

THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER BARREIRO, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION. AND THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING THE 2018 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS.

WASN'T THAT A GREAT RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY WESLEY WRAY? CAN YOU BELIEVE HE'S ONLY 13-YEARS-OLD! THANK YOU, FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION, AND THANK YOU TO GUITARS OVER GUNS! THOSE WILL BE TOUGH ACTS TO FOLLOW!

I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUDITORIUM STAFF FOR HOSTING US AGAIN. AND, OF COURSE, I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED ON THIS EVENT AGAIN THIS YEAR.

THANK YOU.

AND THANK YOU TO MY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND SENIOR ADVISOR, MICHAEL HERNANDEZ, WHO IS ALSO SERVING AS THIS MORNING'S EMCEE.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

CHAIRMAN BOVO, VICE CHAIRWOMAN EDMONSON, AND COMMISSIONERS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. YOU ARE DOING GREAT WORK FOR OUR RESIDENTS. I THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO.

I ALSO SEE MANY ELECTED OFFICIALS OUT IN THE AUDIENCE, INCLUDING NEWLY ELECTED CITY OF MIAMI MAYOR FRANCIS SUAREZ. THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING. WE GET TWO SUARZES, ONE THE MIAMI MAYOR AND THE OTHER COUNTY COMMISSIONER XAVIER SUAREZ AT ONE STATE OF THE COUNTY.

AND WELCOME TO ALL THE MAYORS, COMMISSIONERS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, MANAGERS, AND OFFICIALS THAT ARE WITH US THIS MORNING.

FINALLY, THANK YOU TO MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE OF 42 YEARS, LOURDES. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ME. YOU ARE MY FOUNDATION AND THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.

TO MY THREE CHILDREN AND SIX WONDERFUL GRANDCHILDREN - 5 OF WHO ARE HERE TODAY AND LED US IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -- I LOVE YOU ALL.

TO MY SISTER MITZY, SISTER-IN-LAW, MARI TERE ROJAS, WHO IS ALSO A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER; ALL MY NIECES AND NEPHEWS, MY COUSINS... ALL MY FAMILY WHO IS PRESENT.

WITHOUT YOU, I WOULD NOT BE HERE TODAY. THANK YOU.

TODAY, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS DOWN TO 4.5% FROM 5.5% IN DECEMBER 2016. OUR CRIME RATES ARE LOW. WE ARE ATTRACTING NEW BUSINESSES... AND WE ARE INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE. WHILE WE HAVE CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME, I'M CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

IN SUMMARY, MY FELLOW MIAMIANS, THE STATE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS *STRONG*.

THIS WILL BE MY SEVENTH STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS. AND EACH ONE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO REFLECT ON WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT IS TO SERVE AS YOUR MAYOR.

MY GOAL CONTINUES TO BE TO BUILD A BETTER MIAMI-DADE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MIAMIANS. AND I BELIEVE THAT DESPITE OUR CHALLENGES, WE ARE DOING JUST THAT.

THAT WORK INCLUDES PREPARING FOR STORMS SUCH AS HURRICANE IRMA.

WHEN I WAS FIRST BRIEFED ABOUT IRMA'S PATH, IT WAS BEING PROJECTED AS A POSSIBLE CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE WITH POTENTIAL WIND SPEEDS UP TO 185 M.P.H.

AFTER HEARING FROM EXPERTS FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, I ISSUED AN ORDER DIRECTING APPROXIMATELY 660,000 OF OUR RESIDENTS TO EVACUATE. ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS AT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD, AND MANY OTHERS... WE THEN

PROCEEDED TO OPEN 43 SHELTERS, INCLUDING 4 PET-FRIENDLY SHELTERS. APPROXIMATELY 31,000 PEOPLE SOUGHT REFUGE AND WE SERVED A TOTAL OF 515,000 MEALS.

OUR COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ALSO DISTRIBUTED 489,000 MEALS TO THE ELDERLY AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER HURRICANE IRMA.

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE AND FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENTS, OUR ENTIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM, MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO CARVALHO, THE RED CROSS, THE NATIONAL GUARD, ALL OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO JOINED US AT THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK SENATORS BILL NELSON AND MARCO RUBIO, CONGRESSMAN CARLOS CURBELO, AND GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT FOR THEIR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT IRMA.

ALTHOUGH HE IS IN TALLAHASSEE TODAY, I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE JOSE "PEPE" DIAZ.

DURING THE STORM, COMMISSIONER DIAZ WAS SO CONCERNED ABOUT ELDERLY CONSTITUENTS LIVING IN FLOOD ZONES THAT HE PERSONALLY KNOCKED ON DOORS WITHIN HIS DISTRICT URGING THEM TO SEEK SHELTER ELSEWHERE.

THIS WAS A TRULY SELFLESS ACT AND I WANT TO PERSONALLY THANK COMMISSIONER DIAZ FOR HIS EFFORTS.

OUR DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DID A TREMENDOUS JOB AT DEBRIS HAULING AFTER IRMA. JUST HOURS AFTER IT HAD PASSED, SOLID WASTE CREWS AND CONTRACTORS WERE OUT ON THE STREETS CLEARING ROADWAYS OF DEBRIS.

IRMA MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A CATEGORY 5 STORM, BUT HER WINDS BROUGHT DOWN THOUSANDS OF TREES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY AND THEIR REMOVAL WAS CRITICAL TO RETURNING TO BUSINESS AS USUAL.

THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT COMPLETED COLLECTION OF NEARLY 4 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF DEBRIS FROM THE 320-SQUARE-MILE SERVICE AREA AND FROM COUNTY-MAINTAINED ROADWAYS.

I'LL REPEAT THAT: *NEARLY 4 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF DEBRIS* -- AND ALL OF THIS WHILE STILL MAINTAINING REGULAR CURBSIDE GARBAGE AND RECYCLING PICKUP. AT ITS PEAK, IT WAS THE LARGEST DEBRIS-CLEANING OPERATION IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

FOR THIS, I WANT TO THANK DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA HUDAK, WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR, AND HER ENTIRE TEAM FOR A JOB VERY WELL DONE.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE SOME SOLID WASTE EMPLOYEES WHO WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND, BEFORE AND AFTER THE HURRICANE.

