

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, MANNY.**

**WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR VISION, INNOVATION AND COMMITMENT TO MAKING MIAMI-DADE THE TECH HUB OF THE AMERICAS, SO THANK YOU FOR FOUNDING E-MERGE!**

**GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! HOW'S EVERYONE DOING?**

**I KNOW YOU COULD BE WATCHING THE HEAT GAME DOWN THE STREET INSTEAD OF ATTENDING THIS E-GOV COCKTAIL RECEPTION, SO THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE WITH ME TONIGHT.**

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE VISITING OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY, WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE PÉREZ ART MUSEUM MIAMI!**

**THIS REALLY IS A BEAUTIFUL SPACE, IN AN EQUALLY BEAUTIFUL CITY, ISN'T IT?**

**MY COMPLIMENTS AND THANKS TO JORGE PÉREZ FOR HELPING US BRING SUCH A GREAT MUSEUM TO OUR 2.7 MILLION RESIDENTS AND MILLIONS OF VISITORS, AND FOR HELPING TO TRANSFORM THIS AREA INTO “MUSEUM PARK.”**

**I SEE WE HAVE SEVERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS WITH US THIS EVENING.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA ... CITY OF MIAMI COMMISSIONER FRANCIS SUAREZ ... WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF E-GOV.**

**WE ALSO HAVE FORMER PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA ÁLVARO URIBE WITH US. WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, MR. PRESIDENT!**

**I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK F.P.L. FOR SPONSORING TONIGHT’S RECEPTION – WHICH ALLOWS US TO GATHER HERE TO NETWORK A BIT BEFORE WE OFFICIALLY KICK OFF THE THIRD ANNUAL E-GOV GOVERNMENT INNOVATION SUMMIT TOMORROW MORNING.**

**WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BUSY MONDAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- PACKED WITH A TERRIFIC LINEUP OF SPEAKERS AND EVENTS. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING THE E-GOV AND E-MERGE EXPERIENCE WITH ALL OF YOU.**

**AND I'M ESPECIALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING HOW WE CAN CONTINUE TO MOVE OUR COMMUNITIES FORWARD THROUGH THE POWER OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY.**

**FROM THE TIME I BECAME MAYOR IN 2011, I'VE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FUTURE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND OUR ABILITY TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RESIDENTS WOULD REQUIRE A FOCUSED EFFORT TO GROW OUR TECHNOLOGY SECTOR.**

**AND THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN A COMMITTED SUPPORTER OF E-MERGE AND E-GOV SINCE THE BEGINNING.**

**IN FACT, I REMEMBER THE DAY MANNY MEDINA CAME TO MY OFFICE TO MEET WITH ME, DEPUTY MAYOR JACK OSTERHOLT, AND OUR I.T. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ANGEL PETISCO.**

**THAT'S WHEN WE FIRST DISCUSSED THE VISION OF TRANSFORMING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INTO THE NEXT TECHNOLOGY HUB OF THE AMERICAS – OR “TECH BEACH,” AS I LIKE TO CALL IT.**

**SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE THAT MEETING NEARLY FOUR YEARS AGO, AND OUR EFFORTS HAVEN'T GONE UNNOTICED.**

**ACCORDING TO THE BEACON COUNCIL, WE HAD \$650 MILLION IN VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN 2014. SO, INVESTORS ARE DEFINITELY NOTICING OUR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.**

**AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC OF THE BEACON COUNCIL, I'LL BE SPEAKING ON A “CITIES MADE SMARTER” PANEL MODERATED BY BEACON COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND CEO LARRY K. WILLIAMS TOMORROW AT E-GOV.**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.**

**DURING THAT PANEL, YOU'LL SEE WHY MIAMI-DADE HAS THE POTENTIAL AND TALENT TO BECOME AMERICA'S NEXT GREAT TECH HUB.**

**THERE'S A REASON WHY THE ANNUAL KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION REPORT RECOGNIZED MIAMI AS SECOND IN THE NATION FOR STARTUP ACTIVITY... RIGHT?**

**MY GOAL IS TO GET MIAMI-DADE TO THE NUMBER-ONE SPOT. I THINK WE'RE WELL ON OUR WAY.**

**AND ONE REASON I THINK WE'RE MOVING TOWARD CLAIMING OUR RIGHTFUL "TECH BEACH" TITLE IS BECAUSE THE EXCITEMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE ALL OVER OUR COMMUNITY IS BEING EMBRACED ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE.**

**WHILE THE COUNTY WAS INVESTING IN START-UPS LIKE VENTURE HIVE, WE ALSO PROVIDED THE SEED MONEY TO HELP LAUNCH THE INAUGURAL “E-MERGE AMERICAS” CONFERENCE RIGHT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**THAT FIRST CONFERENCE ATTRACTED THOUSANDS OF ATTENDEES FROM HUNDREDS OF TECH COMPANIES. AND I’M PROUD THAT THE THIRD ANNUAL E-MERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE AGAIN IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**THIS IS YET ANOTHER SIGN THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS QUICKLY BECOMING THE “TECH BEACH” I KNOW IT CAN BE.**

**IN FACT, THE EMERGE TEAM IS EXPECTING 13,000 PARTICIPANTS AT THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER AND OTHER VENUES THIS WEEK. THAT’S A 30 PERCENT INCREASE FROM THE 10,000 PARTICIPANTS THAT EMERGE WELCOMED LAST YEAR!**

**I THINK THAT DESERVES A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I'M HONORED TO KICK OFF E-GOV.**

**DURING TOMORROW'S GOVERNMENT INNOVATION SUMMIT, WE'LL DISCUSS OUR SHARED GOALS OF TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES TO BECOME CENTERS OF INNOVATIVE THINKING THROUGH THE USE OF CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES.**

**AND WE'LL FOCUS ON KEY THEMES THAT CONCERN ALL OF US -- LIKE USING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY, CREATING NEW JOBS, FOSTERING INNOVATION, AND CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES.**

**AND SPEAKING OF TRANSPORTATION, EMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY, I'LL ALSO BE HOSTING A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW AT E-GOV -- ALONG WITH MIAMI-DADE'S**

**DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, ALICE BRAVO, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAREERSOURCE SOUTH FLORIDA, RICK BEASLEY.**

**AT OUR PRESS CONFERENCE, WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE LAUNCH OF TWO NEW COUNTY APPS: TRANSIT WATCH AND EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE.**

**SO, STAY TUNED FOR MORE ABOUT THAT.**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN TOMORROW, AND TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU TO CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM THE POSITIVE IMPACTS THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN HAVE THROUGHOUT OUR HEMISPHERE.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TONIGHT, EVERYONE.**

**LET'S HAVE A FUN AND PRODUCTIVE EGOV 2016!**

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

