

GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING ELIAS SELMAN CARRANCA, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF AMERICA ECONOMIA FOR INVITING ME TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF ENTREPRENEURS, SENIOR EXECUTIVES, GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, AND MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

QUIERO AGRADECER AL PRESIDENTE Y FUNDADOR DE AMÉRICA ECONOMÍA EL SEÑOR ELÍAS SELMAN CARRANCA POR LA INVITACIÓN.

PARA MI ES UN PLACER ACOMPAÑARLES HOY DÍA Y DARLES LA BIENVENIDA A NUESTRA VIBRANTE Y DIVERSA COMUNIDAD.

WE ARE EXTREMELY HONORED THAT THIS EVENT IS BEING HELD IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

SO IT IS MY SINCERE PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY!

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK AMERICA ECONOMIA FOR RANKING “MIAMI”

**FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE TIMES IN A ROW AS THE
“BEST PLACE TO DO BUSINESS IN “LATIN AMERICA”.**

***QUIERO TOMAR ESTA OPORTUNIDAD PARA DARLE
LAS GRACIAS A AMERICA ECONOMIA POR NOMBRAR
A MIAMI EN CUATRO OCASIONES CONSECUTIVAS
COMO EL “MEJOR LUGAR PARA HACER NEGOCIOS
EN LATINO AMÉRICA.”***

**AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE INDEED THE
BEST PLACE TO DO BUSINESS IN NOT ONLY LATIN
AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, ASIA AND
AFRICA.**

**WE HAVE INDEED RAISED THE BAR TO BECOME THE
NEXT GLOBAL HUB FOR BUSINESS, INNOVATION
AND TECHNOLOGY.**

**JUST TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA, MIAMI-DADE'S \$7
BILLION COUNTY BUDGET IS LARGER THAN THE
BUDGETS OF 15 U.S. STATES...**

**WITH 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS, MIAMI-DADE IS THE
MOST POPULOUS COUNTY IN FLORIDA, WHICH IS
NOW THE THIRD-MOST POPULOUS STATE IN THE
COUNTRY.**

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE IT OFFICIAL THAT FLORIDA SURPASSED NEW YORK IN TOTAL POPULATION.

AND ALTHOUGH I LOVE "THE BIG APPLE", IT IS ALREADY IN THE 80S HERE WHILE NEW YORK IS IN THE 50S.

I CAN DEFINITELY SEE WHY PEOPLE CONTINUE TO MOVE TO FLORIDA AND ESPECIALLY MIAMI-DADE.

BUT LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, MIAMI-DADE WEATHERED THE MOST CHALLENGING OF ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

CONSIDER THAT WHEN I FIRST TOOK OFFICE FOUR YEARS AGO NEXT MONTH, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS HOVERING AT ABOUT 12 PERCENT.

THAT RATE IS DOWN TO 6.2 PERCENT TODAY...

OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT - WHICH IS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE LARGEST GOVERNMENTS THAT PROVIDE MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO RESIDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, HAS BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS HELPED SET THE CONDITIONS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO GROW BY KEEPING TAXES LOW AND BY

COMMITTING TO MAKING CRITICAL INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT WILL CREATE THE JOBS THAT WILL BE FILLED BY OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN IN THE FUTURE.

COMO EL RESTO DEL MUNDO MIAMI TUVO QUE VENCER EL IMPACTO DE UNA SITUACIÓN ECONÓMICA BASTANTE DIFÍCIL.

CUANDO FUI ELECTO ALCALDE, LA TASA DE DESEMPLEO SE ENCONTRABA EN 12 PORCIENTO Y AHORA SE ENCUENTRA EN 6.2 PORCIENTO.

NUESTRO GOBIERNO CONDAL SE HA VUELTO MÁS EFICIENTE Y SOBRETUDO HA CREADO LAS CONDICIONES PARA QUE EL SECTOR PRIVADO CREZCA Y ADEMÁS HEMOS HECHO INVERSIONES IMPORTANTES EN NUESTRA COMUNIDAD PARA GENERAR LOS EMPLEOS DEL FUTURO Y EL PRESENTE.

IN FACT, MIAMI-DADE CONTINUES TO BE FLORIDA'S LEADING PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATOR WITH OVER 110,000 JOBS ADDED SINCE 2011.

AND THAT'S AN ACHIEVEMENT I'M VERY PROUD OF.

NUESTRO CONDADO ALBERGA MÁS DE DOS MILLONES Y MEDIO DE RESIDENTES Y EN LA ÚLTIMA

DÉCADA HEMOS EXPERIMENTADO UN CRECIMIENTO ENORME.

HEMOS TRABAJADO PARA SACARLE EL MAYOR PROVECHO A ESTE CRECIMIENTO Y RENOVAR NUESTRA ECONOMÍA PARA ATRAER MÁS INVERSIONES.

WE HAVE WORKED TO RENEW THE ECONOMY IN OUR COMMUNITY AND ATTRACT INVESTMENTS THAT WILL LEAD TO A MORE DIVERSE LOCAL ECONOMY.

WE HAVE ALSO BUILT A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE & COMMERCE:

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DECADES WE'VE DEVELOPED THE HUMAN CAPITAL, THE RELATIONSHIPS, THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION, AND THE VITAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE TICK.

WE HAVE CLEARLY GOT LOCATION ON OUR SIDE, TOO:

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS SITUATED AT THE NATURAL GEOGRAPHIC CROSSROADS BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

THAT POSITIONING MAKES US THE LOGICAL DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL POINT FOR GOODS FLOWING THROUGH ALL THREE REGIONS.

AND WE HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE HIGH-VOLUME GLOBAL TRADE & COMMERCE THAT COMES WITH OUR TREMENDOUS LOCATION.