RONALD HOWARD WAS THE GO-TO PERSON FOR RESOLVING ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES. HE WAS ALSO CRUCIAL IN DEVELOPING A PLAN TO CLEAR

DEBRIS PILES. MR. HOWARD AND ALFRED COLEMAN WERE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE AND THE LAST TO LEAVE DURING THE RECOVERY EFFORTS.

AND AS OF TODAY, BOTH MEN ARE STILL WORKING LONG HOURS TO IMPLEMENT A NEW PROGRAM TO COMBAT ILLEGAL DUMPING.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER NANCY LORENZO HANDLED HUNDREDS OF INQUIRIES AND CERTAINLY PUT MANY RESIDENTS AT EASE.

AND MS. MARICELA REED WORKED CLOSELY WITH CONTRACTORS AND MADE SURE DESIGNATED AREAS WERE BEING CLEARED.

TODAY WE THANK AND HONOR RONALD, ALFRED, NANCY, AND MARICELA FOR THEIR SERVICE.

WOULD THEY PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY?

THANK YOU ALL!



I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OUR DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, ALICE BRAVO; PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES DIRECTOR, MARIA NARDI; AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MANNY GARCIA.

THE TWO DEPARTMENTS ALSO WORKED TIRELESSLY TO CLEAR THE ROADWAYS AFTER IRMA. THEIR DEBRIS COLLECTION EFFORT RESULTED IN THE REMOVAL OF 275,000 CUBIC YARDS OF DEBRIS.

EVEN OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT CLEARED ROADS AND DIRECTED TRAFFIC, IN ADDITION TO HELPING OPEN SHELTERS.

THANK YOU ALL FOR ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE AFTER IRMA!

SPEAKING OF "CALL," OUR 3-1-1 CONTACT CENTER WAS FULLY STAFFED DURING THE ACTIVATION AT OUR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER FOR 205 HOURS, INCLUDING 132 CONSECUTIVE HOURS.

OUR CALL SPECIALISTS ANSWERED OVER 110,000 CALLS AND OPENED 10,000 SERVICE REQUESTS DURING THE HURRICANE IRMA ACTIVATION.

I APPRECIATE THE DEDICATION OF OUR ENTIRE 3-1-1 TEAM WHO ARE OFTEN THE FIRST AND LAST POINT OF CONTACT FOR RESIDENTS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND THANK THEIR DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, INSON KIM.

ONE MAJOR IMPACT HURRICANE IRMA HAD ON OUR COMMUNITY WAS POWER -- OR RATHER, THE LOSS OF POWER. MORE THAN 1 MILLION OF THE 1.11 MILLION CUSTOMERS THAT FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT SERVES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY EXPERIENCED AN OUTAGE. AT ITS PEAK, THERE WERE 8,000 F.P.L. EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS IN THE COUNTY WORKING TO RESTORE POWER.

WITH COMPANY AND OUT-OF-STATE PERSONNEL WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK, F.P.L. WAS ABLE TO RESTORE 75% OF CUSTOMERS WITHIN 4 DAYS AFTER IRMA.

THANK YOU, F.P.L. FOR YOUR INVALUABLE EFFORTS. I'D PARTICULARLY LIKE TO THANK C.E.O. ERIC SILAGY AND MIAMI REGIONAL DIRECTOR IRENE WHITE FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US AT THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER AND KEEPING US UP-TO-DATE ON THE RESTORATION.

AND WHILE POWER OUTAGE WAS A TEMPORARY ISSUE COUNTYWIDE, OUR WATER REMAINED SAFE. DURING THE DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS AT THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER, I REPEATED THAT OUR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WATER WAS SAFE TO DRINK. AND THAT IS IN PART DUE TO THE HARD WORK OF OUR WATER AND SEWER EMPLOYEES.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE WATER AND SEWER'S EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, MARCELO GARCIA; DIVISION CHIEF FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND MAINTENANCE, BOB FERGEN; CHIEF OF WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TRANSMISSION LINE, JUAN BEDOYA; ASSISTANTS SUPERINTENDENT OF WATER LAZARO CABRERA AND ADRIAN TRIANA; AND CONSTITUENT SERVICES COORDINATOR, ALICIA RIESGO.

BECAUSE OF THEIR HARD WORK, WATER AND SEWER WAS ABLE TO DELIVER UNINTERRUPTED WATER SERVICE -- WITHOUT THE NEED FOR PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER ORDERS -- AND PROVIDE EQUALLY RELIABLE WASTEWATER SERVICES.

MARCELO, BOB, JUAN, LAZARO, ADRIAN, AND ALICIA... PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

A LESSON WE LEARNED FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA IS THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING OUR LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY (L.M.S.) UP-TO-DATE.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE L.M.S. IS TO ASSESS OUR VULNERABILITIES TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND OTHER HAZARDS. THE L.M.S. IDENTIFIES A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF GOALS, OBJECTIVES, PLANS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO DECREASE OR ELIMINATE THE EFFECTS OF THOSE VULNERABILITIES AND SATISFY F.E.M.A. STANDARDS SO WE CAN REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL AND STATE DISASTER AND NON-DISASTER MITIGATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

AS PART OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-19 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, WE ARE EMPHASISING THE ALIGNMENT OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET WITH THE L.M.S. WE ARE UPDATING PROJECT COSTS AND DETERMINING AVAILABLE FUNDING. THIS IS YET ANOTHER STRATEGY WE ARE EMPLOYING TO ENSURE THAT OUR ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOCUS ON ENHANCING OUR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY.

AND FOR THAT, I'D LIKE THANK DEPUTY MAYOR ED MARQUEZ AND BUDGET DIRECTOR JENNIFER MOON FOR THEIR WORK MANAGING OUR COUNTY'S FINANCES. WITHOUT THEIR EFFORTS, THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO CARLOS MIGOYA AND JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM FOR COMPLETING ITS SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF POSITIVE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, WITH A POSITIVE BOTTOM LINE OF APPROXIMATELY \$15 MILLION BEFORE BOND REIMBURSEMENTS.

WHILE OUR COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO FACE THREATS FROM MOTHER NATURE, WE FACED OTHER CHALLENGES IN 2017 AND MUST WORK TO ADDRESS THEM FOR THE FUTURE.

TRANSPORTATION IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF A THRIVING METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY, WHICH IS WHY WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER.

