

**JUAN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FRIENDS...**

**IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE BEAUTIFUL PEREZ ART MUSEUM MIAMI.**

**I KNOW I'M BIASED, BUT DESPITE THE TEMPERATURE OUTSIDE, I REALLY BELIEVE OUR COUNTY IS THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO BE!**

**MIAMI HAS COME A LONG WAY FROM BEING A SLEEPY TOWN IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA KNOWN MOSTLY FOR RETIREES.**

**SIMPLY PUT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY - LONG RECOGNIZED AS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO VACATION AND THE "GATEWAY TO LATIN AMERICA" - IS NOW INCREASINGLY BEING MENTIONED AS THE WORLD'S NEXT GREAT METROPOLITAN AREA AND THE GATEWAY TO THE WORLD.**

**YES, I SAID "THE WORLD," AND EVIDENCE OF OUR HOME'S IMPORTANCE IS HERE TODAY WITH THE PRESENCE OF - AND I'VE BEEN TOLD HE GOES BY JUST RICHARD - SIR RICHARD BRANSON, FOUNDER**

**OF THE VIRGIN GROUP, AND VIRGIN CRUISES'  
PRESIDENT AND CEO TOM MCALPIN.**

**RICHARD AND TOM, WELCOME TO YOUR NEW  
HOME!**

**ON BEHALF OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT,  
OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND  
THE COUNTY'S 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS, WE ARE  
THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU INTO OUR FAMILY.**

**PORTMIAMI, THE CRUISE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD,  
IS SIMPLY THE BEST PORT TO BE AT. OUR COUNTY  
HAS INVESTED IN MAKING OUR PORT  
INFRASTRUCTURE SECOND TO NONE IN THE  
WORLD AND I'M SURE VIRGIN CRUISES' AGREES.**

**AND THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THEY ARE  
HERE AND HAVE CHOSEN TO MAKE PORTMIAMI IT'S  
HOME-PORT FOR ITS CRUISE SHIP THAT WILL SET  
SAIL IN 2020.**

**IT'LL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT AND WE  
CAN'T WAIT!**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS AN EXCITING COMMUNITY THAT OFFERS COMPANIES AND BRANDS AN EXCELLENT ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS.**

**MORE AND MORE BUSINESSES ARE RELOCATING TO OUR COMMUNITY, OR EXPANDING THEIR OPERATIONS HERE.**

**AND YES, VISITORS JUST KEEP COMING HERE. AS BILL TALBERT OF THE GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU CAN TELL YOU - NEARLY 25 MILLION OVERNIGHT VISITORS CAME TO MIAMI-DADE IN 2014 AND MANY OF THEM WENT CRUISING RIGHT THROUGH PORTMIAMI!**

**THE ADDITION OF VIRGIN CRUISES IS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD STRENGTHENING OUR POSITION AS A GLOBAL COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL GATEWAY.**

**THIS IS IMPORTANT TO US BECAUSE MIAMI THRIVES AS A CROSSROADS OF COMMERCE AND CULTURE.**

**BUT OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE IS OUR PEOPLE. WE ARE OPEN AND DIVERSE.**

**MIAMI HAS PERHAPS THE MOST DIVERSE POPULATION OF ANY MAJOR AMERICAN**

**CITY. OVER 60 PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION, LIKE ME AND MANY HERE TODAY, ARE FOREIGN BORN.**

**AND YET, WE HAVE ALL COME TOGETHER TO MAKE MIAMI INTO THE WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY YOU SEE AND FEEL AROUND YOU HERE TODAY.**

**WITH VIRGIN CRUISES IN MIAMI-DADE, WE OPEN THE DOORS TO EVEN MORE TRAVEL AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.**

**SO I AM PLEASED TO WELCOME RICHARD, TOM AND VIRGIN CRUISES TO THEIR NEW HOME. YOU'LL ALWAYS FEEL WELCOME HERE.**

**WE ARE NOW YOUR PARTNERS AND YOU HAVE AN EXCELLENT TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS AT PORTMIAMI WHO ARE EAGER TO WORK WITH YOU.**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT THIS AFTERNOON.**

**RICHARD, TOM - THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND PORTMIAMI!**

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