

LOCAL NEWS

MIRAMAR

City Hall gets posh new address

BY EILEEN SOLER
Special to The Herald

Most of Miramar's departmental employees have moved into the city's newest building — a lavish City Hall landscaped with royal palms.

Handsome brick pavers lead past a Roman-style fountain at 2300 Civic Center, the focal point of the city's 54-acre Mediterranean-style Town Center, and through heavy double doors.

Inside, an ornate terrazzo floor is embellished with the city logo. Above it, a vaulted ceiling frames a walkway lined in dark neoclassical railing.

"The City of Miramar Welcomes You" reads a sign over a redwood desk in the opulent foyer guarded by Johnny Robertson of Vanguard Security.

"We're a work in progress,"

said Hector Vazquez, the city's development and capital management coordinator, to underscore workers bustling to complete finishing touches.

The \$16 million, three-story structure is a far cry from the moldy, musky, cramped quarters city officials had called home since 1965 at 6700 Miramar Pkwy.

Miramar grew so quickly in the past decade that Human Resources was moved to the Miramar Park of Commerce; Community Services worked out of the Civic Center; and several other departments, including Community Development, Engineering and Community Standards, were housed in a dreary converted storefront at 6901 Miramar Pkwy.

Now the departments oper-



EILEEN SOLER/MIAMI HERALD

UPSCALE MOVE: The modern lobby of Miramar's new City Hall is a far cry from its shabby predecessor.

ate in a brightly lit two-level wing of City Hall, complete with comfortable waiting areas for customers and plenty of counter space.

Lines to pay water bills and permit fees are a thing of the past, said Tim Kennett, the city's administrative services officer.

The old City Hall location had only two cashiers. The

new address has six service windows.

"The word is out," said Kennett as he conducted one morning morning last week ago. And feedback from residents is positive.

Kennett said an official celebration is in the near future, when the entrance is completed.