be forthcoming.

Mr. Herhold announced that invitations will be sent to Board members soon for the November 9, 2007 Marine Summit.

City Commission Activity – Jamie Hart

Mr. Hart advised of City Commission activity as follows:

- The Water Taxi license transfer was approved.
- The Boat Show dockage agreement for use of the Las Olas Marina was approved.
- The dock agreement for Princess Lady on the New River was approved.

- The Dixie Southland dock waiver application was deferred for thirty days at the attorney's request.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME BAKER JOHN HAROLD	NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
MAILING ADDRESS 1631 SE 14 ST	THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF:
CITY COUNTY FT LAUD FL 33316 Brow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CITY <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER LOCAL AGENCY NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED SEPT-6, 07	MY POSITION IS:

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies equally to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing the reverse side and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which inures to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also is prohibited from knowingly voting on a measure which inures to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

* * * * *

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

* * * * *

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you otherwise may participate in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on other side)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, JOHN BAKER, hereby disclose that on Sept, 6, 20 07.

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one)

- inured to my special private gain or loss;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____;
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by whom I am retained; or
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

THE WATER TAXI WAS SOLD AS A PART OF THE BUSINESS at the DOWNTOWNER.

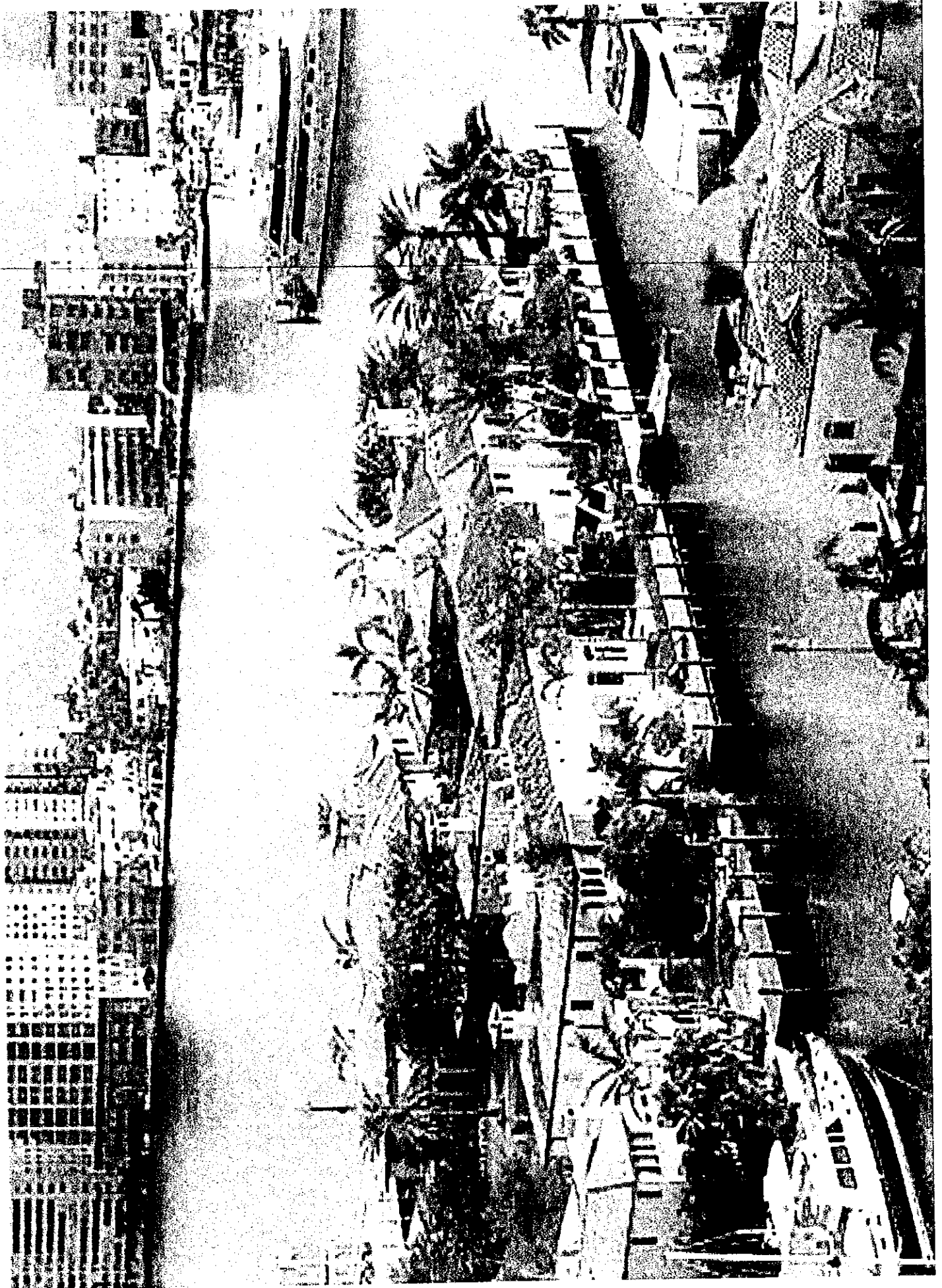
Sept 6, 07
Date Filed

John Baker
Signature

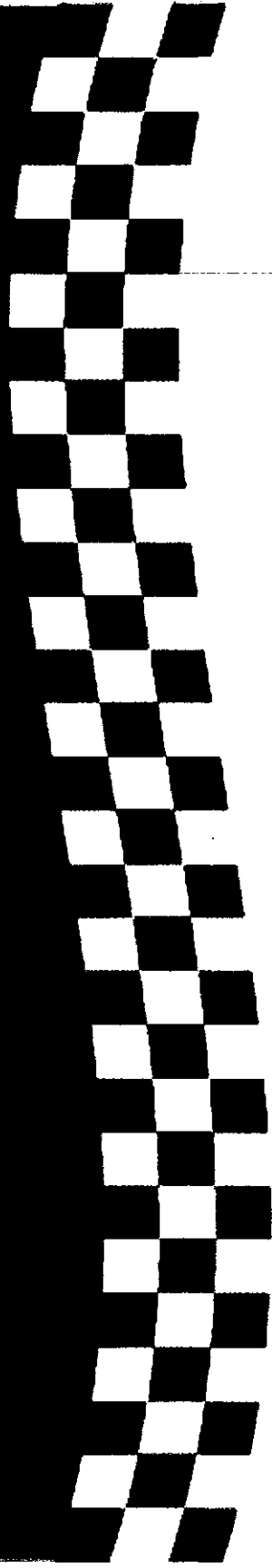
NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

