

GOOD AFTERNOON!

HOPEFULLY EVERYONE HAD A RELAXING HOLIDAY WEEKEND.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE!

AS YOU KNOW, SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS WORKING TO DO ITS PART IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PEDIATRIC CANCER.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER REBECA SOSA WHO IS A CANCER SURVIVOR HERSELF, AND SPONSORED THE ITEM AT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WHICH RESULTED IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LAUNCHING ITS "BE BOLD, BE GOLD" CAMPAIGN.

COMMISSIONER, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP ON THIS.

I WANT TO ALSO WELCOME SOME OF OUR SPECIAL GUESTS WHO ARE HERE TODAY FROM THE HOLTZ CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:

JONATHAN FAURE AND SALMA RICHANI...

**REPRESENTING THE SYLVESTER COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTER:**

GABRIELLA COIMBRA AND ISAIAH HAZEL,

AND FROM THE NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:

NATALIE THOMPSON AND JULIAN CASO.

**THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE. YOUR COURAGE
IN THE FACE OF SUCH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES
IS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US.**

**ALL OF US HERE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO
BENEFIT THE CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

**OUR WORK IN THIS EFFORT IS A COLLABORATION
BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, OUR BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENTS, AND THREE LOCAL
HOSPITALS WHOSE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ARE
DAY IN AND DAY OUT ON THE FRONT LINES IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST CANCER, HOLTZ CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL, NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND
SYLVESTER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER.**

**I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT PROTECTING OUR
CHILDREN IS REALLY ONE OF OUR MOST
IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES.**

AS YOUR COUNTY MAYOR AND AS THE GRANDFATHER OF FIVE AND SOON TO BE SIX, I APPRECIATE JUST HOW PRECIOUS OUR CHILDREN ARE. THEY REPRESENT THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND THEY INSPIRE US EVERY DAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, SOMETIMES CIRCUMSTANCES ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

EVERY THREE MINUTES SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD A CHILD IS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER.

AND 46 CHILDREN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER EVERY DAY IN OUR COUNTRY.

THAT REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY TWO CLASS ROOMS FILLED WITH CHILDREN.

THAT IS WHY RAISING AWARENESS IS SO IMPORTANT. AND THAT IS WHY BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS TO FIND A CURE IS CRUCIAL FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

I KNOW OUR HOPE IS TO SEE THE DAY WHEN CHILDHOOD CANCER IS A RARE, TREATABLE AND CURABLE DISEASE.

BUT UNTIL THAT IS THE CASE, WE ALL MUST DO MORE.

OUR COUNTY EMPLOYEES, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, HAVE ENGAGED IN FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES FOR THIS VERY WORTHY CAUSE BEFORE, BUT NOW I BELIEVE WE ARE TAKING IT TO A NEW LEVEL...

IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO RECOGNIZE ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS ALL POSSIBLE.

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THE DADE COUNTY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, AFLAC, LEGOLAND, THE MIAMI SEAQUARIUM, AND ZOOMIAMI.

WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND WILL DO MOVING FORWARD.

ONCE AGAIN, LET ME THANK ALL THE SURVIVORS WHO ARE HERE WITH US – YOUR COURAGE INSPIRES US TO CONTINUE MAKING STRIDES AGAINST THIS DISEASE...

ON BEHALF OF THE 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, LET’S PUT OUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR THEM.

AND NOW I TURN IT OVER TO MY FRIEND AND COUNTY COMMISSIONER REBECA SOSA WHOSE LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO FINDING A CURE

HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL IN THE KICKOFF OF THE CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AND OUR ONLINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN.

COMMISSIONER...