WE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES THAT CAN ENHANCE HOW WE GET AROUND.

TODAY, APPROXIMATELY 95% OF OUR RESIDENTS COMMUTE VIA PERSONAL VEHICLES. FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THE MAJORITY OF OUR RESIDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THEIR CARS... SO WE MUST CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR ROADWAY NETWORK AND THAT IS WHY LAST YEAR WE BEGAN INSTALLING SMART TRAFFIC SIGNALS ALONG 10 OF THE COUNTY'S MAJOR CORRIDORS. THESE SIGNALS ADAPT TO REAL-TIME CONDITIONS TO IMPROVE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THEY WILL ALSO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR TRANSIT VEHICLES

AND PROVIDE TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITY -- WHICH MEANS THAT OUR BUSES WILL SPEND LESS TIME STOPPED AT RED LIGHTS.

LAST MONTH, WE BEGAN TESTING THE TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITY PROJECT ALONG THE SOUTH DADE TRANSITWAY AND ALREADY METROBUS RIDERS ON ROUTES 34-A AND 34-B ARE SEEING A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THEIR TRAVEL TIME FROM HOMESTEAD TO DADELAND AND BACK AGAIN.

THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN A LONG JOURNEY, BUT IT IS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

AND TODAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT MY VISION FOR TRANSPORTATION IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. A LOT HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND SAID ABOUT MY ENTHUSIASM FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE OUR RESIDENTS AROUND IN MIAMI-DADE. IT'S BEEN SAID THAT I'M AWAITING TECHNOLOGIES FROM *THE JETSONS*.

ALTHOUGH I STRONGLY BELIEVE OUR COMMUNITY *MUST* LOOK TO THE FUTURE TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY, I PROPOSED STEPS WE COULD TAKE RIGHT AWAY.

WHAT CAN WE DO RIGHT NOW?

WE CAN IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFY WHICH OF THE 6 CORRIDORS FROM THE S.M.A.R.T. PLAN WE WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP FIRST. OUR T.P.O. IDENTIFIED THE NORTH AND SOUTH CORRIDORS AS THE FIRST THAT SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.

COMMISSIONER DENNIS MOSS HAS LONG BEEN AN ADVOCATE FOR DEVELOPING THE SOUTH DADE TRANSITWAY. AND THAT TRANSITWAY WON'T REQUIRE US TO PURCHASE RIGHT-OF-WAY. AND I KNOW THIS WILL ALSO AFFECT COMMISSIONER DANIELA LEVINE CAVA'S DISTRICT.

COMMISSIONER BARBARA JORDAN HAS SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH CORRIDOR, AND THAT HAS MERIT AS WELL.



WE CAN PURCHASE THE RIGHT-OF-WAYS FOR THE OTHER SMART CORRIDORS AND PREPARE THEM FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

MY FRIENDS, THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG CORRIDOR TO BEGIN WORKING ON. WE JUST NEED TO GET TO WORK!

WE CAN WORK ON THE CORRIDORS IN A WAY THAT THEY CAN EVENTUALLY BE CONVERTED TO FIT ANY FUTURE TECHNOLOGY -- TRAINS, RUBBER TIRE VEHICLES, AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND SO ON.

I SUPPORT SOLICITING PROPOSALS SO THAT WE CAN BUILD STATIONS ALONG THE CORRIDORS THAT WILL ENHANCE THE RIDERS' EXPERIENCE... STATIONS THAT WOULD WORK FOR BUS EXPRESS RAPID TRANSIT OR RAIL. BUT THESE WOULD NOT BE THE OPEN-AIR STATIONS OF OUR METRORAIL SYSTEM. I'M REFERRING TO CLIMATE-CONTROLLED STATIONS WITH MODERN AMENITIES, INCLUDING GROUP BOARDINGS, WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE RIDER EXPERIENCE.

WE ALREADY HAVE AN AGREEMENT THAT THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR WILL BE RAIL. OUR PARTNER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BRIGHTLINE, HAS BEGUN SERVICE IN BROWARD AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES AND WILL SOON BRING ITS SERVICE TO MIAMI-DADE. THE COMPANY HAS ALSO AGREED TO CONNECT TRI-RAIL TO DOWNTOWN MIAMI, A PROJECT FINANCED BY OUR HALF-PENNY SURTAX.

ALONG WITH BRIGHTLINE, WE MUST ENGAGE CITIES ALONG THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR TO BRING COMMUTER RAIL. THIS WILL ALSO REQUIRE THE BUILDING OF STATIONS.

WE ALL AGREE THAT PEOPLE IN MIAMI-DADE NEED OPTIONS DUE TO OUR CONGESTION LEVELS. WE NEED TO GIVE PEOPLE RELIEF NOW. WE CAN'T WAIT.

LET ME BE CLEAR, WE HAVE SIX CORRIDORS AND A FINITE AMOUNT OF FUNDING, WE NEED TO IMPLEMENT PRACTICAL OPTIONS THAT ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTY VIA 6 CORRIDORS CAN BENEFIT FROM RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING ALL OF OUR

RESOURCES ON A SINGLE CORRIDOR TO FUEL DEVELOPMENT.

WE ALSO NEED TO INCLUDE IN OUR PLANS THE AGENCIES IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE CAN WORK WITH TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY OPTIONS.

ONE OF THOSE AGENCIES IS THE MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY.

VICE CHAIRWOMAN EDMONSON AND I ARE BOARD MEMBERS OF M.D.X. AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE EAST-WEST BUS RAPID TRANSIT SERVICE FROM THE NEW 836 DOLPHIN PARK AND RIDE THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING THIS YEAR.

I ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EXTENSION OF THE 836 WEST, WHICH WE WILL CALL THE KENDALL PARKWAY, TO OUR SUBURBS AND THE KENDALL NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS CAN BE DONE BY PROTECTING AGAINST DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY WHILE

BRINGING RELIEF TO 600,000 RESIDENTS IN WEST KENDALL AND SOUTH DADE.

