

DEAR FRIENDS, GOOD MORNING!

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE BRAND NEW EDISON COURTS RE-EMPLOYMENT CENTER.

THIS NEW CENTER IS PART OF THE PROGRESS THAT'S BEING MADE ON THE JOBS FRONT BY CAREER SOURCE SOUTH FLORIDA AND ALL OF US HERE.

IN FACT, I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH RICK AND CAREERSOURCE TO CREATE FACILITIES LIKE THIS ONE SINCE 2007.

DUE TO THEIR EFFORTS, CAREERSOURCE NOW HAS OVER 14 CAREER CENTERS IN OPERATION LOCATED THROUGH THE COUNTY, AND THESE CENTERS ARE HELPING RESIDENTS GET TO WORK.

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OUR RESIDENTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TOP PRIORITY OF MINE.

I AM THE MAYOR OF ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS.

AND ALTHOUGH WE LEAD THE STATE IN JOB CREATION...

AND THE GROWTH OF OUR METRO ECONOMY IS GREATER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE....

THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THIS IS WHY CENTERS LIKE THIS ONE, AND THE ROLE OF CAREER SOURCE SOUTH FLORIDA IS SO IMPORTANT.

WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY HAVE ACCESS TO JOBS.

I KNOW THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE PARTNERS GATHERED HERE AT THE RE-EMPLOYMENT CENTER TODAY SHARES THAT VITAL GOAL - WE'RE ALL FOCUSED ON CREATING MORE JOBS.

AND NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW, MY FRIENDS.

THE BEST WAY OUT OF POVERTY, AND THE BEST WAY TO STRENGTHEN OUR MIDDLE CLASS, IS THROUGH GOOD JOBS.

A GOOD JOB PROMOTES SELF SUFFICIENCY AND HELPS BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

EVERY TIME SOMEONE FINDS EMPLOYMENT AND RE-ENTERS THE WORKFORCE, THEY AREN'T JUST HELPING THEMSELVES.

THEY'RE SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES, THEY'RE PUTTING FOOD BACK ON THE KITCHEN TABLE, AND THEY'RE SPENDING THEIR MONEY IN LOCAL BUSINESSES, WHICH SUPPORTS EVEN MORE JOBS...

AND THIS HELPS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BECOME A STRONGER AND BETTER COMMUNITY.

SO THE MORE PEOPLE WE CAN HELP GET BACK TO WORK, THE BETTER OFF WE'LL ALL BE.

AND THIS NEW CENTER IS GOING TO GIVE FOLKS THE EXTRA SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS THEY NEED TO CONNECT WITH EMPLOYERS WHO ARE SEEKING OUT SMART, CAPABLE WORKERS.

THIS PLACE REPRESENTS OPTIMISM AND A CHANCE FOR A NEW BEGINNING, AND I'M TRULY EXCITED FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS FACILITY GOING FORWARD.

BEFORE I WRAP UP, I WANT TO SAY A BIG 'THANK YOU' TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THIS CRITICAL ENDEAVOR:

RICK BEASLEY AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD; AND MICHAEL LIU AND MIAMI - DADE COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

ALL HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING CHAMPIONS FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH - I'M CONFIDENT THAT THIS RE-EMPLOYMENT CENTER IS GOING TO BE A BIG HELP TO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