OCTOBER 4, 2007
MARINE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

APPLICATION – WATER TAXI LICENSE
RIVER TAXI, LLC

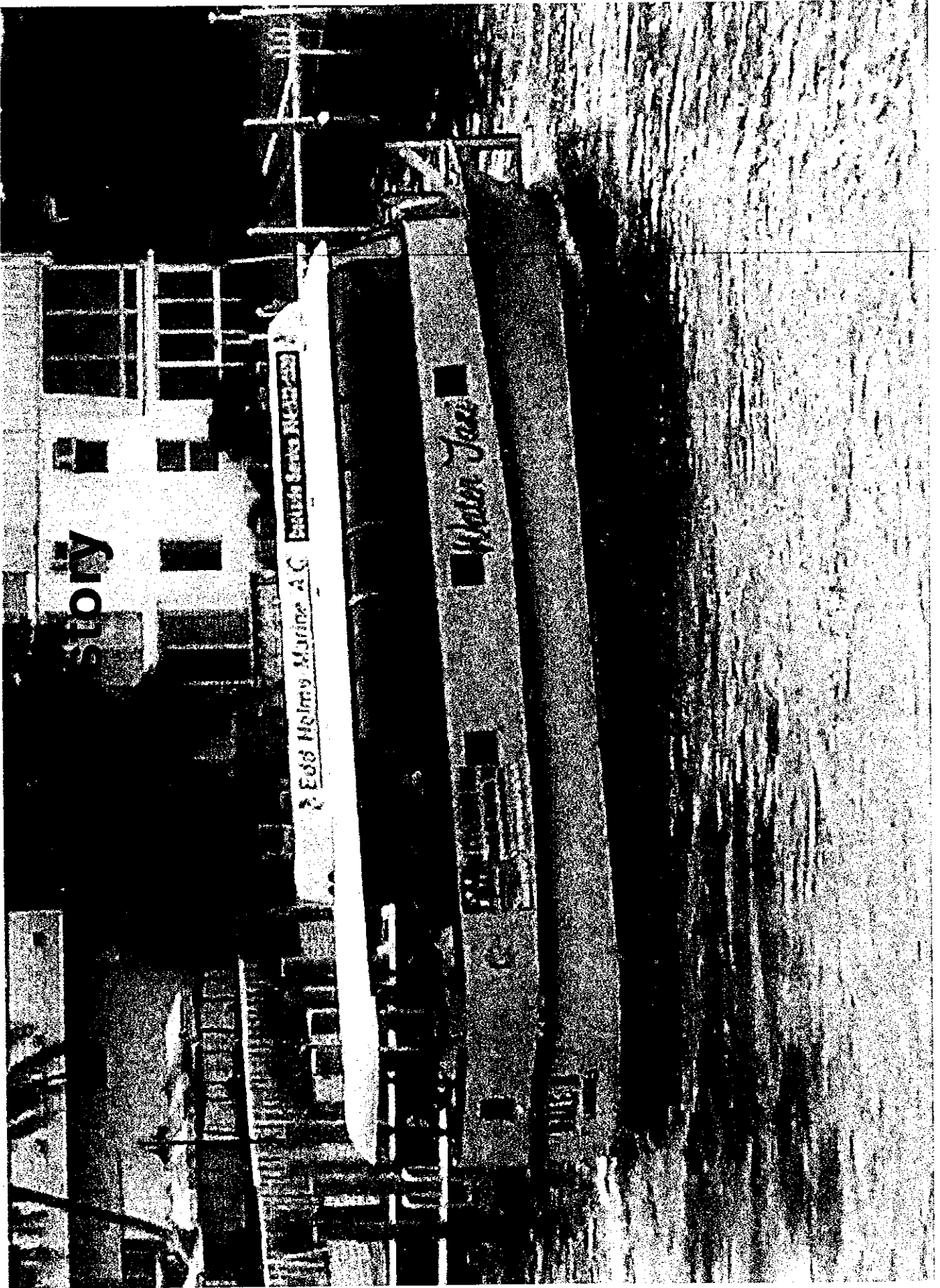


RIVER TAXI



954-880-7060





story

Esso Helms Marine A.C. British Service No. 112-259

Water Tank



Venice of North America

300+ miles of navigable Intercostal Waterways.

The fastest growing travel destination in South Florida with a wealth of cultural activities.

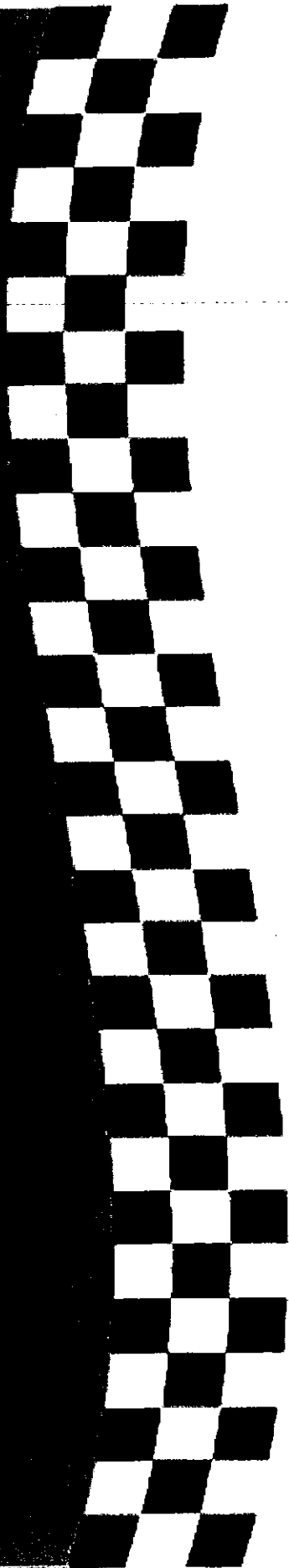
Servicing our 1.8 million residents.

Waterways connect our top attractions, hotels, shopping areas and restaurants.

Affordable and unique "dock and dine" experiences for all.

