

GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

MUY BUENOS DÍAS A TODOS Y BIENVENIDOS!

BONJOUR ET BIENVENUE!

LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING HOW TRULY HONORED I AM TO BE WITH ALL OF YOU TODAY, AS WE CELEBRATE A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION HERE AT COUNTY HALL:

THE OFFICIAL INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE HONORABLE JEAN MONESTIME AND THE HONORABLE ESTEBAN BOVO, JR.!

THIS IS INDEED A HISTORIC DAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY, AS CHAIRMAN MONESTIME WILL BE THE VERY FIRST HAITIAN-AMERICAN TO LEAD THIS BOARD.

AND THE FACT THAT WE ARE JOINED BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA,

SENATOR MARCO RUBIO, CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK AND SO MANY MEMBERS OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY SPEAKS TO THE HISTORIC NATURE OF THIS OCCASION.

CHAIRMAN MONESTIME WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE BOARD IN 2010. HE BECAME THE FIRST HAITIAN-AMERICAN TO EVER SERVE ON THE MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. ON AUGUST 26TH 2014, HE WAS RE-ELECTED FOR ANOTHER 4-YEAR TERM AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ELECTED TO SERVE AS THE NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS!

AFTER 7 YEARS OF WORKING ON THIS BOARD MYSELF, I CAN TELL YOU CHAIRMAN MONESTIME IS A COMPASSIONATE AND STRONG ADVOCATE FOR HIS CONSTITUENTS, FOR THE WORK OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FOR EQUAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

AS A LOCAL EDUCATOR, HE HAS POSITIVELY IMPACTED THE LIVES OF MANY CHILDREN AND ADULTS FROM THE CITY OF MIAMI, NORTH MIAMI, NORTH MIAMI BEACH, OPA-LOCKA, BISCAYNE

GARDENS, NORTH DADE CENTRAL AND THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LIBERTY CITY.

HE IS A LONGTIME RESIDENT OF NORTH MIAMI, WHERE HE SERVED AS A COUNCILMAN AND VICE MAYOR, AND HE IS KNOWN AND LOVED THROUGHOUT DISTRICT TWO.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, CHAIRMAN MONESTIME IS A PROUD HUSBAND, AND FATHER OF TWO SONS WHO PLACES HIS FAMILY AND HIS FAITH ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.

TAKEN TOGETHER, ALL OF THESE ATTRIBUTES AND EXPERIENCES WILL SERVE THIS BOARD – AND OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY – VERY WELL.

AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THIS BOARD I HAVE ALSO COME TO KNOW VICE CHAIRMAN ESTEBAN BOVO, JR. AS A TIRELESS PUBLIC SERVANT, AS A COLLEAGUE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, AS A FRIEND.

HIS ROOTS IN THIS COMMUNITY RUN DEEP:

HIS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMENCED IN 1998 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED COUNCILMAN FOR THE CITY OF HIALEAH.

TEN YEARS LATER HE WAS ELECTED AS STATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR DISTRICT 110 AND WAS RE-ELECTED WITHOUT OPPOSITION IN 2010. DURING HIS TENURE IN THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, BOVO WAS AN OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE FOR HIS DISTRICT AND CONTINUED TO FOCUS HIS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ON THE BETTERMENT AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

IN 2011 VICE CHAIRMAN BOVO WAS ELECTED TO SERVE AS THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPRESENTING DISTRICT 13, WHICH INCLUDES HIALEAH, MIAMI LAKES, PALM SPRINGS NORTH, AND NEIGHBORING AREAS OF UNINCORPORATED MIAMI-DADE.

AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, ESTEBAN BOVO, JR. MAINTAINS AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY AND CONTINUES HIS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS IN VERY CAPABLE HANDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND THE PEOPLE OF MIAMI-DADE SHOULD BE VERY PROUD TO HAVE CHAIRMAN MONESTIME AND VICE CHAIRMAN BOVO LEADING THEIR LEGISLATIVE BODY.

AS MAYOR, I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT MY ADMINISTRATION AND THIS BOARD ALREADY ENJOY.

WE MAY NOT ALWAYS AGREE, BUT I KNOW THAT WE WILL WORK TOGETHER AND LEAD OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD TOWARDS A BRIGHTER, MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE!

THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!