I THANK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAVIER RODRIGUEZ AND OUR FELLOW BOARD MEMBERS FOR COMING TOGETHER TO MOVE US FORWARD.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE COLLABORATION WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOWARDS.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH GROUPS IN THE INDUSTRY, INCLUDING AN ESTABLISHED COMPANY REGARDING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND MICRO-TRANSIT. WE WILL HAVE AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

OUR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS ALSO WELCOMED NEW METRORAIL CARS IN 2017. AS A MATTER OF FACT, A NEW TWO-CAR TRAIN JUST WENT INTO SERVICE THIS MORNING.

BY MARCH OF 2019, WE WILL HAVE ALL THE NEW RAIL CARS NEEDED FOR PEAK SERVICE ON THE TRACKS OF THE 25-MILE METRORAIL SYSTEM.

BY BRINGING NEW TRAINS INTO SERVICE, WE WILL INCREMENTALLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRAINS AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE EACH MONTH. FREQUENCY SHOULD IMPROVE STARTING EARLY THIS YEAR, AND BY THIS SUMMER, OUR RIDERS SHOULD SEE FULLY RESTORED SERVICE.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REMAINS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS WELL.

I KNOW CHAIRMAN ESTEBAN BOVO AND I HAVE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSIT, BUT WE BOTH AGREE ON ONE THING: WE MUST MOVE FORWARD. LET'S DO WHAT WE CAN RIGHT NOW BY DESIGNATING THE CORRIDORS, PURCHASING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND SOLICITING PROPOSALS FOR STATE-OF-THE-ART STATIONS ALONG THE SOUTH DADE TRANSITWAY.

THIS DIFFICULT WORK IS NECESSARY TO BUILDING A BETTER-CONNECTED COMMUNITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BUILD A BETTER MIAMI-DADE, WE ALSO CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS SECURING THE SAFETY OF ALL MIAMIANS.

EVERY DAY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR JUAN PEREZ, OUR MIAMI-DADE POLICE OFFICERS ARE ON THE STREETS SERVING OUR RESIDENTS.

IN EARLY DECEMBER, DURING A TIME WHEN OUR RESIDENTS WERE DOING THEIR HOLIDAY SHOPPING, ONE OF OUR OWN NEARLY LOST HIS LIFE WHILE WORKING OFF DUTY AT A WALMART.

OFFICER MANUEL GONZALEZ APPROACHED A MAN SUSPECTED OF SHOPLIFTING. THE MAN PULLED OUT A GUN AND SHOT SIX TIMES.

OFFICER GONZALEZ SUSTAINED FIVE GUNSHOT WOUNDS BEFORE EVENTUALLY TAKING DOWN THE SUSPECT.

JUST 8 WEEKS LATER, OFFICER GONZALEZ IS RECOVERING WELL AND HERE WITH US TODAY. ALSO PRESENT IS OFFICER SAUL RODRIGUEZ WHO BACK IN MAY PROBABLY SAVED THE LIVES OF RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF OUR MAIN LIBRARY IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI AS HE CONFRONTED AND INTERRUPTED AN ACTIVE SHOOTER. IRONICALLY, OFFICER RODRIGUEZ IS ALSO A COURAGEOUS SURVIVOR AS HE TOO WAS SHOT IN THE ABDOMEN YEARS EARLIER WHILE TAKING A FELON INTO CUSTODY.

AND BACK IN MARCH, WHILE OFFICERS TERRANCE WHITE AND CHARLES WOODS WERE ON DUTY AS PART OF THE HOMICIDE STREET VIOLENCE TASK FORCE AND SURVEILLING A PARKING GARAGE NEAR THE CHARLES DREW MIDDLE SCHOOL, THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY A SUBJECT YIELDING AN ASSAULT RIFLE.

OFFICER WOODS WAS SHOT IN THE LEG WHILE OFFICER WHITE SUSTAINED A GUNSHOT INJURY ON HIS ARM. THEY WERE BOTH TREATED AT RYDER TRAUMA CENTER AND RECOVERED.

WOULD OUR 4 M.D.P.D. OFFICERS -- GONZALEZ, RODRIGUEZ, WHITE, AND WOODS -- PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

LET'S GIVE THESE OFFICERS A WELL-DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

THESE GENTLEMEN ARE EXAMPLES OF HARD WORK THAT M.D.P.D. DOES EVERY DAY. THERE ARE MANY OTHER INSTANCES WHERE OUR POLICE CAME UNDER ATTACK THAT WENT UNNOTICED BECAUSE THE OFFICERS WERE NOT INJURED.

UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR SACRIFICES ARE A REMINDER THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR POLICE OFFICERS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH WHAT THEY NEED TO KEEP US SAFE.

IN 2017, MIAMI-DADE POLICE WELCOMED 144 NEW OFFICERS AND HAVE BUDGETED TO HIRE AN ADDITIONAL 65 OFFICERS IN 2018.

WE ARE ALSO STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS TO BETTER PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS. LAST YEAR, THE LEGAL BUREAU



ADMINISTERED 132 NEW AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT PARTNERSHIPS WITH FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AS WELL AS PRIVATE PARTNERS TO ADVANCE PUBLIC SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

ADDITIONALLY, THE GRANTS UNIT SECURED 25 GRANT AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING \$6.8 MILLION IN FUNDING FROM THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE 2017 COPS HIRING GRANT. THIS WILL FUND THE HIRING OF AN ADDITIONAL 25 COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING OFFICERS TO COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE.

THE PARTNERSHIPS WE HAVE ENTERED INTO AND THE GRANTS THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED WILL ASSIST IN OUR EFFORT TO REDUCE THE GUN VIOLENCE WE HAVE SEEN IN PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITY. WHILE OUR OVERALL CRIME RATE HAS NOT RISEN, WE UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THAT GUN VIOLENCE ANYWHERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS UNACCEPTABLE. REST ASSURED THAT THE M.D.P.D. IS DOING ALL IT CAN - INCLUDING WORKING WITH OUR STATE ATTORNEYS OFFICE AND PARTNERING WITH LAW

ENFORCEMENT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF GUN VIOLENCE.

FROM JANUARY THROUGH NOVEMBER, 4,366 CIVIL CITATIONS WERE ISSUED FOR EITHER POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA OR POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA IN LIEU OF ARREST. AND THAT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE APPROXIMATELY 60% OF THE VIOLATORS WERE FIRST TIME OFFENDERS, AND THIS ALSO REDUCED THE NUMBER OF CRIMINAL CASES PROSECUTED IN COUNTY COURT.