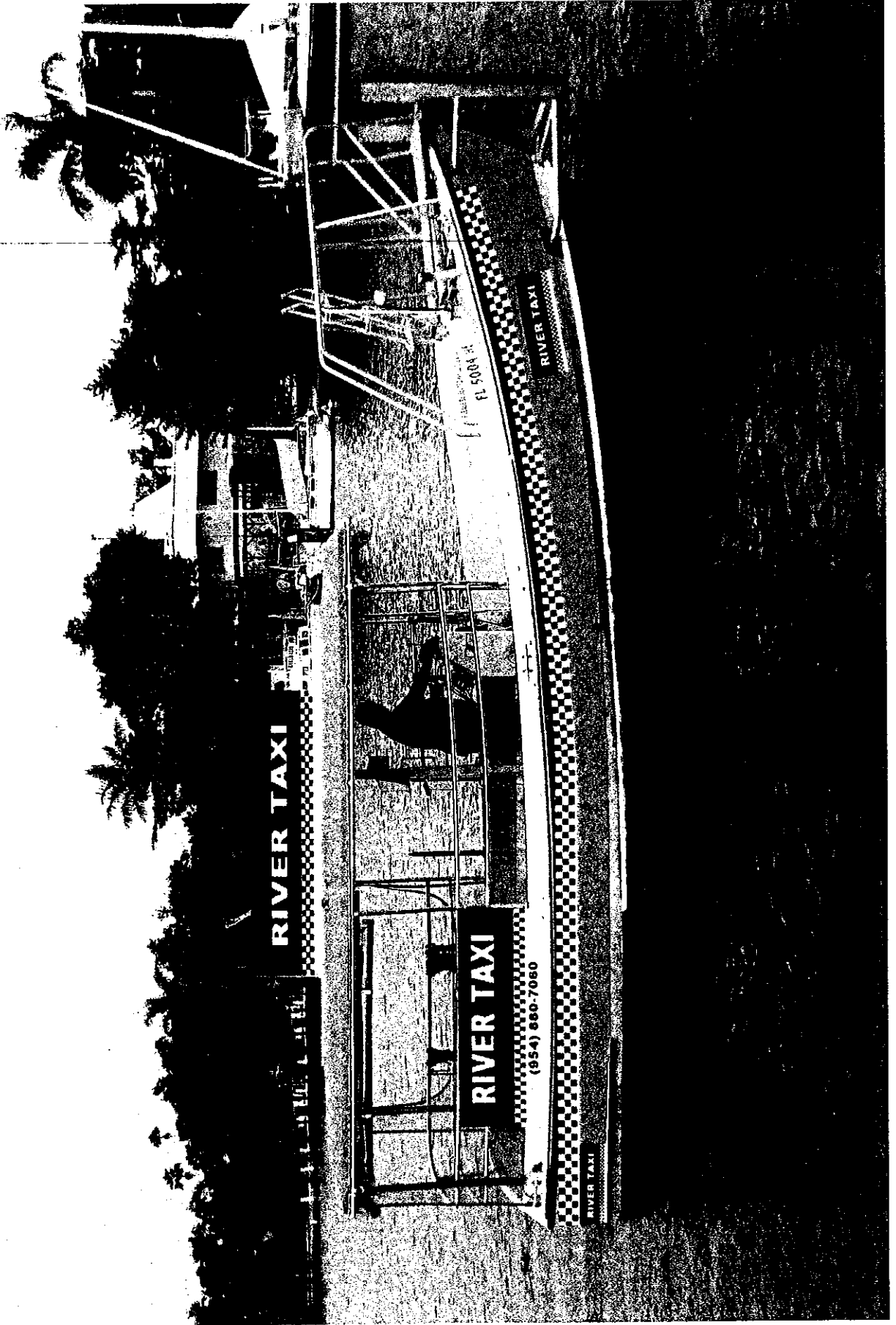
RIVER TAXI MISSION STATEMENT

RIVER TAXI



954-880-7060

THE BOAT



Sumris

The Service

- Economical waterborne transportation
- Direct door-to-door service
- One-way tickets for one-way travel
- On-call or quick service
- No wait between scheduled bus
- Safe, reliable option to driving

