MAYOR STODDARD, VICE MAYOR HARRIS, COMMISSIONERS LIEBMAN, WELSH, EDMONDS...

MANAGER ALEXANDER...

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, DEAR FRIENDS...

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE COMMISSION DISTRICT I USED TO REPRESENT.

AND NOW AS MAYOR, IT'S TRULY A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE MURRAY PARK AQUATIC CENTER HERE IN THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI.

I REMEMBER WE ALL STOOD HERE THIS PAST NOVEMBER FOR THE GROUND BREAKING...

AND I MENTIONED HOW THE DREAM OF BUILDING A POOL HERE AT MURRAY PARK BEGAN MANY, MANY YEARS AGO.

IN FACT, IT'S BEEN OVER FORTY YEARS, AND THERE WERE THREE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS.

IT'S A DREAM THAT HAS TAKEN WAY TOO LONG TO ACHIEVE.

BUT, THIS COMMUNITY NEVER GAVE UP!

TODAY IS A TESTAMENT TO THE DETERMINATION AND FIGHTING SPIRIT OF SO MANY OF YOU.

ALL THE YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR THIS CAUSE, ALL THE STRUGGLES, THEY ALL PAID OFF.

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO OPEN THIS POOL.

MAYOR STODDARD AND THE CITY HAVE MADE GOOD ON THE DECADES-OLD PROMISE TO BUILD A PUBLIC POOL IN THE HEART OF SOUTH MIAMI.

AND WE AT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ARE HAPPY TO HAVE PARTNERED WITH YOU, AGREEING TO PROVIDE NEARLY $1.4 MILLION TO PAY FOR THE PROJECT.

IT TOOK A TEAM EFFORT TO GET US ALL HERE TODAY…

AND BECAUSE OF THESE EFFORTS, THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH MIAMI WON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE CITY TO ACCESS A POOL ANYMORE.

THIS IS NOT JUST ANY REGULAR POOL EITHER, IT'S A STATE OF THE ART AQUATICS CENTER.

IT FEATURES A SPLASH PAD THAT IS A SAFE AND REFRESHING WATER PLAY SYSTEM WITH WATER

SPRAYS FOR COOLING OFF, PLAYING, AND ENJOYING.

THIS IS A GREAT SWIMMING POOL ALTERNATIVE FOR SMALL CHILDREN BECAUSE THERE IS NO STANDING WATER AND ZERO WATER DEPTH.

ADULTS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MAIN POOL WITH ITS THREE SWIMMING LANES AND THEY CAN SIGN UP FOR LOW-IMPACT WATER AEROBICS AND LAP SWIM.

THE CENTER WILL ALSO SERVE TO INCREASE SAFETY THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS LEARN-TO-SWIM CLASSES AND WATER-SAFETY PROGRAMS.

THIS IS ALL PART OF HELPING TO SAVE A LOT OF LIVES BY OFFERING SWIMMING LESSONS AND TEACHING WATER SAFETY TO CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY FOR MINORITY CHILDREN.

OVERALL, THE MURRAY PARK AQUATIC CENTER IS A COMMUNITY MEETING PLACE THAT ALL OF SOUTH MIAMI AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CAN BE PROUD OF.

IN THESE HOT DAYS IN AUGUST, THE PEOPLE OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD NOW HAVE A POOL TO ENJOY…

IT'S A PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO HAVE FUN, A PLACE FOR ADULTS TO RELAX, A GATHERING PLACE FOR ALL WHO LIVE HERE.

MAYOR STODDARD, COMMISSIONERS, MR. MANAGER, THANK YOU FOR COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE TODAY A REALITY.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO ALL OF YOU, THANK YOU FOR NOT GIVING UP!

TO THE RESIDENTS OF SOUTH MIAMI AND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR BRAND NEW AQUATIC CENTER FOR MANY YEARS TO COME!

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!