

**LARRY, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
COMMUNITY LEADERS AND FELLOW RESIDENTS...**

GOOD MORNING!

**THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TO CONTINUE
OUR WORK ON WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE CRUCIAL
FOR THE FUTURE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**LIKE ALL OF YOU, I KNOW MIAMI-DADE IS A WORLD-
CLASS COMMUNITY.**

**LET'S BE HONEST, FOLKS -- WHETHER IT IS AS A
WORKING PROFESSIONAL RAISING A FAMILY,
SOMEONE TRYING TO START A BUSINESS, OR A
NEW ARRIVAL TO THE UNITED STATES SEEKING TO
LIVE THE AMERICAN DREAM... -- MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY OFFERS MORE THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER
METROPOLITAN AREA IN THE WORLD.**

**AND WE HAVE GREAT WEATHER IN THE WINTER,
TOO...**

**YES, WE HAVE AN ISSUE WITH TRAFFIC -- AND WE
ARE WORKING ON THAT! -- BUT MIAMI-DADE IS
STILL A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, RAISE A
FAMILY AND BUILD A BUSINESS.**

**AND AS I'VE MENTIONED NUMEROUS TIMES
BEFORE, MIAMI IS WHAT OTHER GREAT CITIES IN**

THE WORLD WILL LOOK AND FEEL LIKE OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

I BELIEVE THIS WHOLEHEARTEDLY... SO MUCH SO THAT BACK IN FEBRUARY I GREETED PRESIDENT OBAMA AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD JUST ARRIVED IN "THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD." THE PRESIDENT SMILED AND RESPONDED, "WELL, ONE OF THE GREATEST CITIES IN THE WORLD..." TO WHICH I REPLIED, "NO, MR. PRESIDENT. THE GREATEST CITY."

I BELIEVE THAT WITH ALL MY HEART.

WE LIVE IN THE GREATEST CITY...THE GREATEST METROPOLITAN AREA... THE BEST COUNTY, IN THE WORLD!

I KNOW MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY SHARE THAT ENTHUSIASM FOR WHERE WE LIVE!

OUR COMMUNITY WAS HIT HARD DURING THE GREAT RECESSION...BUT LIKE OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT, WE PULLED TOGETHER AND WENT THROUGH THOSE CHALLENGING TIMES AND EMERGED STRONGER.

SINCE THE END OF THAT DIFFICULT PERIOD, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS LED FLORIDA IN JOB CREATION, ADDING OVER 115,000 PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS IN FOUR YEARS, WHILE OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS COME DOWN FROM A HIGH OF AROUND 12 PERCENT TO 6.3 PERCENT TODAY.

I KNOW WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT BY IN PART BY ADHERING TO OUR PLAN -- ONE COMMUNITY, ONE GOAL.

IT IS OUR ROADMAP FOR MIAMI-DADE'S FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE GOAL PROVIDES US WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION STEPS TO TAKE TO CREATE AN ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL KEEP JOBS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, RECRUIT NEW COMPANIES TO OUR COMMUNITY, ENSURE THOSE JOBS ARE IN NEW HIGHER-PAYING TARGETED INDUSTRIES AND REVERSE THE 'BRAIN DRAIN' SO THAT OUR YOUNGER RESIDENTS STAY IN MIAMI-DADE RATHER THAN RELOCATING ELSEWHERE FOR BETTER JOBS.

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR WORK HAS BEEN THE CREATION OF THE ACADEMIC LEADERS COUNCIL.

LARRY'S OP-ED ON THE COUNCIL RAN IN THE MIAMI HERALD EARLIER THIS WEEK.

