

DISTRICT 8

Motivated by You.
Delivering for You.
Committed to You.



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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 8

Delivering for District 8: The Highlights from Year Three

"When I was elected three years ago, I promised to champion the needs of South Dade. My priority as your Commissioner has been to make your government more accountable and trustworthy. I will continue to work hard for our residents and businesses. I hope you will review these highlights of my third year in office (2016-17) and share your ideas to help make our community even better."

Fair Share for South Dade



- ✓ **Safety** is fundamental, so I fought to increase new police officers hired from 25 to 65. A big win for our community. Agricultural crime dropped 37% after return of 24/7 coverage.
- ✓ I invested in South Dade **parks**, launching a new recreation center, basketball courts, exercise paths and breaking ground on several new parks, with great input from our residents.
- ✓ I partnered with Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, several county departments and 300 volunteers to repair 16 homes, two parks, 79 sidewalks, potholes, demolish unsafe structures and more during our "**Leisure City Pride**" event.
- ✓ After Hurricane Irma we partnered again with Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade to bring out more than 150 volunteers to clear debris. We co-hosted a FEMA workshop with Senator Nelson. I held a telephonic townhall to hear from residents, organized food and ice distribution, and issued a report on ways to improve disaster preparedness and response.
- ✓ We activated the "**South Dade: More to Explore**" marketing campaign, with support from Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and others, to showcase area attractions. Our third annual **South Dade Solutions Summit** co-hosted with Commissioner Moss, will create a unified economic development strategy to grow business investment in South Dade.

Creating Jobs



- ✓ My innovative **District 8 Small Business Academy** graduated 22 local businesses in its second year. An additional 22 organizations began the third installment of our groundbreaking **District 8 Nonprofit Academy**.
- ✓ I awarded \$100,000 in **competitive grants** to nonprofit organizations serving District 8, and grants of up to \$6,000 each to 49 local businesses to support growth and "green" practices. Three of these business grant awardees have created 20.5 jobs this year alone.
- ✓ We hosted and mentored three nonprofits and 10 small businesses, and coached dozens more, through **Accelerate South Dade**, my District 8 incubator, operated by NANA (Neighbors and Neighbors Association). Several are already scaling up and hiring new employees.

Improving Traffic



- ✓ Thanks to my joint advocacy with South Dade mayors, the North-South Dade corridor is now the **#1 priority in the SMART** (six corridor) transit improvement plan. I will continue pushing to accelerate the development of rail service for South Dade.
- ✓ I led the charge to reject critical transit service cuts and **restore Metrorail service** to the final budget. While we build out the new SMART transit plan, we must also build up current ridership by providing fast, frequent and reliable transit today.
- ✓ I helped **reduce commute times** on US 1. Persistent advocacy for South Dade paid off with the US 1 and Transitway being front-loaded in the roll-out of automated "smart signal" traffic control technology.
- ✓ I am improving bicycle safety and connectivity by creating **protected bike lanes** along SW 211 St. and by Briar Bay Park. Construction will soon start on our collaboration with Pinecrest and Palmetto Bay to bring bike lanes to finally bringing an East-West bike connection from Old Cutler Road.

Parks and Environment



- ✓ As your "water warrior" I fought to protect our water and prepare our county for the impacts of climate change and rising seas. I co-hosted **solar purchasing co-op** meetings to help drive down the price and create more opportunities for residents to go solar. I initiated a study of all County properties to identify large-scale solar energy opportunities.
- ✓ I worked with the County Environmental Department to secure more than \$1 million to **clean up pollution** at Devon Aire Park, as well as \$1.6 million from the State to connect homes to County water after discovering contaminated wells.
- ✓ I co-convoked the first **Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit** and sponsored an action plan on pollution and seagrass die-off. I passed a resolution to protect our coral reefs, and introduced an ordinance to ban styrofoam in marine construction and docks. Our ban on styrofoam in parks went into effect this past July.
- ✓ I passed new **sustainability standards** for County infrastructure projects, and legislation to explore increased funding and alternative approaches for **mosquito management**. I partnered with Commissioner Moss to prevent **illegal rock mining** on agricultural land.

Government Accountability and Responsiveness



- ✓ Momentum is building to guarantee **equal pay** for women. We completed the first annual report on women's equity and passed legislation to ensure that all vendors who do business with the County sign an equal pay affidavit.
- ✓ My legislation making it easier for employees to **report fraud, waste and abuse** in the County was expanded to include vendors who do business with the County.
- ✓ I sponsored the legislation for citizen **review of our County Charter**. The Task Force will make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners by February on how to make local government more responsive and accountable.
- ✓ I lowered the age for volunteers at our Animal Services shelter to allow high school students to help abandoned pets find new homes, and introduced legislation to **stop animal abusers** from adopting from our shelter.

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