THIS IS JUST A SUMMARY OF THE GREAT WORK THE M.D.P.D. DID IN 2017 AND I THANK OUR COMMISSIONERS FOR SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS FUNDING REQUESTS. AS A FORMER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY POLICE OFFICER, I'M SURE COMMISSIONER JOE MARTINEZ WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT M.D.P.D. IS DOING GREAT, LIFE-SAVING WORK.

WE ALL THANK DIRECTOR JUAN PEREZ AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FREDDY RAMIREZ, STEPHANIE DANIELS, AND THOMAS HANOLN AND

THEIR COMMAND STAFF FOR PROTECTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

AS A FORMER FIRE CHIEF MYSELF, I'M VERY PROUD OF THE WORK CHIEF DAVE DOWNEY AND HIS LEADERSHIP TEAM ARE DOING. NOT ONLY DO THEY CONSISTENTLY ANSWER THE CALL TO DUTY IN MIAMI-DADE, BUT THEY ALSO RESPOND TO THOSE WHO NEED ASSISTANCE ELSEWHERE.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, OUR COUNTY WAS SPARED A DIRECT HIT FROM IRMA, HOWEVER, OTHER COMMUNITIES WEREN'T SO LUCKY DURING THE PAST YEAR'S BUSY HURRICANE SEASON.

OUR OWN, FLORIDA TASK FORCE ONE WAS DEPLOYED TO ASSIST WITH THE SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS IN HOUSTON FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATION FROM HURRICANE HARVEY.

WHILE IN TEXAS, OUR TEAM MANAGED TO HELP COUNTLESS RESIDENTS TRAPPED BY FLOOD WATERS EVEN ASSISTING A WOMAN IN LABOR...

JUST DAYS AFTER RETURNING FROM TEXAS OUR TEAM WAS BACK IN ACTION ASSISTING RESIDENTS IN MONROE COUNTY AS THEY RECOVERED FROM HURRICANE IRMA, AND LATER IN PUERTO RICO POST HURRICANE MARIA.

THESE MEN AND WOMEN PUT SERVICE ABOVE SELF AND ARE THE DEFINITION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A HERO.

THEY REPRESENTED US WELL AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM ALL FOR ALL THEY DID.

LIKE THE MILITARY, FIRST RESPONDERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING HERE IN MIAMI-DADE, HAVE EXPERIENCED THE EFFECTS OF P.T.S.D. TRAGICALLY, SOME HAVE SOMETIMES TURNED TO SUICIDE. OUR FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT HAS RECOGNIZED THIS PROBLEM AND HAS BECOME A LEADER IN THE FIRE SERVICE IMPLEMENTING P.T.S.D. AND SUICIDE AWARENESS TRAINING.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE EMPLOYEES FOR

THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS LIFE-SAVING INITIATIVE.

I ASK LIEUTENANT ALEX TRINCHET, LIEUTENANT ANA FALCO, LIEUTENANT MARIA ORTIZ, LIEUTENANT JEANNETTE HARRINGTON, FIREFIGHTERS MARIO GONZALEZ AND PABLO RIVAS, AS WELL AS DR. SHARON ISRAEL, FLORA DE CUETO, ERIKA BENITEZ, ELENA HERNANDEZ, ROBERT HERNANDEZ, AND CHIEF ED CHARDON TO PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS SAVING THE LIVES OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF THE OPIOID CRISIS ON OUR COMMUNITY, OUR FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT TEAMED UP WITH M.D.P.D. TO TRAIN AND EQUIP 24 MIAMI-DADE POLICE OFFICERS ON HOW TO ADMINISTER NARCAN, THE LIFESAVING MEDICATION USED TO TREAT OPIOID OVERDOSES.

I APPLAUD OUR FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOR WORKING TOGETHER AND CONTINUALLY PUTTING THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY FIRST.

I'D LIKE TO THANK COMMISSIONER SALLY HEYMAN FOR HER EFFORTS IN SPONSORING THE CREATION OF AN OPIOID TASK FORCE LAST YEAR.

THIS TASK FORCE WAS CHARGED WITH CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE OPIOID ADDICTION EPIDEMIC, IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES TO ADDRESS AND CURTAIL THE EPIDEMIC, COMPILE INFORMATION, AND DEVELOP A PLAN.

ONE OF THE 26 RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED IN THE FINAL REPORT, WAS THE IMPROVEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE DRUG, HAVING TREATMENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE, AND ADMINISTERING NARCAN WHEN NECESSARY. WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS GOAL AND ARE SAVING LIVES BECAUSE OF IT.

I KNOW DEPUTY MAYOR AND FORMER MIAMI FIRE CHIEF MAURICE KEMP HAS BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE DEDICATION ALL OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS SHOW EACH DAY SINCE JOINING THE COUNTY FAMILY. THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DO, DEPUTY MAYOR KEMP.

AND WHILE THE PUBLIC'S SAFETY REMAINS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT OUR RESIDENTS AND THE CHILDREN IN OUR COUNTY HAVE OPTIONS FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

ACCESS TO A NEARBY, AFFORDABLE GYM IS OFTEN NOT AN OPTION FOR MANY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WHICH IS WHY OUR "FITNESS ZONES" CREATED AND MANAGED BY OUR PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT ARE SO VALUABLE. WE HAVE 25 OF THESE ZONES INSTALLED AT VARIOUS PARKS COUNTYWIDE. NOT ONLY DO THESE FITNESS ZONES PROVIDE PRACTICAL HEALTH BENEFITS AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO COME TOGETHER, THEY ARE ALSO BEAUTIFUL ADDITIONS TO OUR PARKS.

I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE FOUR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS WHO HELPED BUILD OUR FITNESS ZONES AND ARE WITH US THIS MORNING. MICHAEL HOULE, HONG YUN, MICHAEL BEDELL, AND DENNIS ESPINAL - PLEASE STAND.

THANK YOU FOR CREATING AN ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY TO HEALTH FOR OUR MANY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

FOR THIS, AND ALL THE GREAT THINGS THAT ARE COMING OUT OF OUR PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, I'D LIKE TO THANK ITS CHAIRMAN, SENATOR JAVIER SOUTO... AND ALSO MY SENIOR ADVISOR, MICHAEL SPRING, WHOSE PASSION FOR THE ARTS IS NOTHING SHORT OF INSPIRATIONAL.