roadways

For the residents of Fort Lauderdale - not

Just another tour bus

Streamline

23%

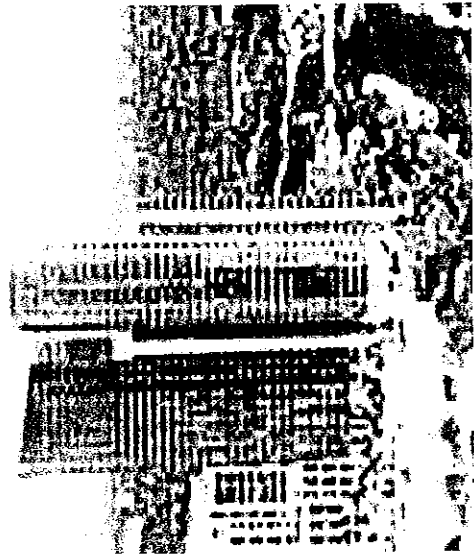
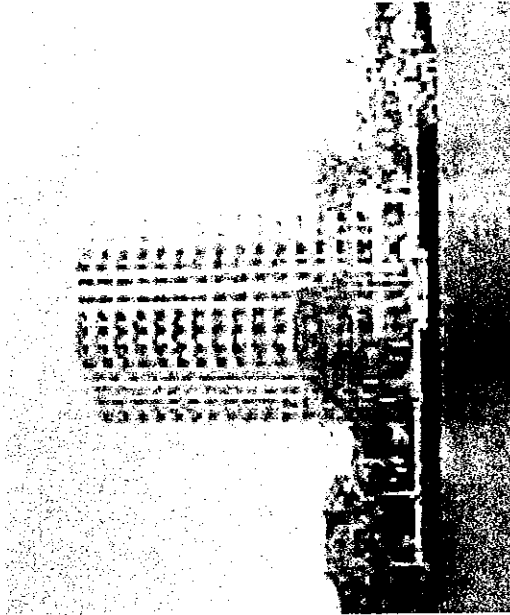
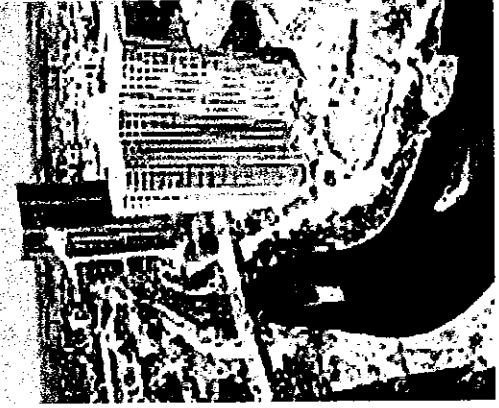
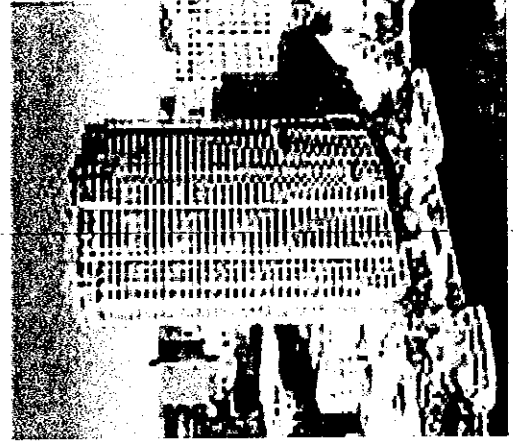
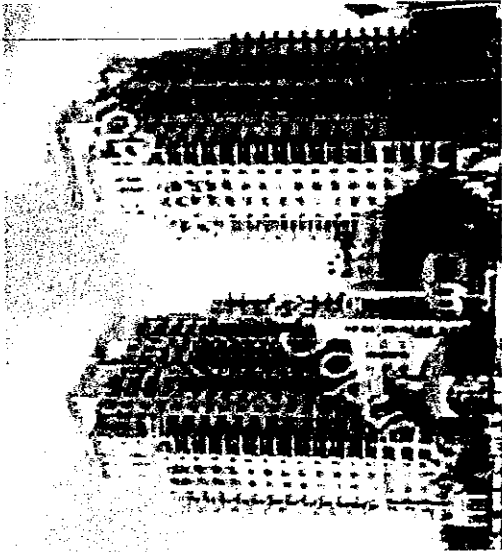
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The Stops

