

Miami Downtown Development Authority Top staffers agree to salary cuts to help meet city's goal

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

While Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez defends raises handed out to top administrators, police majors and some firefighters in cash-strapped Miami-Dade County, three top staff members at the Miami Downtown Development Authority have accepted salary cuts.

Executive Director Alyce Robertson will see her 2009-2010 salary reduced 6%. Meredith J. Nation, deputy director, and Mark Spanioli, senior manager of planning, design, transportation and services, will each take 5% cuts

next year in the authority's proposed budget

The reductions are in keeping with a City of Miami request that members of management take pay cuts of 7% to 15%, depending on their salaries.

"Obviously, I'm not happy to have my salary reduced, but these are unusual times," Ms. Robertson told the authority's board of directors at their meeting Friday. "I'm OK with it."

"This board owes a debt of gratitude to these three professionals," board member Hank Klein told the group.

"I'm sad to cut their sala-

ries," said board member Rolando Montoya. "What they produce deserves the compensation they get, and our financial condition is sound." Nevertheless, he re-



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complished."

No other employees' salaries were cut.

"More than one-third of our staff is new," said Neisen Kasdin, co-chairman of the board. "They have just been hired. It's not like they've had years to accrue raises. To cut them is not appropriate."

The reductions are part of the authority's proposed budget for fiscal 2009-10, which begins Oct. 1. They, and the proposed budget of which they are a part, must still be approved by the Miami City Commission. The commission is to vote today (9/24).