

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!

**THANK YOU, PETE, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.
DR. ROSENBERG AND FIU, THANK YOU FOR HOSTING
US IN THIS BEAUTIFUL STADIUM TODAY.**

**THANK YOU TO THE MIAMI FOOTBALL CLUB (MIAMI
FC) FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS
PRESS CONFERENCE.**

**FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE MIAMI
COMMISSIONER FRANCIS SUAREZ FOR BEING HERE
AND FOR HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR
COMMUNITY.**

**THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF MANY PEOPLE WHO
ARE WITH US TODAY ARE WHAT MAKES THIS
MORNING'S ANNOUNCEMENT SO SPECIAL.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM EXCITED TO WELCOME PROFESSIONAL SOCCER TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

SOCCER, OR FOOTBALL, IS THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SPORT AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS ELATED TO WELCOME THE MIAMI FC AND THE NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE TO SOUTH FLORIDA.

I AM BIASED AS MAYOR, BUT YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE PERFECT HOME FOR A PROFESSIONAL SOCCER CLUB.

AS A GROWING WORD-CLASS COMMUNITY OF 2.6 MILLION, OF WHICH ABOUT HALF OF OUR CURRENT RESIDENTS ARE BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TRULY REPRESENTS THE DIVERSITY OF "THE BEAUTIFUL GAME."

THE COUNTY FULLY SUPPORTS THE MIAMI FC'S MISSION TO CONNECT MIAMI'S COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE GLOBAL LANGUAGE OF SOCCER.

WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE THE LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE OF INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR RICCARDO SILVA AND WORLD-RENOWNED SOCCER STAR PAOLO MALDINI AS WE BRING THIS SPORT -- WHICH CONTINUES GAINING POPULARITY THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY -- TO MIAMI-DADE.

MIAMIANS ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORTS AND OUR INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND FLAVOR OFFER THE PERFECT VENUE FOR TAKING SOCCER TO THE NEXT LEVEL IN THE U.S.

THE GROWTH OF SOCCER IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA WILL BENEFIT OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS GRATEFUL FOR THIS HONOR, ESPECIALLY FOR OUR DIE-HARD SOCCER FANS, WHO WILL NOW RELISH THE OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH GREAT MATCHES ON OUR HOME TURF BEGINNING IN 2016.

AND IT IS FITTING THAT OUR MIAMI-DADE-BASED STATE UNIVERSITY -- WITH NEARLY 54,000 STUDENTS AND WHICH IS CURRENTLY THE FOURTH-LARGEST IN THE COUNTRY -- WILL BE WHERE THE MIAMI FC PLAYS.

AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK FIU FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO SERVING AS THE HOME FOR THE MIAMI FC. PRESIDENT ROSENBERG, CONGRATULATIONS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO COMING BACK AND WATCHING A DOMINANT PERFORMANCE AND BEING A PART OF A LARGE CROWD OF OUR RESIDENTS ENJOYING ALL MIAMI FC AND THE NASL WILL OFFER.

**THANK YOU, AGAIN, TO BOTH FOR CHOOSING
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**WHAT A GREAT WIN FOR SOCCER FANS IN THIS
COMMUNITY!**

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