THE ACADEMIC LEADERS COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S MAJOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I THANK THEM ALL FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION AND IF THEY ARE HERE, I ASK THAT YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

CREATED FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ONE COMMUNITY ONE GOAL, WE LAUNCHED THE TALENT DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, AN UNPRECEDENTED PILOT PROGRAM THAT IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED BY SEVERAL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

THE GOAL IS TO PROVIDE 200 NEW, PAID INTERNSHIPS TO UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN ALL THE ONE COMMUNITY ONE GOAL TARGETED INDUSTRIES. THESE INTERNSHIPS WILL HELP STUDENTS GAIN THE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND ESTABLISH THE RELATIONSHIPS THEY NEED IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY ENTER THE WORKFORCE WITH PERMANENT JOBS.

AND ALL THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE MIAMI IS A COLLEGE TOWN. YES, I MENTIONED IT LAST YEAR AND I WANT TO REPEAT IT HERE TODAY FOR YOU ALL -- WE RANK IN THE TOP TEN NATIONALLY FOR THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

THE TALENT FOR THE INCREASINGLY TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE IS HERE.

AND THEY ARE EXCITED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO START BUSINESSES OR WORK FOR THE TECH AND INNOVATION COMPANIES THAT HAVE EITHER ESTABLISHED OPERATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY, OR EXPANDED EXISTING ONES RIGHT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

IN FACT, OVER \$650 MILLION IN VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CAME THROUGH HERE LAST YEAR! YOU CAN CALL US "TECH BEACH" OR SOMETHING ELSE, BUT THERE IS NO DENYING THAT MIAMI IS THE NEXT GREAT INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY HUB!

IN FACT, I KNOW THAT THE NEXT GOOGLE, MICROSOFT, TWITTER -- WHICH RECENTLY ANNOUNCED AN EXPANSION OF ITS OFFICES HERE -- OR FACEBOOK WILL BE BORN RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

AS I'VE SAID TO ALL OF YOU BEFORE AND WILL SAY AGAIN IN FUTURE REMARKS AND CONVERSATIONS -- OUR APPROACH MUST BE HOLISTIC.

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WHICH I LEAD HAS APPROXIMATELY 26,000 EMPLOYEES AND A \$6.8 BILLION BUDGET WHICH I PROPOSED FOR NEXT YEAR.

AND BY THE WAY, WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN MODERNIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AT OUR ECONOMIC ENGINES OF MIA AND THE CRUISE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD PORTMIAMI AND WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE AND INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY TO STREAMLINE AND IMPROVISE SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES, WE WILL NOT BE PROPOSING A TAX RATE INCREASE.

THAT'S BECAUSE I KNOW THAT IN ORDER TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH, WE MUST PROVIDE A STABLE TAXING ENVIRONMENT. ONE THAT MAKES OUR JOB CREATORS COMFORTABLE AND REINFORCES OUR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD -- MIAMI-DADE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

AS BILL TALBERT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE GREATER MIAMI CHAMBER AND VISITORS BUREAU LIKES TO SAY, IT'S ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS...

INDEED, IT IS ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS.

LAST YEAR, I REMINDED YOU ALL THAT YOU HAD A PARTNER IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE DOWN AT COUNTY HALL.

THAT IS STILL THE CASE.

BUT WE MUST DO IT TOGETHER.

BEACON COUNCIL, FELLOW RESIDENTS, LET US CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ONE ANOTHER TO BUILD THIS WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY LEAVE TO OUR FAMILIES.

I FIRST RAN FOR MAYOR NOT BECAUSE I NEEDED ANOTHER JOB OR BECAUSE I WANTED ALL THE PRESSURES THAT COME WITH LEADING THE LARGEST GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA. I DID IT FOR MY THREE CHILDREN AND NOW SIX GRANDCHILDREN. THAT'S RIGHT, MY DAUGHTER IS WELCOMING ANOTHER CHILD.

MY FRIENDS, WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN EVERY AREA OF THE ONE COMMUNITY ONE GOAL PLAN AND THAT IS DUE TO YOUR COMMITMENT.

LARRY, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS THE RIGHT MAN LEADING THE BEACON COUNCIL AND I THANK YOU AND YOUR GREAT TEAM FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY AND PARTICIPATING.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE -- THE WORLD'S GREATEST COUNTY!

