

Interview Subject: Jimmy Morales, City Manager of Miami Beach,
former Miami-Dade County Commissioner

Date Recorded: 12-10-11

Location: MDPL office, Art Deco Welcome Center

Date of Birth: 4-30-62

Jimmy talks about growing up at the north end of Miami Beach in a very tranquil neighborhood, surrounded by water, and his years growing up, attending Beach public schools.

In the north end of the Beach, most of the Cubans were Cuban Jews.

He went through a public system. Says in those days that is hard to compare with anywhere in the county.

He talks about his friendships and the sense of community of growing up on the Beach and he is still in contact.

He talks about the integration of the Beach schools.

He talks about the famous and prominent people who graduated from Beach High.

Every decade the Beach changed a little bit. Everyone looking for opportunity. Liberal, progressive community where kids felt that could do things.

Explains that his life would have been different if he had he lived and gone to school on the mainland.

He was a double minority on the Beach, he was Hispanic and he was Catholic.

Yet never felt out of place or discriminated against or that anyone tried to put any impediment in my way.

Miami Beach was a fast high school, money, fast cars, drugs.

Beach High prepared him for Harvard.

Neighborhoods change because of who is coming in, like L.A. and N.Y.