

GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU, MAYOR LERNER.

**IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TODAY TO
THE FIRST-EVER MIAMI-DADE AGE-FRIENDLY
SUMMIT.**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TO ENGAGE IN A
DIALOGUE AND SHARE IDEAS AS WE STRATEGIZE
TOGETHER TO FOSTER A PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL
ENVIRONMENT THAT ENABLES OLDER ADULTS TO
REMAIN ACTIVE AND STAY HEALTHY.**

**I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD
WORK OF ALL OUR WONDERFUL PARTNERS IN THE
MIAMI-DADE AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE: THE
ALLIANCE FOR AGING, AARP FLORIDA, THE HEALTH
FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA, THE UNITED
WAY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND URBAN HEALTH
PARTNERSHIPS, WHO TOGETHER WITH A TEAM OF
COUNTY EMPLOYEES, ORGANIZED THIS
IMPORTANT SUMMIT.**

¡BUENOS DIAS A TODOS!

ES UN PLACER ESTAR CON USTEDES PARA CONTINUAR NUESTRA CONVERSACION SOBRE LA IMPORTANCIA DE MANTENER MOTIVADOS Y ACTIVOS A TODOS NUESTROS RESIDENTES DE LA TERCERA EDAD.

QUIERO AGRADECER EL ESFUERZO DE TODOS LOS QUE ORGANIZARON ESTE MARAVILLOSO EVENTO.

THE MIAMI-DADE AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE RECOGNIZES THAT SENIORS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ENCOURAGES ALL SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO CONSIDER HOW WE CAN BEST WORK TOGETHER TO SERVE OLDER ADULTS.

I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO HONOR AND ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US... THOSE WHO SET THE PATH WE ARE ALL ON NOW.

OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IT A TOP PRIORITY TO CARE FOR OUR SENIORS, AND WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE SENIORS CAN AGE WITH THE DIGNITY THEY SO DESERVE.

I KNOW THAT FOR MANY OF YOU HERE THE VISION TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE A FRIENDLIER PLACE FOR SENIORS IS THE GUIDING PRINCIPAL OF YOUR WORK, EACH AND EVERY DAY, AND I APPLAUD YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OUR OLDER ADULT POPULATION.

TO MY FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO ARE HERE TODAY AS WELL AS OUR CIVIC AND BUSINESS LEADERS - I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU PARTICIPATING AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE. THE ISSUES FACED BY OUR OLDER ADULTS ARE ISSUES THAT WE ALL HAVE A STAKE IN.

ESTA INICIATIVA RECONOCE QUE LAS PERSONAS DE LA TERCERA EDAD SON UNA PARTE IMPORTANTE DEL CONDADO DE MIAMI-DADE Y HACE UN LLAMADO A TODOS LOS SECTORES DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD PARA INCLUIRLOS Y TENERLOS EN CUENTA A LA HORA DE TOMAR DECISIONES.

CONTINUEMOS TRABAJANDO JUNTOS PARA QUE NUESTROS ABUELOS ENFRENTEN CON DIGNIDAD

ESTA ETAPA DE SU VIDA. SUS PROBLEMAS TAMBIEN SON NUESTROS.

ME COMPLACE VER A OTROS LIDERES DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD COMPROMETIDOS CON ESTA SENSIBLE CAUSA.

I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR SENIORS TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE POSSIBLE.

THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY... WE ARE ENGAGED IN NUMEROUS AND WIDE-RANGING EFFORTS TO SUPPORT OUR SENIOR POPULATION.

WE HAVE MADE SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING HERE IN MIAMI- DADE COUNTY IN DECADES, WE HAVE ALSO MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE HEALTH ISSUES THAT FACE OUR SENIORS...

AND OUR COMMITMENT IS ALSO SHOWN THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT HERE TODAY WHO ARE DOING A GREAT

JOB IN DELIVERING THE SERVICES OUR SENIORS NEED.

BUT EVEN WITH THE GOOD WORK WE HAVE DONE, THERE IS STILL MORE WE CAN AND SHOULD DO.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU ALL IS THAT WE WON'T TAKE OUR EYE OFF THE BALL. YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL DO WHAT IT CAN - INCLUDING CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ACCOMPLISH ITS GOALS.

THERE IS NO REASON WHY OUR SENIORS SHOULDN'T ENJOY THEIR GOLDEN YEARS BEING ACTIVE AND HEALTHY, AND EVEN CONTINUE GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY.

SOME OF THE PROGRAMS WE CURRENTLY HAVE IN PLACE ARE: THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT, RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, AND THE SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM.

BECAUSE THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SENIORS KNOWS NO BOUNDS... AT AN AGE WHEN MANY WOULD BE CONTENT TO SIMPLY JUST RETIRE... WE

ARE ALL GLAD THAT OUR ELDERS CONTINUE TO GIVE US THEIR EXPERTISE, THEIR TIME, AND THEIR LOVE.

FOR THIS REASON, TODAY I AM CHALLENGING ALL OF YOU TO PLEDGE TO TAKE STEPS THAT SUPPORT AN IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR SENIORS.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN THE CHALLENGE FOR AN AGE-FRIENDLY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

OUR GOAL IS NOTHING LESS THAN TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING AND DIGNITY OF OLDER ADULTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. YOU CAN SIGN THE PLEDGE RIGHT HERE AT THE SUMMIT OR ONLINE.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER SO THAT OLDER ADULTS FEEL WELCOMED AND VALUED IN ALL SETTINGS.

WE ARE ALL MIAMIANS – YOUNG AND OLD, RICH, POOR AND MIDDLE CLASS.

NUESTRA META ES GARANTIZAR SU BIENESTAR ASI QUE CONTINUEMOS TRABAJANDO JUNTOS

PARA HACER QUE NUESTROS ANCIANOS SE SIENTAN INCLUIDOS Y ALTAMENTE VALORADOS.

TODOS SOMOS MIAMENSES, JOVENES Y NO TAN JOVENES, RICOS, POBRES Y DE CLASE MEDIA.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE OLDER ADULTS WITH IMPROVED ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS FOR POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT MAKE OUR COMMUNITY AGE-FRIENDLY.

TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TOWARD MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A FRIENDLIER PLACE FOR OUR MOST HONORED CITIZENS, OUR SENIORS. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES FOR OUR OLDER ADULT POPULATION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU TO ENSURE THAT WE ADDRESS CRITICAL AREAS THAT ARE VITAL FOR THE WELL-BEING AND DIGNITY OF OLDER ADULTS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTY.

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

AND NOW, IT IS MY PLEASURE INVITE MIAMI-DADE AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE CO-DIRECTOR'S PETER WOOD AND MARTHA PELAEZ TO JOIN ME AS I PRESENT THIS PROCLAMATION DECLARING THIS AGE-FRIENDLY WEEK IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

