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TOURISM DROP:

The global recession is taking its toll on tourism here, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau Chief William Talbert III told Miami-Dade commissioners at a Recreation, Culture & Tourism Committee meeting Monday. "Tourism is down going forward," he said. "There's a global recession, that's no secret." Miami's international draw acted as a buffer when the recession was contained on the US, he said, but "no one in the world is resistant to a global recession." Miami-Dade last month rated second in hotel occupancy behind Hawaii and third in average daily rates behind New York and Washington, DC, he said, "but the raw numbers are down." The bureau has tightened its belt internally, he added, but is not pulling out of any markets in promoting the county. Miami-Dade is still drawing visitors who spend here — just fewer of them. "How are we doing relative to others? We're doing good," he said. "But overall, business is down, no surprise.