AND WHILE WE CONTINUE TO EXPAND CULTURE AND RECREATION IN OUR COMMUNITY, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CONTINUES TO BUILD FOR ITS FUTURE.

OUR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ARE PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY.

THANKS TO PORT MIAMI'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OVER THE LAST DECADE, OUR SEAPORT IS RECOGNIZED AS A GLOBAL GATEWAY



AND THE UNCONTESTED CRUISE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

IN FACT, JUST LAST WEEK, PORT MIAMI WON "PORTHOLE CRUISE MAGAZINE'S" AWARD FOR BEST U.S. PORT IN RECOGNITION FOR ITS CUSTOMER SERVICE, QUALITY OPERATIONS, AND ALL AROUND EXCELLENCE.

WE ALSO SET ANOTHER WORLD RECORD BY WELCOMING 5.3 MILLION CRUISE PASSENGERS IN 2017. THAT'S ABOUT 1 MILLION MORE THAN ANY OTHER PORT IN THE *WORLD!*

AND OUR SEAPORTS NUMBERS KEEP GROWING. IN FACT, JUST LAST MONTH IN DECEMBER, IT WAS THE HIGHEST PASSENGER MONTH IN OUR HISTORY AND THE FIRST TIME WE BOARDED MORE THAN 600,000 MULTI-DAY PASSENGERS - ANOTHER RECORD.

I THINK *THAT* DESERVES A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

PORT MIAMI HAS BEEN STEADILY CAPTURING NEW BUSINESS THANKS TO MORE THAN \$1.3 BILLION OF

COMPLETED CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS, INCLUDING THE COMPLETION OF OUR DREDGING.

OUR INVESTMENTS ARE CERTAINLY PAYING OFF. IN FACT, OUR CARGO NUMBERS ARE UP ALMOST 10% TODAY OVER A YEAR AGO.

WE ARE ALSO BENEFITING FROM PRIVATE INVESTMENTS AT OUR PORT. ROYAL CARIBBEAN IS INVESTING \$200 MILLION FOR ITS NEW TERMINAL, WHICH IS SET TO OPEN AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. AND BECAUSE OF THIS INVESTMENT, THE WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE SHIP IS RETURNING TO PORT MIAMI.

PORT MIAMI IS ALSO FINALIZING MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH 2 OTHER MAJOR CRUISE LINES FOR SIMILAR PROJECTS, WHICH WILL CREATE MORE JOBS FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

I'D LIKE TO THANK OUR SEAPORT DIRECTOR, JUAN KURYLA, AND OF COURSE THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONER REBECA SOSA. YOUR

HARD WORK AND DEDICATION ARE BEYOND MEASURE.

THE AVIATION DEPARTMENT ALSO HAD ANOTHER SOLID YEAR IN 2017 AND CONTINUED TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WELCOMED 7 NEW PASSENGER AIRLINES -- INCLUDING ISRAEL'S EL AL -- AND 4 NEW ALL-CARGO CARRIERS. THESE NEW ADDITIONS BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AIRLINES OPERATING AT M.I.A. UP TO 107 -- THAT'S THE MOST OF ANY U.S. AIRPORT.

WE NOW HAVE A DIRECT FLIGHT TO ISRAEL AND LATER THIS YEAR, I WILL BE TRAVELING TO CHINA TO HOPEFULLY SECURE A DIRECT FLIGHT FROM THAT COUNTRY TO MIAMI.

6 PASSENGER AIRLINES AND 3 CARGO-ONLY CARRIERS THAT BEGAN SERVICE AT M.I.A. IN 2017 ARE DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR 4,145 NEW JOBS, AND ARE PROJECTED TO GENERATE \$355 MILLION IN NEW BUSINESS REVENUE ANNUALLY WITHIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR NOW FORMER DIRECTOR, DR. EMILIO GONZALEZ, FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT AS MANAGER OF THE CITY OF MIAMI -- *WELCOME TO THE CITY MANAGERS' CLUB.*

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION THAT THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF OUR SEAPORT AND AIRPORT, MIAMI CONTINUES TO BE A TOP DESTINATION FOR VISITORS.

MIAMI-DADE'S TOURISM INDUSTRY REMAINED STRONG IN 2017 DESPITE THE CHALLENGES OF HURRICANES, WORLD ECONOMIES, A STRONG DOLLAR, AND CLOSURE OF THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER FOR A \$620 MILLION EXPANSION AND RENOVATION.

THAT BEING SAID, IN 2017, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WELCOMED A RECORD 15.8 MILLION OVERNIGHT VISITORS WHO GENERATED A RECORD \$25.9 BILLION FOR OUR COMMUNITY. FOR THAT, I'D LIKE TO THANK THE PRESIDENT AND C.E.O. OF THE

GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU, BILL TALBERT, FOR HIS DEDICATION AND DRIVE TO MAKING MIAMI A GLOBAL DESTINATION.

COMPANIES ARE CHOOSING TO INVEST IN MIAMI-DADE. AND ONE OF THEM IS AMAZON. BUT BEFORE WE THINK OF HQ2, LET'S REMEMBER THAT AMAZON IS ALREADY IN MIAMI-DADE.

LAST YEAR, THE E-COMMERCE GIANT BROKE GROUND ON A NEW 97-ACRE STATE-OF-THE-ART FULFILLMENT AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER AT OUR VERY OWN MIAMI-OPA LOCKA EXECUTIVE AIRPORT.

THIS NEW FACILITY, WHICH IS SLATED TO OPEN AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, WILL BRING OVER 1,000 NEW, PERMANENT JOBS.

AND YES, I -- ACTUALLY, ALL OF US -- ARE HOPEFUL THAT AMAZON WILL ONCE AGAIN SELECT THE TRI-COUNTY AREA AS THE FUTURE HOME OF THEIR SECOND NORTH AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS, HQ2.

LAST YEAR, WE PARTNERED WITH BROWARD AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES TO SUBMIT A BID... AN

EFFORT LED BY OUR VERY OWN MIAMI-DADE BEACON COUNCIL.

IT WAS ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT AMAZON HAS NARROWED DOWN THE 238 SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO 20 TOP CONTENDERS... AND MIAMI HAS MADE IT TO THE SHORT LIST.

