

GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU FRANKIE FOR YOUR TIRELESS WORK AND DEDICATION TO THIS GREAT EVENT!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND THE POSITIVE EXAMPLES YOU SET FOR OTHERS.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK CITY OF MIAMI COMMISSIONER FRANK CAROLLO, AS WELL AS THE GREATER MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU VICE PRESIDENT ROLANDO AEDO. THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US TODAY!

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY I WANT TO WELCOME YOU TO THE 13TH ANNUAL MIAMI MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON PRESS CONFERENCE. THE MIAMI MARATHON ON SUNDAY WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION.

I APPLAUD YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO GET MOVING THROUGH EXERCISE AND FITNESS.

AND I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT 38 PERCENT OF THIS YEAR'S PARTICIPANTS ARE RUNNERS FROM OUR HOME, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

YOU ARE DOING YOUR PART NOT ONLY IN TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY INTO A HEALTHIER AND ACTIVE PLACE, BUT ALSO IN POSITIONING MIAMI-DADE AS THE UNDISPUTED GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS.

AS JAVIER POINTED OUT, THE MIAMI MARATHON & HALF MARATHON HAVE BECOME A DESTINATION RACE FOR RUNNERS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. EACH YEAR, PARTICIPATION GROWS. AND LET'S BE FRANK -- WHO CAN BLAME ANYONE FOR WANTING TO RUN A MARATHON IN MIAMI IN JANUARY?

"MIAMI" REPRESENTS THE EXCITEMENT OF A DIVERSE, MULTI-CULTURAL CITY THAT IS ATTRACTING PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER AND WHAT A BETTER EVENT TO WITNESS THIS THAN THE MIAMI MARATHON.

LAST YEAR, 15 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FIELD WAS MADE UP BY INTERNATIONAL VISITORS FROM COUNTRIES LIKE MEXICO, VENEZUELA, CANADA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, BRAZIL, GUATEMALA AND

THE LIST GOES ON. - THIS YEAR THAT NUMBER INCREASED TO 21 PERCENT.

IN ADDITION TO VISITORS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, WE ALSO WELCOME PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL 50 STATES AND FROM MORE THAN 80 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

AND THAT'S GREAT NEWS BECAUSE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL HIGHLY BENEFIT FROM THIS GROWTH. THIS INFLUX OF RUNNERS WILL GENERATE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ABOUT \$65 MILLION.

I ENCOURAGE THE THOUSANDS OF RUNNERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MIAMI MARATHON TO CONTINUE PROMOTING A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

** NOW A FEW WORDS IN SPANISH...*

QUIERO DARLE LA BIENVENIDA A TODOS LOS ATLETAS QUE VAN A PARTICIPAR EN EL MARATON DE MIAMI - TODOS USTEDES SON UNA VERDADERA INSPIRACIÓN PARA LOS RESIDENTES DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

LES DESEO MUCHA SUERTE A LOS CORREDORES Y LOS INVITO A DISFRUTAR DE LA BELLEZA DE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MIENTRAS COMPITEN.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OUR ELITE ATHLETES WHO HAVE REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE SPORT.

IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF PERSON WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF WILLPOWER AND DETERMINATION TO UNDERTAKE A MARATHON.

YOU'RE AN EXAMPLE THAT WITH THE PROPER ATTITUDE AND DETERMINATION, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

YOU INSPIRE ALL OF US TO SET OUR GOALS HIGH, AND ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS...

I WANT TO THANK THE THOUSANDS OF RUNNERS WHO MAKE THE MIAMI MARATHON A REALITY, NOW GO RUN AND ENJOY ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER!

OUR BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY WELCOMES YOU AND APPRECIATES WHAT YOU REPRESENT - HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND DETERMINATION TO ACCOMPLISHING GOALS. WE COULD ALL LEARN FROM YOU.

SO BEST OF LUCK!

BUENA SUERTE!

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