**Half the
size
of a sheet
of paper.**

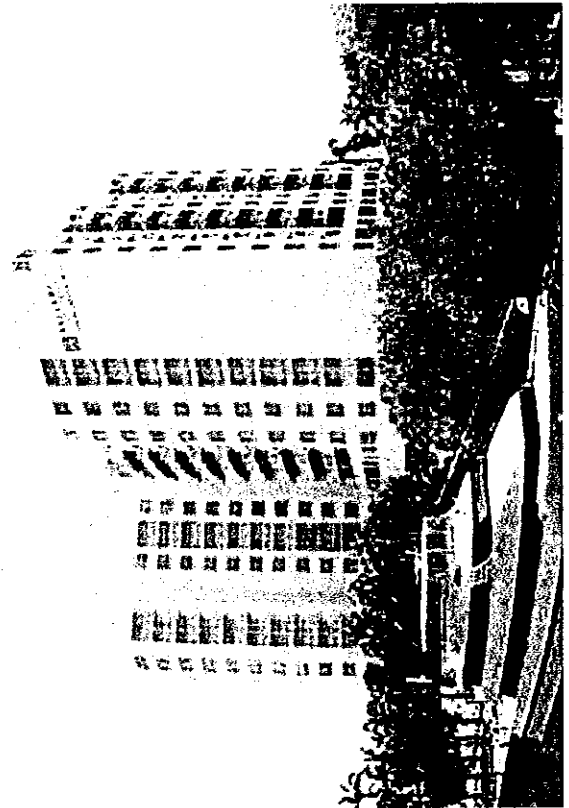
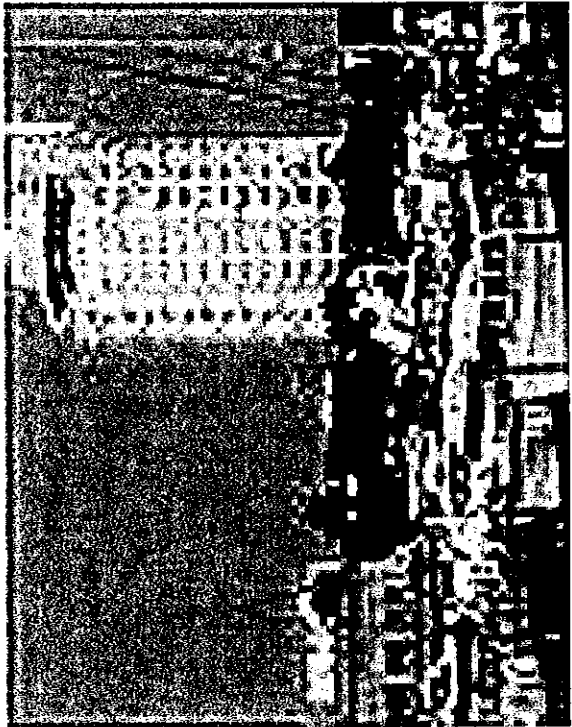
call for pick up 734-000-7060