I ALWAYS KNEW WE WERE A STRONG CONTENDER. SOME DISAGREED WITH ME, BUT I ALWAYS WAS - AND CONTINUE TO BE -- OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES. SO IT WAS NO SURPRISE TO ME THAT WE ARE A FINALIST AND I LOOK FORWARD TO COMPETING WITH CITIES LIKE NEW YORK, BOSTON, AND ATLANTA.

FELLOW MIAMIANS, WE ARE READY AND ABLE TO ATTRACT AN AMAZON, GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, OR ANY OTHER MAJOR COMPANY. I STRONGLY BELIEVE IT.

AND SPEAKING OF THE BEACON COUNCIL, IN 2017 THEY WELCOMED A NEW C.E.O., MICHAEL FINNEY. ONCE AGAIN I'D LIKE TO WELCOME THE MICHIGAN NATIVE TO OUR COMMUNITY. MICHAEL IS ALSO

VERY HAPPY WITH OUR WEATHER. A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN WHAT HE WOULD BE EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW IN MICHIGAN.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER... AND TO COLLABORATING WITH OUR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES SUCH AS FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, AND MIAMI DADE COLLEGE TO EDUCATE AND RETAIN THE TALENT WE NEED FOR THE FUTURE ECONOMY AND THE JOBS OF TOMORROW.

AND WHILE WE HAVE SOME MONTHS TO WAIT FOR AMAZON TO OPEN ITS NEW DISTRIBUTION CENTER AT MIAMI-OPA LOCKA EXECUTIVE AIRPORT, THE WAIT IS NEARLY OVER FOR NBC-UNIVERSAL/TELEMUNDO ENTERPRISES TO CUT THE RIBBON ON THEIR NEWLY BUILT HEADQUARTERS IN UNINCORPORATED MIAMI-DADE.

THE NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART \$250 MILLION FACILITY, WITH APPROXIMATELY 500,000 SQUARE FEET ON 21 ACRES, WILL BE HOME TO 1,200 EMPLOYEES. THE BUILDING WILL HOUSE OFFICES

AND STUDIOS FOR THE TELEMUNDO NETWORK, TELEMUNDO STUDIOS, TELEMUNDO INTERNACIONAL, UNIVERSO NETWORK, NBCUNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL'S LATIN AMERICA HEADQUARTERS, AS WELL AS THE DIGITAL MEDIA PROPERTIES. THIS NEW BUILDING WILL BE THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT EVER INTO A MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION AND BROADCAST FACILITY IN THE FLORIDA REGION.

THE COMPANY COULD HAVE GONE ANYWHERE -- TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, ET CETERA -- BUT THEY CHOSE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

I THANK NBCUNIVERSAL TELEMUNDO ENTERPRISES CHAIRMAN CESAR CONDE, WHO ALTHOUGH HE GRADUATED FROM BELEN AND NOT COLUMBUS LIKE I DID, HE IS A MIAMIAN AND IS GIVING BACK TO HIS HOME AND HELPING OUR COMMUNITY BUILD FOR THE FUTURE. REPRESENTING THE COMPANY HERE TODAY IS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT MONICA GIL. WELCOME, MONICA.



WE ALSO HAVE ANOTHER LARGE HEADQUARTER OPENING SOON FOR FEDEX. THE SHIPPING COMPANY'S NEW 240,000-SQUARE-FOOT FACILITY IN HOMESTEAD IS GEARING UP FOR ITS RIBBON CUTTING IN FEBRUARY. THIS NEW FACILITY WILL BRING 75 PERMANENT NEW JOBS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THE INVESTMENTS MADE BY AMAZON, NBC-TELEMUNDO, AND FEDEX ARE PROOF THAT MORE AND MORE BIG-NAME COMPANIES ARE TURNING TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND INVESTING LOCALLY.

AND IT DOES NOT STOP THERE. BIG-NAME ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO INVESTING IN MIAMI. YOU ALL MAY KNOW A FORMER SOCCER PLAYER BY THE NAME OF DAVID BECKHAM.

WELL, I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT AFTER 4 YEARS OF BACK AND FORTH NEGOTIATIONS, MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER IS FINALLY COMING TO MIAMI!

I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ATTEND THE SOCCER FRANCHISE'S OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY AT THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER.

THE AUDITORIUM WAS FILLED WITH SOCCER FANS AND SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS WHO -- LIKE ME -- CAN'T WAIT FOR THE FIRST MATCH. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MIAMI'S RICH SPORTS HISTORY.

I'D LIKE TO THANK OUR DEPUTY MAYOR JACK OSTERHOLT AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES LELAND SALOMON FOR BEING INSTRUMENTAL IN NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR ROLES IN BRINGING BECKHAM TO MIAMI.

DAVID BECKHAM ISN'T THE ONLY FORMER PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE WHO HAS MADE MIAMI HIS NEW HOME. EARLIER THIS YEAR, WE WELCOMED FORMER NEW YORK YANKEES LEGEND DEREK JETER AS ONE OF THE NEW OWNERS OF THE MIAMI MARLINS.

DEREK AND I TOURED MARLINS PARK THIS MONTH AND I KNOW THAT WE CAN EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM HIM AND THE NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM... *MAYBE EVEN A FEW RENOVATIONS TO THE INSIDE OF THE STADIUM.*

AND SPEAKING OF RENOVATIONS, I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE DOLPHINS OWNER STEPHEN ROSS FOR HIS PERSONAL INVESTMENT OF \$500 MILLION INTO THE HARD ROCK STADIUM. THESE RENOVATIONS WERE A LARGE PART OF HOW WE WERE ABLE TO ATTRACT ONE OF THE GREATEST SOCCER MATCHES IN THE WORLD LAST SUMMER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 35 YEARS, *EL CLASICO* WAS PLAYED OUTSIDE OF EUROPE AND IT WAS RIGHT HERE IN OUR BACKYARD AT THE HARD ROCK STADIUM. SOCCER RIVALS REAL MADRID AND F.C. BARCELONA FACED OFF TO A SOLD-OUT CROWD.

WE ALSO SECURED TWO MORE GREAT SPORTING EVENTS AT THE HARD ROCK: SUPER BOWL 54 IN 2020 AND THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2021... NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT A WORLD-CLASS STADIUM.

THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WE CAN ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY.

