

GOOD MORNING!

LET ME THANK CHAIRWOMAN SOSA...

COMMISSIONER DIAZ...

AND SOME OF OUR FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS
THAT HAVE JOINED US TODAY:

CONGRESSMAN KENDRICK MEEK

MAYOR LUIGI BORIA FROM DORAL

VICE MAYOR CHRISTY FRAGA AND COUNCILWOMAN
BETTINA RODRIGUEZ AGUILERA ALSO FROM
DORAL...

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING!

FELLOW ANIMAL LOVERS...

IT'S A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU FOR THE
GROUNDBREAKING OF OUR NEW ANIMAL SERVICES
SHELTER.

AS THE PROUD OWNER OF TWO DOGS, I HAVE
EXPERIENCED THE JOYS AND BENEFITS OF HAVING
PETS IN YOUR HOME.

FOR THIS AND MANY OTHER REASONS, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN EXTREMELY COMMITTED TO MAKING SURE THAT ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY'S PETS RECEIVE THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE...

AND THAT ANIMAL LOVERS ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF OWNING AN ADOPTED PET.

JUST THIS PAST MONTH FOR INSTANCE, COMMISSIONER DIAZ AND I LAUNCHED THE "HELPING OUR PETS EVERYDAY" HOPE EXPRESS MOBILE PET ADOPTION UNIT ON ITS "DOG AND CAT DAYS OF SUMMER TOUR" THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS.

THIS EFFORT BRINGS PET ADOPTION EVENTS INTO OUR COMMUNITIES AND MAKES IT EASIER FOR FOLKS TO ADOPT CATS, KITTENS, DOGS AND PUPPIES.

THROUGH THIS AND OTHER PROGRAMS, OUR ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SAVED THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF SHELTER PETS IN THE HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

ALL OF THIS IS HELPING TO KEEP THE GREATEST NUMBER ANIMALS, SAVING THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PETS IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND MOVING US TOWARD BECOMING A NO-KILL COMMUNITY.

TODAY, WE TAKE A GIANT STEP IN THAT DIRECTION WITH THE GROUNDBREAKING OF OUR NEW ANIMAL SERVICES SHELTER.

THE ROAD HAS BEEN LONG, AND NOT WITHOUT OBSTACLES...

BUT WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION, WE WERE ABLE TO ALLOCATE THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED TO GET US HERE TODAY...

AND TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW ANIMAL SHELTER IS EXPEDITED.

AT APPROXIMATELY 70,000 SQUARE FEET, THIS NEW SHELTER WILL DOUBLE THE SIZE OF THE CURRENT SHELTER.

IT ALSO GIVES US THE ABILITY TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF ANIMALS THAT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTIONS.

PET ADOPTIONS WILL HAVE ITS OWN AREA OF THE SHELTER SO WE CAN IMPROVE THE SERVICE EXPERIENCE FOR CUSTOMERS AND PETS THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.

THE DESIGN OF THE NEW SHELTER MAKES IT A MODEL OF BEST PRACTICES FOR THE CARE OF ANIMALS.

THE ANIMALS WILL BE HOUSED IN PODS WITH THEIR OWN AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM TO ISOLATE THE SPREAD OF DISEASE.

WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN GREAT CARE TO ELIMINATE CROSS CONTAMINATION OF ANIMALS. AND OUR CLINIC WILL PROVIDE FOR EXPANDED SERVICES.

ADDITIONALLY, THE SHELTER'S DESIGN MAKES IT OPEN AND FRIENDLY, BUILT FOR ANIMAL LOVERS AND WILL INCLUDE SEVERAL ADOPTION ROOMS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE CURRENT FACILITY.

THE NEW ANIMAL SHELTER WILL ALSO GIVE US THE ABILITY TO EXPAND OUR SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES WHICH IS A CRITICAL STEP IN REACHING OUR GOAL OF A NO KILL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

GETTING US TO TODAY HAS BEEN A TEAM EFFORT...

AND MULTIPLE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE ALL ASPECTS OF THE DESIGN, PERMITTING AND BIDDING OF THIS PROJECT ARE ALL ON THE RIGHT PATH TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE THIS PROJECT.

LET ME THANK ANIMAL SERVICES DIRECTOR, ALEX MUÑOZ FOR HIS WORK IN SAVING ANIMALS AND MAKING THIS PROJECT HIS PRIORITY...

DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA HUDAK WHO HAS OVERSEEN THIS PROJECT FROM DAY ONE

JENNIFER MOON, OUR BUDGET DIRECTOR WHO MADE SURE THE FUNDS FOR THIS SHELTER WERE AVAILABLE IN THE BUDGET.

LESTER SOLA AND THE ENTIRE ISD DESIGN CONSTRUCTION TEAM.

OUR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS, TONY ROSABAL AT LIVS WHO DESIGNED THE PROJECT...

AND ALL OF OUR ANIMAL LOVERS AND EVERYONE WHO MADE TODAY POSSIBLE.

THIS LONG-AWAITED GROUNDBREAKING IS A MOMENT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF.

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE YET ANOTHER MILESTONE TOWARD OUR COMMON GOAL OF A NO-KILL COMMUNITY AND TOWARD IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE MANY ANIMALS THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARING FOR.

THANK YOU AGAIN AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU HERE IN THE FALL OF 2015 FOR THE GRAND OPENING!

