

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OVERTOWN COUNCIL FOR THE COMMON GOOD ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

PALM HARBOR, FL, January 23, 2017 – The Overtown Council for the Common Good is seeking proposals from qualified community stakeholders with diverse backgrounds, experiences, skillsets and perspectives to collaborate around one of the community's priorities, ensuring that **Community Voices in Overtown Inform Policies and Decisions**. The Council expects to invest up to \$750,000 over three years to implement this strategic installment of the Overtown Common Good Initiative, and is seeking innovative solutions and implementation plans that address the following four strategies:

- Conduct Ongoing Outreach and Engagement with Local Overtown Citizens,
- Identify a Trusted and Effective Advocacy Network,
- Develop Improved Communication Strategies Using Multi-media, and
- Work with organizations.

The deadline to submit a full application is March 1, 2017, by 12 pm (noon).

The Common Good Initiative was launched in 2014 by Allegany Franciscan Ministries, and is designed to mobilize communities towards better health and wellness through community engagement, a long-term commitment of resources, and increased collaboration of residents and stakeholders. In Overtown, the Initiative is led by the Overtown Council for the Common Good, an advisory group comprised of residents and stakeholders of Overtown. The community has identified three priorities: Access to High Quality Employment; Accessible, Affordable, High Quality Youth Development Opportunities; and Community Voices Inform Policies and Decisions. Recommendations from the Council are presented to the Allegany Franciscan Ministries' board of directors for action. To date, \$721,232 has been invested in Overtown.

*"As someone who has personal family ties to Overtown, I am proud to serve this culturally rich neighborhood as a member of the Overtown Council for the Common Good,"* said Katrina Wright, VP, Community Development & Outreach, and BankUnited. *"We hope that this current RFP will help to zero-in on residents' desire to be heard and understood. It is time to lift up the citizens of Overtown, and make this community, yet again, a healthier place to live, work, and play."*

This announcement is an invitation for a diverse group of stakeholders to join together to help this historic neighborhood and its citizens reestablish their reputation as a treasured part of the City of Miami's past and future. This RFP is expected to engage various organizations and groups (non-profits, for-profits, government, public institutions, communications/PR professionals, faith-based groups, and others), in and around Overtown. The Council plans to use this RFP process to create a dynamic collaborative of professionals and organizations to implement the strategies outlined in the RFP. Interested parties may get more information on the "Overtown" pages of Allegany Franciscan Ministries' website [www.afmfl.org](http://www.afmfl.org).

#### **About Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Inc.**

Allegany Franciscan Ministries is rooted in the tradition and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, providing grants and working with community partners in three regions of Florida formerly served by the Sisters' hospitals: Miami-Dade County, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, and the Tampa Bay area of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Since awarding its first grant in 1998, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has invested over \$76 million to more than 1400 organizations serving those most in need in these communities. In addition to awarding grants, its staff and volunteers work collaboratively with

community partners and other funders to create healthier, safer, and more prosperous places where the most vulnerable residents can live, learn, work and play. The Common Good Initiative will create opportunities, develop strategies and make investments that lead to positive health outcomes for people in three communities: Overtown, Wimauma and Lincoln Park. A part of Trinity Health, its mission is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within communities served. For more information, please visit Allegheny Franciscan Ministries' website at [www.afmfl.org](http://www.afmfl.org).

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