




MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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DATE: January 30, 2007

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
Members, Board of County Commissioners



FROM: Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: State of the County

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As we enter a new era in Miami-Dade County government, we are finding new and improved ways to spotlight our government's accomplishments. As in past years, you will find the State of the County report attached. However, I am pleased to announce that for the first time the report has been packaged and posted online at [www.miamidade.gov/mayor/stateofthecounty2007.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/mayor/stateofthecounty2007.asp). With more than 22 million visits to Miami-Dade County's web portal in 2006, I cannot think of a better way to showcase and market our collective achievements. As we move forward with our Wireless Miami-Dade Initiative, more and more people will have access to our County's information, resources and services.

Some of the most gratifying news of 2006 will not appear in the report. While experts tell us we are in an above-average era of hurricane activity, the hurricane season that plagued us in 2005 did not repeat itself in 2006. As a result, we were able to focus on critical infrastructure, rather than all-consuming clean-up and recovery projects.

One of our most visible achievements of 2006 is undoubtedly the opening of the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts. An estimated 157,000 guests have been entertained since the curtain went up. Patrons will tell you, a performance at the Carnival Center is more than a show, it is a feast for the senses, not only because of the performance, but because of the surroundings. When the great theaters in the world are discussed, the Carnival Center is prominently mentioned in the same breath as long-established landmark venues throughout the world.

Just as exciting is the still-to-come Super Bowl XLI. It is the 9<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl in South Florida and the 4<sup>th</sup> in the past 16 years. That says a lot about our community. Super Bowl XLI is expected to generate \$400 million dollars for our local economy. The events leading up to Super Bowl Week are creating jobs, contributing to business development, encouraging community involvement and marketing our destination. The exposure is priceless. It is publicity you just can't buy. Our destination is so desirable that the NFL can't stay away. They will be back for Super Bowl XLIV, on February 10, 2010.

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The marketability of our destination doesn't begin and end with the Super Bowl. Don't take my word for it. Here is what several respected newspapers had to say about Miami-Dade County:

"South Florida once again led the state in year-over-year job growth while [the] employment rate declined..." *The South Florida Business Journal* (12/22/06)

"Miami International Airport was the busiest U.S. airport for international travel on U.S. Carriers... with 3.4 million international passenger boardings." *The Miami Herald* (12/15/06)

...and on airport security at MIA...

"Lurking for an hour on the perimeters of the state's busiest airports, including Orlando and Tampa... Police were rarely seen and, with the exception of Miami, never confronted. "...only at Miami International Airport did authorities respond." *The News-Press of Fort Myers* (12/17/06)

These news clips highlight what is right with our growing community and burgeoning economy in a post 9/11 era.

While we have had our share of encouraging news, we have also faced serious challenges. Our Housing, Water & Sewer and Corrections Departments are undergoing top-to-bottom reviews and reorganization. New management is at the helm of all three departments and tasked with uncovering problems and correcting them.

Similarly, all Department Directors have been directed to develop plans of action and realistic timelines for implementation of specific objectives. As we embark on a new year and transition to an Executive Mayor form of government, we must renew a spirit of innovation and cooperation. Meaningful – and tangible – results are needed with an emphasis on providing better and more efficient service to our customers – the residents of Miami-Dade County.

Attached (and online) you will find a more comprehensive account of our local government's accomplishments in the seven major strategic planning areas:

- Neighborhood and Unincorporated Municipal Services
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Recreation and Culture
- Health and Human Services
- Economic Development
- General Government

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As I have said before, these accomplishments are not my accomplishments. They are a reflection of the hard work of so many people, including our County Commissioners, County Manager George Burgess, and thousands of conscientious County employees.

I look forward to the days ahead and the possibilities in the days to come.

- c: Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Courts  
George M. Burgess, County Manager  
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney  
Kay M. Sullivan, Clerk of the Board