The Customers

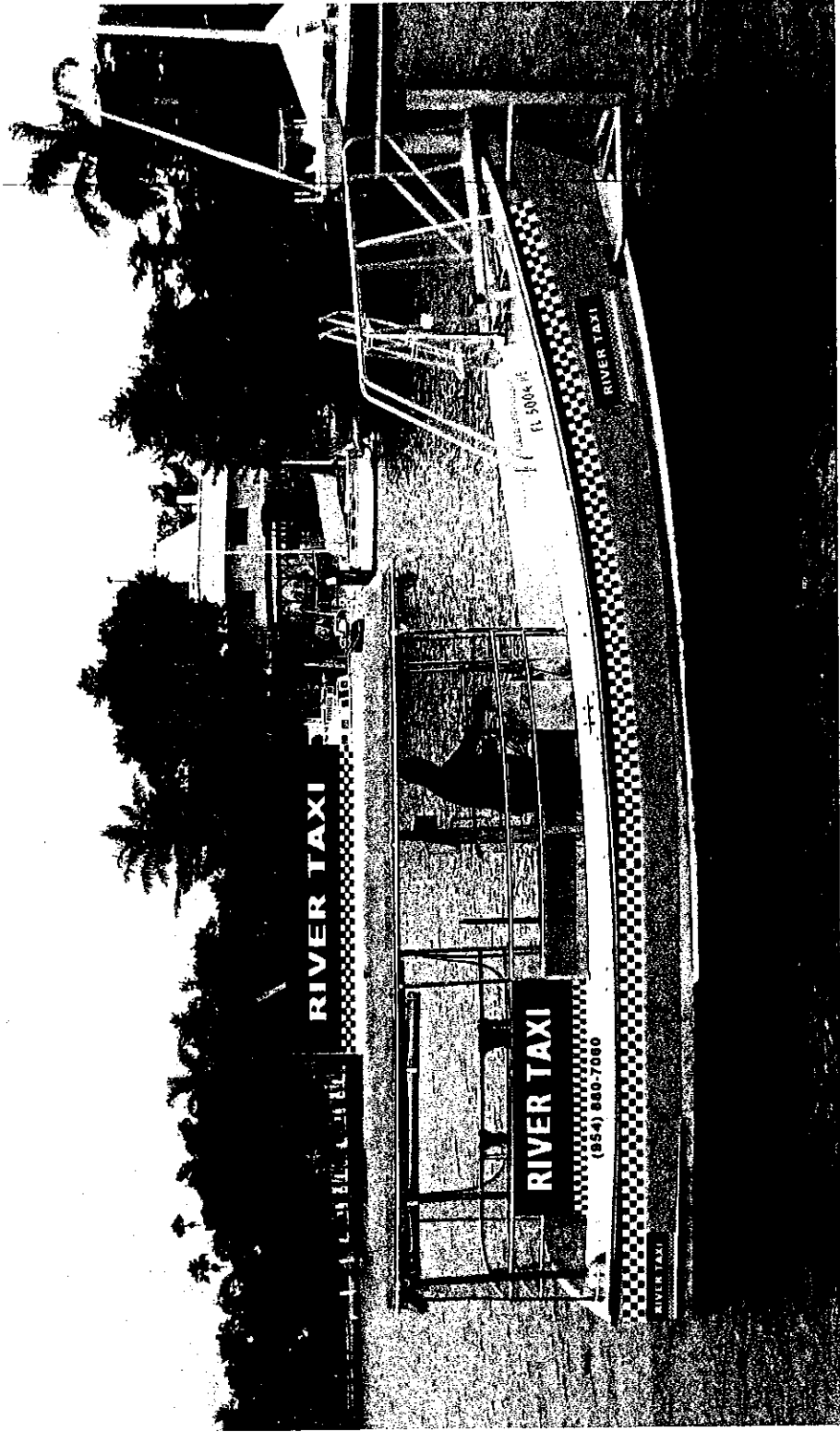




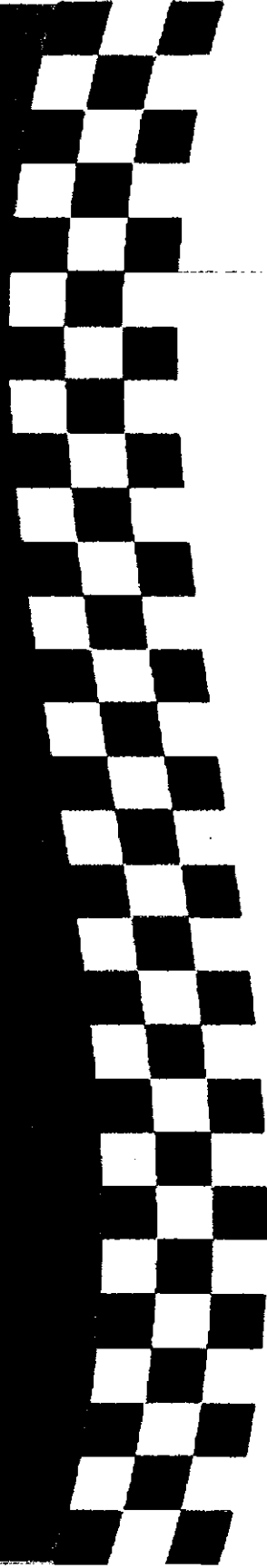
Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six



Thank You For Your Consideration



RIVER TAXI



954-880-7060