

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, SERGEANT (BOBBY GARLAND).**

**GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!**

**THIS IS A SPECIAL NIGHT AS WE JOIN TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE ONE OF OUR COUNTY'S FINEST PUBLIC SERVANTS – M.D.P.D. DIRECTOR J.D. PATTERSON.**

**AND ALL OF US ARE GATHERED HERE TONIGHT TO NOT ONLY CELEBRATE A GREAT MAN, BUT TO ALSO HONOR A MAN WHO HAS DEVOTED MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF HIS LIFE TO SELFLESSLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY.**

**J.D. IS A SUCCESS STORY IN MANY WAYS. BUT WHAT IS MOST NOTABLE AS I LOOK BACK ON HIS CAREER IS HOW QUICKLY J.D. MOVED UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.**

**J.D. JOINED M.D.P.D. IN 1985 -- BACK WHEN I WAS WORKING AT MIAMI-DADE FIRE AND RESCUE -- AND HE ROSE THROUGH THE RANKS TO BECOME THE THE COMMANDER OF OUR BUSIEST STATION, THE NORTHSIDE. CONTINUING HIS ASCENSION, J.D. WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SUPPORT SERVICES IN 2004.**

**AND FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS, J.D. HAS SERVED AS THE DIRECTOR OF ONE OF OUR NATION'S**

**LARGEST – AND WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE FINEST --  
POLICE DEPARTMENTS.**

**J.D. IS A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT. AND HIS TOUGH-  
LOVE, PEACE-CENTERED APPROACH TO LAW  
ENFORCEMENT HAS EARNED OUR COMMUNITY'S  
TRUST AND RESPECT.**

**J.D.'S EXCEPTIONAL COMBINATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL AND LIFE EXPERIENCE IS WHAT LED  
OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO NEW HEIGHTS. IN  
FACT, UNDER J.D.'S LEADERSHIP, THE MIAMI-DADE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS MODERNIZED ITS  
INFRASTRUCTURE, SECURED PARTNERSHIPS AND  
FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING.**

**BECAUSE OF HIS LEADERSHIP, M.D.P.D. IS A BETTER  
DEPARTMENT...ONE OF OUR WORLD-CLASS  
COMMUNITY IS PROUD OF.**

**I THINK EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM APPRECIATES ALL  
THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**THIS IS NOT AN EASY TIME TO WORK IN LAW  
ENFORCEMENT -- BUT OUR STREETS ARE SAFER  
BECAUSE OF THE STEPS OUR DEPARTMENT HAS  
TAKEN UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THANK YOU, J.D. WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK AS YOU BEGIN THIS NEW CHAPTER IN YOUR LIFE.**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!**

