

Joan Fleischman

TALK OF OUR TOWN



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Joan Fleischman, the Miami Herald's Talk of our Town columnist, has been a staff writer since 1978. Among her beats: general assignment reporting, police and state and federal courts. E-mail Joan at jfleischman@herald.com.



TEAM EFFORT?

Miami Beach Police Chief **Don De Lucca**, soon to retire from his \$189,414-a-year job, will partner with his pal, former DEA honcho **Jim Milford**, at Verasys, a Miami-based security and investigations firm. Milford, 59, is prez.

De Lucca, 46, will head Verasys Consulting and provide security services to big-name, big-money people and firms. De Lucca is tight with one big-name, big-money guy -- Miami Heat center **Shaquille O'Neal**, who has an \$18.8 million home on Miami Beach's Star Island. There's talk that No. 32 may join the Verasys Consulting team.

O'Neal, 35, a \$1-a-year Beach reserve officer, looks up to the chief. Says O'Neal: "He has great people skills."