ADEMÁS DE ESTAR BENDECIDOS POR NUESTRA UBICACIÓN QUE NOS CONECTA CON NORTE-SUR AMERICA Y EL CARIBE, TAMBIÉN HEMOS INVERTIDO EN LA INFRAESTRUCTURA NECESARIA PARA APOYAR NUESTRAS RELACIONES COMERCIALES.

OUR SEAPORT - PORTMIAMI - IS KNOWN AS THE "CRUISE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"... OUR PORT HAD A \$27 BILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT ON OUR LOCAL ECONOMY IN 2014, AND OVER 200,000 JOBS WERE EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY IT.

MORE THAN \$1 BILLION OF CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ARE TRANSFORMING PORTMIAMI.

PORTMIAMI HAS ALREADY COMPLETED THE DEEP DREDGE PROJECT WHICH HAS DEEPENED THE PORT'S MAIN HARBOR CHANNEL FROM -42 FEET TO

A DEPTH OF -50/52 FEET WHICH MEANS PORTMIAMI IS NOW THE ONLY MAJOR LOGISTICS HUB SOUTH OF VIRGINIA CAPABLE OF HANDLING FULLY LADEN POST-PANAMAX VESSELS.

AND ALREADY IN PLACE IS A NEW ON-DOCK INTERMODAL RAIL SERVICE LINKING PORTMIAMI TO 70 PERCENT OF THE U.S. POPULATION IN FOUR DAYS OR LESS; AS WELL AS A NEW TUNNEL LINKING THE PORT DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED STATES INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM. AND THE TUNNEL IS NOW ALLEVIATING TRAFFIC BY REMOVING APPROXIMATELY 14,000 VEHICLES FROM DOWNTOWN ROADWAYS EVERY DAY.

ALL OF THAT MEANS MORE TRADE & LOGISTICS JOBS FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND MORE PROSPERITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

FURTHERMORE, MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - WHERE MANY OF YOU MAY HAVE FLOWN IN THROUGH - IS NOT ONLY ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST IMPORTANT HUBS, IT IS QUICKLY BECOMING A GATEWAY TO EUROPE AND AFRICA IN ADDITION TO ITS UNDISPUTED TITLE AS THE GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS... ALL WHILE HAVING A \$34 BILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTING ABOUT 280,000 JOBS IN OUR COUNTY.

IN ADDITION, A BIG PART OF OUR WORK HAS BEEN TO MODERNIZE OUR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY. AS WE LIKE TO SAY, “IT STARTS WITH WATER.” WATER MEANS EVERYTHING.

THAT IS WHY DURING THE NEXT 15 TO 20 YEARS, THE COUNTY WILL INVEST APPROXIMATELY \$13.5 BILLION TO ENHANCE AND UPGRADE OUR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THE USE OF STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

THIS WILL BE THE LARGEST, AND MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISTORY AND WILL RESULT IN THE UPGRADE OF THOUSANDS OF MILES OF PIPES, PUMP STATIONS, AND WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS THAT PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES.

ADDITIONALLY, THIS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IS PROJECTED TO CREATE 16,470 NEW JOBS AND WILL IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM, AS WELL AS GENERATE \$24.9 BILLION IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT.

THAT IS IN PART BECAUSE THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE WORKED TOGETHER AND COMPLIMENTED ONE ANOTHER TO SET THE CONDITIONS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

WE ARE MOVING TOGETHER TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE AND HAVE A LOT TO BE EXCITED ABOUT!

HOWEVER THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE DON'T HAVE CHALLENGES.

WE DO. BUT WHAT SETS US APART, IN MY VIEW, IS THAT WE WELCOME IDEAS AND INPUT FROM EVERYWHERE. WE WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES.

I BELIEVE OUR COUNTY IS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF THE STATE AND COUNTRY.

AND ALTHOUGH ALL THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND FALLING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE WONDERFUL NEWS, WE ARE NOT RESTING.

MIAMI-DADE IS A FORWARD-THINKING COMMUNITY THAT WELCOMES AND ENCOURAGES INVESTMENT

HERE, AND RELISHES ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS AN IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS.

ESTAMOS TRABAJANDO PARA UN FUTURO BRILLANTE Y TENEMOS MUCHO DE QUE ALEGRARNOS!

SOMOS UNA COMUNIDAD QUE VA HACIA ADELANTE Y QUE LE DA LA BIENVENIDA A NUEVAS IDEAS Y SOLUCIONES COMO LA PUERTA AL MUNDO QUE SOMOS.

LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION, WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON FOSTERING DIALOGUE TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

I ALSO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT MIAMI IS WHAT OTHER MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS IN THE U.S. WILL LOOK AND FEEL LIKE WITHIN THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

IN FACT, A TESTAMENT TO OUR IMPORTANCE CAN BE SEEN IN BOTH THE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY, WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL TO SEE WHEN DRIVING OR WALKING THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY, AS WELL AS IN OUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I WELCOME YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY AND ASK THAT YOU USE THE FREE TIME YOU HAVE TO EXPLORE OUR HOME.

COMO ALCALDE, LOS INVITO A EXPLORAR NUESTRA BELLA COMUNIDAD EN SU TIEMPO LIBRE. LES ASEGURO QUE NO SE VAN A ARREPENTIR!

YOU HAVE PARTNERS HERE THAT ARE WILLING TO WORK TO GENERATE IDEAS AND PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO CRITICAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT US ALL, AND YOU HAVE STRONG SUPPORTERS IN THE COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE.

MY OFFICE IS ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW IDEAS AND FEEDBACK.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR BEING HERE!

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

MUCHAS GRACIAS Y QUE DIOS LOS BENDIGA!