AND SPEAKING OF INVESTMENTS, MY ADMINISTRATION WILL PRESENT AN ITEM TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AT AN UPCOMING MEETING PERTAINING TO THE LEASING OF APPROXIMATELY 140 ACRES OF COUNTY-OWNED LAND. IF APPROVED, DEVELOPERS WILL BUILD A PRECISION DRIVING AND CAR CLUB THAT WILL CERTAINLY HELP PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MIAMI-DADE.

THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE PROJECT WILL HAVE A COUNTYWIDE IMPACT AND BRING IN HUNDREDS -- IF NOT THOUSANDS -- OF JOBS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

I THANK COMMISSIONER JORDAN FOR BEING INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THIS DEVELOPMENT INTO OUR COMMUNITY.

CREATING A BETTER MIAMI-DADE FOR ALL MIAMIANS ISN'T JUST ABOUT BRINGING IN NEW BUSINESSES, BUT ALSO INVESTING IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY AND BUILDING MORE WORK-FORCE HOMES.

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF COVERAGE IN THE MEDIA LATELY ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ITS CHALLENGES IN NOT ONLY MIAMI-DADE BUT ALL OF SOUTH FLORIDA. AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT WE NEED MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

BUT RATHER THAN SPEND TIME TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM, WE NEED TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS AND FUNDING. IN OUR FISCAL YEAR 17-18 BUDGET, WE HAVE MORE THAN \$150 MILLION ALREADY ALLOCATED TO VARIOUS PROJECTS AND MORE THAN \$90 MILLION AVAILABLE TO BE ALLOCATED.

AND WHILE OUR ECONOMY REMAINS STRONG -- AND IS ONLY GETTING STRONGER -- WE ARE ALSO WORKING TO STRENGTHEN OUR COUNTY'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

LEADING THE CHARGE FOR LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF THE FUTURE -- QUITE LITERALLY -- IS OUR WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT.

W.A.S.D. HAS COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF THE 15-TO-20-YEAR-LONG CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT,

WHICH EQUATES TO \$1.2 BILLION IN NEW ASSETS FOR THE DEPARTMENT. OVER 1,000 PROJECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND 876 ARE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS.

USING THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM HURRICANE IRMA, OUR WATER DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BOLSTER THE UTILITIES RESILIENCE BY DESIGNING AND HARDENING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FUTURE CONDITIONS THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE ACTIVITY AS WELL AS BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE.

I THANK OUR WATER DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, LESTER SOLA, FOR HIS LEADERSHIP. AND I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK COMMISSIONER JEAN MONESTIME FOR LEADING THE CHARGE AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE MEANS WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES THAT ARE COMING.

THAT IS WHY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, SENIOR MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION AND I

HAVE WORKED WITH F.P.L. C.E.O. ERIC SILAGY AND OTHER COMPANY LEADERS TO FINALIZE DETAILS PERTAINING TO A JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT REGARDING THE REUSE OF RECLAIMED WATER.

I CAN NOW ANNOUNCE TWO RESILIENCE INITIATIVES THAT ARE GREAT EXAMPLES OF US BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE. THE FIRST IS AN EFFORT TO UTILIZE RECLAIMED WATER TO REPLACE THE CURRENT SOURCES OF WATER USED FOR COOLING AT THE TURKEY POINT POWER PLANT. AND THE SECOND IS A CAMPAIGN TO BROADEN THE USE OF SOLAR POWER THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THESE SOLUTIONS COULD BENEFIT BOTH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND F.P.L. BY UTILIZING THE SHARED TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS GOALS OF BOTH OUR COUNTY AND F.P.L. BY SHARING THESE RESOURCES AND INVESTMENTS, RATES PAID BY OUR RESIDENTS FOR THE ELECTRICAL AND WATER AND SEWER SERVICES MAY BE LOWERED.

THIS PLAN HAS THE POTENTIAL TO RECYCLE MORE THAN 20 BILLION GALLONS OF FRESHWATER AND PREVENT THE REMOVAL OF 10 BILLION GALLONS OF FLORIDAN AQUIFER WATER EACH YEAR.

THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE WATER PRODUCED BY THE PROJECT WILL HELP RE-ESTABLISH A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM WITHIN THE COOLING CANALS THAT WILL FEATURE THE RETURN OF SEAGRASSES FOR NATURAL FILTRATION WITHIN THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF OPERATION. THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PREPARING FOR THE ULTIMATE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE COOLING CANALS. THE PROJECT WILL ALSO SERVE AS A STEPPING-STONE TO OTHER RECLAIMED WATER PROJECTS THAT COULD MEET 100 PERCENT OF OUR REUSE GOALS AND OFFER A RELIABLE AND SAFE SOURCE OF WATER TO REHYDRATE REGIONAL WETLANDS.

IN ADDITION, F.P.L. IS PLANNING TO PUT 1 MILLION SOLAR PANELS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. THEY WILL DEVELOP AND CONSTRUCT AT LEAST 223.5 M.W. OF SOLAR POWER GENERATING PROJECTS WITHIN THE COUNTY, WHICH WOULD MATCH THE



CAPACITY CURRENTLY UTILIZED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT... MAKING US THE FIRST COUNTY IN THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE INSTALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY TO MATCH COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEEDS.

AND THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS A *VERY* BIG DEAL.

THE TWO AGREEMENTS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION AT AN UPCOMING MEETING AND I DO HOPE THEY WILL VOTE IN ITS FAVOR.

I THANK OUR CHAIRMAN BOVO AND COMMISSIONER SOSA FOR THEIR STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIP.

AND THIS, MY FELLOW RESIDENTS, IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I, ALONG WITH OUR COMMISSIONERS, HAVE THE UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION OF THIS GREAT COMMUNITY.

AND TOGETHER -- RESIDENTS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS -- THAT IS WHAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO. THE WORK WE DO TODAY WILL BENEFIT OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.

RESIDENTS, THIS IS THE STATE OF OUR COUNTY.

AND THIS IS MY PROMISE TO YOU.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE... TO IMPROVE HOW THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVES ITS 2.7 MILLION RESIDENTS... TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY MORE RESILIENT... TO USHER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INTO A NEW ERA AND BE THE WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY THAT I KNOW WE WILL BE.

THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THESE UNITED STATES!